

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m.; Commission meetings will be streamed live. A link will be available on the county's website, [www.bakercounty.org](http://www.bakercounty.org)

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald April 18, 1970

HERMISTON — The Bulldogs from Baker captured the Hermiston Relays here Friday afternoon with a high score of 72 points. Pendleton was second with 64, La Grande third, 43, Hermiston, fourth, 36, and Mac Hi, 17.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 18, 1995

Unless 90-degree weather arrives tomorrow and stays until October, Northeastern Oregon irrigators should have plenty of water this summer.

River levels for the next several months will be at or near the 1961-1990 average, according to forecasts from the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 19, 2010

Weston Anderson was surprised by the special attention he received Thursday when he showed up at Haines School to help dedicate the bell tower he built as part of his Eagle Scout project.

"I was expecting to come out and ring the bell a few times and that was about it," Anderson said after the ceremony.

But the school had a different plan.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald April 19, 2019

An adult cow in eastern Baker County was euthanized on Tuesday due to injuries inflicted by wolves from the Pine Creek pack, according to a report from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The cow's owner, Barry DelCurto, found the animal Tuesday morning on a 300-acre private land grazing pasture in the North Pine Creek area east of Halfway. DelCurto, who lost one calf to wolves last April, declined to talk about Tuesday's attack.

He saw two wolves, one of which had a tracking collar, while checking on cattle at about 7:30 a.m., according to ODFW.

ODFW biologists inspected the cow and noted a piece of flesh, 8 inches long and 4 inches across, was missing. There were multiple tooth scrapes near the edge of the wound "showing clear evidence of attack from a predator," according to the report.

Biologists found cow tracks and wolf tracks less than half a mile from where the rancher found the injured cow. The report describes this as a "chase scene" with blood on the ground and on vegetation.

"The number and canine spacing of the bite marks, the location of the injury, and the wolf tracks present in the attack scene are clear evidence of a confirmed depredation by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack," the report concludes.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, April 15

2 — 5 — 7 — 26 — 41 — 45

Next jackpot: \$3 million

### POWERBALL, April 15

10 — 12 — 33 — 36 — 41 PB 2

Next jackpot: \$24 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, April 14

29 — 47 — 65 — 69 — 70 Mega 7

Next jackpot: \$159 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, April 15

31 — 32 — 44 — 50

### PICK 4, April 16

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 9 — 7 — 6

• 4 p.m.: 2 — 7 — 4 — 4

• 7 p.m.: 9 — 7 — 4 — 0

• 10 p.m.: 6 — 1 — 7 — 1

### LUCKY LINES, April 16

4-7-11-14-18-23-26-29

Next jackpot: \$30,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY (April 20):** Barbecue meatballs, rice pilaf, carrots, bread, coleslaw, apple crisp
- **TUESDAY (April 21):** Reuben casserole, peas, bread, fruit ambrosia, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY (April 22):** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, broccoli-blend vegetables, rolls, cottage cheese with fruit, cinnamon rolls
- **THURSDAY (April 23):** Barbecued pork ribs, au gratin potatoes, green beans, rolls, pea-and-onion salad, lemon bars
- **FRIDAY (April 24):** Cheeseburgers with trimmings, potato wedges, corn, fruit cup, tapioca

Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60. Due to the coronavirus crisis, meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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# Woman convicted in 2016 co-sleeping death charged with probation violation

By Chris Collins  
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A Baker City woman who pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide in the September 2016 co-sleeping death of her infant son is back in the Baker County Jail on charges of violating the probation terms that were part of her sentence.

Beth Marie Speelman, 35, was arrested on April 2 in Columbia County on a Baker

County warrant charging her with the violation. She was returned to Baker City on April 8 and is being held at the Baker County Jail without bail.

According to court documents, Speelman is accused of failing to abstain from illegal drug use, changing her residence without prior permission from her probation officer and failing to report her new address as required.

