

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall; details of how the public will access the meeting will be announced later.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald April 24, 1970

The new debarker at Ellingson's Plywood Mill was being installed this week in preparation for reopening of production Monday. The new machine, manufactured in Western Oregon, is designed to strip logs faster.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 24, 1995

A new regional magazine celebrating Oregon east of the Cascades was unveiled at the Governor's Conference on Tourism near Salem earlier this month.

Oregon OutPost, based in Canyon City, is a mainstream-style full-color magazine published monthly.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 23, 2010

Barley Brown's Brew Pub in Baker City has bolstered its reputation as the little brewery that could by winning a gold medal in the 2010 World Beer Cup.

Over the past several years, Barley Brown's has gained a national reputation for bringing home more gold and silver medals than any other brew pub in its class at the Great American Beer Festival.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald April 24, 2019

If there's anything mosquitoes need more than blood it's water, and Baker County is pretty soggy this spring.

This has Matt Hutchinson worried.

Hutchinson is starting his seventh season as the area's chief mosquito killer, and he's bracing for an active stretch.

"I'm preparing for a busy season — busier than last year," Hutchinson said Tuesday afternoon.

The 2018 season started relatively fast but it ended slow, mainly due to the severe drought that dried some of the water sources where mosquitoes lay their eggs, said Hutchinson, who manages the 200,000-acre Baker Valley Vector Control District.

He's responsible for dealing with mosquitoes in the property tax-funded district, which includes much of Baker Valley (including Baker City) as well as Bowen and Keating valleys.

But 2019 much more resembles 2017, when the melted remnants of a heavy snowpack gave mosquitoes an abundance of breeding areas.

"2017 was a busy year start to finish," Hutchinson said. "This looks more like that."

Hutchinson said he and a co-worker have been checking some notorious breeding sites for the past week or so, looking for larvae.

They apply products, sometimes from the ground and occasionally from the air, that kill larvae before they hatch into adults that can fly and, in the case of female mosquitoes, bite people and other mammals to procure the "blood meal" the insects need to nourish their eggs.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, April 20

9 — 13 — 24 — 33 — 37 — 44

Next jackpot: \$3.4 million

POWERBALL, April 18

4 — 44 — 46 — 56 — 63 PB 29

Next jackpot: \$29 million

MEGA MILLIONS, April 21

13 — 15 — 24 — 67 — 70 Mega 17

Next jackpot: \$174 million

WIN FOR LIFE, April 20

35 — 54 — 66 — 68

PICK 4, April 21

• 1 p.m.: 8 — 8 — 9 — 0

• 4 p.m.: 1 — 6 — 9 — 1

• 7 p.m.: 4 — 7 — 3 — 9

• 10 p.m.: 9 — 5 — 4 — 5

LUCKY LINES, April 21

1-7-10-13-20-22-26-32

Next jackpot: \$35,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY (April 24):** Cheeseburgers with trimmings, potato wedges, corn, fruit cup, tapioca
- **MONDAY (April 27):** Chicken ala king over a biscuit, peas, fruit, brownies
- **TUESDAY (April 28):** Meat lasagna, cauliflower, garlic breadsticks, green salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY (April 29):** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, fruit ambrosia, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY (April 30):** Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, gelatin with fruit, cinnamon roll

Public luncheon at the 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.

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COUNTY

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Because people are traveling much less, gas tax revenues inevitably will drop, Bennett said.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said it's also possible that state officials could siphon some of the gas tax revenue from purposes other than road and street maintenance.

"We can suffer a dual blow to that," Harvey said.

The Oregon Lottery, which supplies revenue to several county departments, has seen cuts of about \$20 million per week from video lottery, which has all but ended with the closure of bars since March 17.

About one-third of the Baker County Fair Board's annual revenue — \$55,000 — comes from video lottery revenue.

"I told them they may end up having a volunteer fair, like Halfway," Bennett said. "We could cover the utilities and maybe that's about it."