On Jan. 20, according to court records, she failed to report or make any contact with the Baker County Parole and Probation Department for permission to miss her required check-in day, and her whereabouts were unknown.

Ryan Downing of the Parole and Probation Department wrote in his report to the court that "Ms. Speelman has shown Baker County Parole and Probation that she

is not willing to participate in her community based supervision at this time."

He asked that a warrant be issued for Speelman's arrest.

When she appears in Baker County Circuit Court at 2 p.m. April 21, Speelman will be asked to show why her probation should not be revoked and a prison term of 21 to 22 months be imposed.

See Arrest / Page 3A

## OBITUARIES

### Gregory Moutsanides

Baker County, 1952-2020

On April 9, 2020, Gregory Moutsanides, 68, loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, died peacefully in his beloved home in Eastern Oregon.

A celebration of his life will take place this summer at the Rock Creek Schoolhouse.

Gregory "Greg" Moutsanides was born on March 23, 1952, at Lawrence, Kansas, to Demetrius T. Moutsanides and Lydia K. Moutsanides. Greg and his beloved little sister, Thalia, spent time traveling between Kansas and Washington while their dad worked as a college professor. Later in his childhood the family moved to Seattle, where he graduated from Franklin High School in 1970. During his high school years, Greg was a very accomplished cross-country runner receiving many accolades, breaking records and running alongside notable runners such as Steve Prefontaine.

After high school Greg spent a year at the University of Washington before loading up his VW Bug and heading to California with his best friends, Bill "Willie" and Rolfe, finally settling in Baker City. Greg started work here helping open up the Chevron Standard station and logging, where he found his love for the mountains and trees. Some of Greg's favorite pastimes were long drives in the mountains, pointing out all the different kinds of trees, mushroom picking, sledding, hunting, camping and fishing amongst family and friends.

It was during this time in Greg's life that he met his now beloved ex-wife and still close friend, Sherri White, and they were soon married. Greg and Sherri were blessed with four beautiful children and the loves of their lives, Aleasha, Steven, Gregory Jr. and Amanda. In 1983, Greg and Sherri purchased their family home, the Rock Creek Schoolhouse.

The Schoolhouse became one of Greg's most beautiful and amazing passions after it burned down in 1995. Greg, along side his brother-in-law, Monty, other family members and contractors rebuilt the home using all the original brick and restoring the look and beauty of the old schoolhouse.

Greg's heart and soul were poured into his home and this is where some of his most known talents and masterful skills were shown, his woodworking. Greg was a master of woodworking, his beautiful skill, talent and mastery was shown throughout his home from detailed pillars, staircases, furniture pieces and mouldings all designed and handcrafted by him. Greg's talent was so amazing and precise that a couple of his pieces were featured in the popular

Woodworking magazine.

Greg's family home was the center of his heart and the holding place for many family gatherings and special occasions. Multiple Christmases and birthdays with his kids and grandbabies, his baby girl's beautiful wedding day and the most notable for years, his Fourth of July parties, were held here. This was the time Greg was the happiest, sharing his home, passion and love with all those dearest to him. You could find Greg at these gatherings on a truck tailgate or kicked back in his lawn chair under the trees with a cold beverage and a huge smile on his face. He loved to dance, sing, listen to blues and other genres, including some of his favorite artists, Ottmar Liebert, Joe Bonnamassa, Santana and James Brown.

In the early 1980s Greg took his first job as a commercial fisherman on the Arctic Trawler in the Bering Sea. Greg continued his career for almost 40 years known as one of the most skilled and masterful Baader Technicians in the world, having the title of Maintenance Technician on Alaska Ocean since 1999. Greg had a love for the sea that would never go away. He spoke up to his last days, when he considered retiring for "real this time," that the sea and the boat were his second home. Greg's closest and dearest friends were made here and most during his time with Alaska Ocean. Greg loved to work, he was so intelligent and could never stop going and working on his next project. On the boat his friends shared his passion for this work ethic, he was able to share his knowledge with so many and joked he didn't have to cook his meals or make his own bed.

Off the boat, his sister, confidant and friend, Thalia, was who he reached out to. She was the first person he would go to about advice — she understood his personality better than anyone and was the one person who could deal with all his Moutsanides quirks.

All who ever met or knew Greg will forever be touched by his wealth of knowledge, talent and his infectious laugh and smile — a smile so big you knew it was completely genuine and filled with the utmost passion and love. A person like Greg is irreplaceable in so many hearts, he was loved so much by so many and he will forever be missed.

Greg is survived by his beloved sister, Thalia Moutsanides; his ex-wife and dear friend, Sherri White; his children, Aleasha and Kevin Powers, Steven and Sara Moutsanides, Gregory Jr. and Kristal Moutsanides, and Amanda and Cory Walz; nine grandchildren and one on the way; several nieces and nephews; his best friend and dog, Remi; and cats, Mama Kitty and Buster; his flea-bitten varmint.

Greg was preceded in death by his mother, Lydia Moutsanides; and his father, Demetrius Moutsanides.

Stories and memories encouraged by

all to be sent to Moutsmemories@gmail.com, or you can leave an online condolence for the family at [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

### 'Skip' Coles

Baker City, 1950-2020

Norvin "Skip" Coles Jr., 70, of Baker City, died April 13, 2020, with his family by his side.

A celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

Skip was born on March 18, 1950, to Norvin and Eleanor Coles. He was raised in La Grande and participated in both the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. In 1965 he won the NRA Junior Indoor Rifle Championship. Skip graduated from La Grande High School in 1968.

As a young teenager, Skip worked for Brogoitti farms. He worked there until he went to the big city of Portland for employment. In 1975 Skip married Debby Doud; they divorced in 1998. In 1976 Skip welcomed his daughter Tiffany into the world, which was a proud and memorable moment in his life.

Skip settled on a job working for Boise Cascade in Elgin. He moved his young family to Cove and later to North Powder where he had quite a commute to work. After 36 years, Skip retired and moved to Baker City.

Skip had a natural green thumb. He loved plants and at one time probably had more than 200 houseplants. His indoor gardening did not end inside, as his yard was the delight of the whole neighborhood. Skip's favorite color was blue, which was evident since his wardrobe was almost entirely blue. He also liked collecting all kinds of glassware that he proudly displayed in his home. Skip had a fondness for cats and especially enjoyed spending time with his Siamese cat, Thomas.

Skip never met a stranger, which was something he learned from his parents. He loved his family and always stayed in touch with all his cousins.

Survivors include his daughter, Tiffany Coles, and her companion, Blaine Sanchez, of Baker City; his brother, James Coles of Kansas City, Missouri; his sister, Karen Coles of La Grande; his longtime companion, Carlis; his grandchildren, Rebecca, Brandon and Jasmine; a great-grandchild, Ethan; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Norvin and Eleanor Coles; and his baby brother, Richard Coles.

The family suggests memorial contributions to a charity of one's choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)



Skip Coles

### DEATHS

**Charles Robison:** 80, of Baker City, died April 16, 2020, surrounded by his family. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

**Ira Haskett:** 72, of Oxbow, died April 16, 2020, at the VA Medical Center in Boise. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police Arrests, citations

FIRST-DEGREE THEFT: Alex Cooper Horn, 24, of 940 Elm St., 11:44 a.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St.; cited and released.

Crime reports  
FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: At 12:06 p.m. Thursday, at 1540 Campbell St.; police said an unknown person set a fire that damaged a heating and

air-conditioning unit outside O'Reilly Auto Parts.

**Baker County Sheriff**  
THIRD-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Joseph Palmer, 39, of

Huntington, 10:49 p.m. Thursday, on Rye Valley Lane; cited and released.

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