Lodging taxes, which guests at motels, bed-and-breakfasts and RV parks pay, have also plummeted. The county uses both local lodging taxes and its share of the statewide tax for economic development, tourism promotion and other purposes.

The Fair isn't the only event that could be threatened both by budget cuts and by lingering restrictions designed to reduce the spread of the virus.

Bennett said that in a conference call Wednesday morning, the governor was "less than assuring to the Pendleton Round-Up that it would function" in September.

"There's other events throughout the summer that we're seriously looking

at to see whether or not we would continue the planning process," Harvey said. "All of the connections that we have to make months in advance. Some of these events could not be happening because we're not even sure that we can open things up or not."

"And then we don't have the comfort level from the citizens yet to say 'we're comfortable with bringing more people into our community' although we desperately need motels used up, we need restaurants opened up, we need regular businesses opened up," Harvey said.

With so much uncertainty about state budgets, Bennett said commissioners will ask county department heads to prepare for potential reductions.

To expect state revenues to stay flat, and to budget accordingly, would be "extremely reckless," Bennett said

in an interview Wednesday afternoon.

Harvey said he would like to see the county cancel the ban on camping and other overnight uses along the Snake River on May 1. The ban has been in effect since April 4.

Harvey said he believes county officials have done everything "precaution wise and it is time to allow people to get out and recreate."

He said he also hopes to open the county's Hewitt and Holcomb parks, on Brownlee Reservoir near Richland, on May 15, to coincide with Idaho Power Company's opening of its parks.

Social distancing will continue, Harvey said.

"We are going to be involved in a lot more cleaning to do out there for the restroom facilities but I think we can do this safely," Harvey said.

OBITUARIES

Don Davis Jr.

Baker City, 1963-2020

Don Kenneth Davis Jr., 56, of Baker City, died on April 13, 2020, at his residence.

No services are planned at this time.

Don was born on Oct. 10, 1963, at Washington, D.C., to Don Kenneth Davis Sr. and Eva Godwin. He worked as a carpenter for 20 years and worked for several contractors in Baker City, including Jeff Petry and Dave Bowers.

Don enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and camping. He loved his occupation. He was an excellent carpenter and painter and took pride in his work.

He is survived by his children, Katherine Davis, April Davis, Don Kenneth Davis III and Daniel Davis, all of Maryland, and Megan (Kurtis) Anderson of Baker City; he is also survived by five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father and stepmother, Don and Helen; his mother and stepfather, Eva and Ray; his infant son, Jonathan Davis; and his beloved grandparents, John and Truey Davis.

Memorial contributions in memory of Don can be made to Heart 'N Home Hospice through Gray's West & Company, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Don, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Darryl-McKenzy Sheppard

Baker City, 1968-2020

Darryl-McKenzy Sheppard Smith, 51, of Baker City, died April 9, 2020, at his home.

Darryl was born on June 17, 1968, at Ontario. He graduated from high school at Mount Vernon and attended college at the Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. After college he moved to Portland and became a property manager until he became disabled.

After leaving Portland, he moved to Hermiston, then to Mount Vernon and Baker City. Darryl loved to garden, camp and fish. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Darryl is survived by his moms, Marilyn Smith and Elaine Johnson; his stepdad, Dale Johnson; his brother, Gene Sheppard; his sisters, Wendi Leeper, Pam Wood-

worth and Ann Morino; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins and his beloved four-legged companion, Nia.

Darryl was preceded in death by his father, Carl Sheppard; and his nephew, Steven Jay Maine.

All those who knew Darryl loved him dearly and will always treasure their time that they spent together. Darryl will forever be missed. May he rest in peace.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Darryl, the family suggests Best Friends (animal care and rescue) 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.

Deal Spriet

Baker City, 1924-2020

Deal Iven Spriet (known as Cowboy), 95, died on April 18, 2020, at Settler's Park, with his family surrounding him with love.



Deal Spriet

Deal was born on May 24, 1924, at Baker City to Ivo and Alida Spriet. He was the youngest of five children; his siblings were Julia, Frank, Marcel and Willie.

In the early 1900s, Deal's dad, Ivo, immigrated to America leaving his loving fiancé, Alida, in Belgium. After he earned enough money to pay for the trip, he sent for her. Alida made her way to America via Canada by ship, alone. She arrived in Oregon on July 13, 1909. Ivo and Alida were then married on Aug. 14, 1909.

In 1930, tragedy struck. Deal's father died in a sawmill accident, leaving Alida alone to raise the five children: four boys and one girl. Deal was 6 years old. During these very difficult times, Deal remained close to his mother, oftentimes sharing tears together.

Deal will always be remembered as having hardworking ethics. He enjoyed the challenge of building almost anything. Hand him a welder and some hand tools and he'd

turn the simplest of items into farm machinery in his later years.

At the ripe old age of 17, a beautiful red-haired girl caught his eye, Arlene Anna Schaefer. Soon they were married, on Sept. 15, 1941.

Deal and Arlene lived a short while with Deal's Belgium mom, Alida, on the Spriet Ranch. Deal did odd jobs for farmers in the area in addition to driving back and forth to Pondosa working at the lumber mill there. The young couple then decided to move to San Bernardino, California, to help his older brother, Frank, build Army barracks in the desert. Deal felt this was a way to work in the war efforts, as he was unable to join the military because of a heart murmur and the loss of a finger on his right hand. He later worked in the Natatorium in Baker City painting military vehicles. By this time, they had their first child, a boy, Larry.

They lived in California less than a year before missing Baker City. Returning home, they moved to a house on Marble Creek owned by Arlene's parents, Bill and Anna Schaefer. Harley, son number two, was born during this time. The couple then bought a house in town, living there for a period of time before Anita was born. In 1948, Deal and Arlene had an opportunity to purchase the Spriet Ranch on Goodrich Creek Lane.

Deal was 24 now, and the father of two more children, Evelyn and Allan having joined the family. He then took on the task of building their new house which was completed in 1955. Then their last child, Patti, was born.

In addition to farming, Deal worked at Burnt River Lumber Co. By the age of 48, he left the company and farmed full time with the help of his children.

When Deal's oldest son Larry returned home in 1966, after serving two years in the Army, they obtained more ground and started farming together. This continued for many years until Deal decided not to retire but slow down a bit from the work on the farm. He still helped during calving time, or when it was time to vaccinate the calves, inviting as many grandkids as he could to help. He would be out there sitting

on top of the fence bossing everyone to make sure they did everything right. Nothing was more important to him than having his family around.

Deal loved the family farm nestled at the foot of "his" mountains. He cherished going on rides anytime anyone would take him; looking at the beautiful countryside with a story to tell about how it used to be.

Being a hardworking man and taking chances, Deal suffered broken bones along with other injuries that slowed him down but didn't stop him from enjoying happy times with his family. His family was the light of his life. Enduring a horrible time in 2012, when his dear wife, Arlene, suffered a stroke and after almost a year later, lost her battle. He missed her terribly but was comforted knowing his family was close by.

This strong, hardworking man will be missed by all who knew him and always be remembered as a man with a huge heart, highest of integrity and full of love for his family.

He is survived by his sons, Larry (Janet) Spriet and Allan Spriet; his daughters, Anita Goodyear (John), Evelyn Ulrey (Chuck) and Patti Beeks (Terry); several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; his brothers-in-law, Kenneth Schaefer (Beverly) and John Schaefer; numerous nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Hugh Whitbread.

Deal was preceded in death by his parents, Alida and Ivo; his brothers and one sister; his wife, Arlene; son, Harley; and grandsons, Mike and Harley.

The family would like to thank Heart 'N Home Hospice for the love and care they gave their dad, especially Paige and Seth. They'd also like to thank the Settler's Park caregivers for the sweet attention they so kindly gave.

Memorial contributions in memory of Deal can be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Deal, or to leave an online condolence for his family, go to www.colestrIBUTEcenter.com.

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