

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

■ **Baker County Commission:** 9 a.m. to noon; for details about how to access the meeting, go to bakercounty.org

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., Zoom video meeting; more information is available by contacting klafavor@cityhall.com or 541-524-2033.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 2, 1970

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington School District will offer a vocational program to students at Huntington High School next year.

John Tietema, HSD Superintendent, said that over the past seven to eight months the district's school board has been planning a comprehensive curriculum for Huntington High School.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 2, 1995

Oregon State Police have confiscated about 75 sticks of dynamite found in the Pine Creek area of Baker Valley.

Mushroom hunters found the dynamite Sunday on private land, according to Lt. Mitch Southwick, commander of the Baker City OSP office. Southwick said police suspect the dynamite was stolen and dumped in the area to be retrieved later. There were no blasting caps found with the dynamite, he added.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 3, 2010

About 40 Baker County residents turned out for a Sunday town hall session at the Community Connection to share their concerns with U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and to ask his help on issues ranging from health care to child custody issues and renewable energy.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 3, 2019

Drew Terteling hopped down from the front end loader, grinning at his Baker High School classmates.

"Did you see all that imaginary dirt?" he said.

Terteling, a senior at BHS, had the chance to explore a variety of jobs in construction and utilities at the ODOT Career Day Thursday at the Oregon Department of Transportation facility just east of the North Baker exit on Interstate 84.

This event started in 2011, and is held every two years. This is the third time it has been in Baker City, said Tom Strandberg, public information officer for ODOT's region 5.

More than 500 students from 25 schools across Eastern Oregon attended the event, which ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ODOT's Sandy Lowe coordinated the event.

"It's to spread the world about what ODOT is and what we do," she said.

Others on site included OTEC, Cascade Natural Gas, and Vemco.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, April 29

13 — 15 — 18 — 28 — 44 — 46  
Next jackpot: \$3.8 million

### POWERBALL, April 29

2 — 20 — 49 — 61 — 67 PB 20  
Next jackpot: \$51 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, April 28

13 — 19 — 53 — 54 — 63 Mega 17  
Next jackpot: \$200 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, April 29

15 — 24 — 36 — 55

### PICK 4, April 30

• 1 p.m.: 8 — 5 — 8 — 8

• 4 p.m.: 9 — 9 — 7 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 7 — 1 — 0 — 7

• 10 p.m.: 2 — 9 — 7 — 8

### LUCKY LINES, April 30

3-7-11-15-19-22-28-29  
Next jackpot: \$44,000

## SENIOR MENUS

■ **MONDAY (May 4):** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, biscuits, cottage cheese with fruit, brownies

■ **TUESDAY (May 5):** Swedish meatballs over rice, broccoli-blend vegetables, bread, fruit cup, cookies

■ **WEDNESDAY (May 6):** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, corn, bread, green salad, cake

■ **THURSDAY (May 7):** Pork roast, parsleyed red potatoes, carrots, roll, pea-and-onion salad, ice cream

■ **FRIDAY (May 8):** Baked cod, cup of clam chowder, rolls, coleslaw, lemon bars

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.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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## STORM

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Her husband, Mark, let their dog out Wednesday night, after the storm had moved off, but it was full dark by then. And the front door, when opened, partially blocks the view of where the tree had stood, she said.

Winton, who has lived on the ranch east of Keating for 14 years, said she always figured if any of the big old trees on the place finally succumbed after enduring storms over a century or so, it would be an adjacent elm.

That sickly tree hasn't leafed out this spring.

But it survived Wednesday's storm while its seemingly healthier neighbor was snapped by a gust.

Frederick Phillips, who lives a few miles from the Wintons, said the wind was so powerful that he feared it might fell his flagpole.

Winton said the tempest, which lasted about 45 minutes, didn't arrive without warning.

Friends who live in Baker City, where the storm hit about an hour earlier, called her and said it was coming.

Winton said she doesn't care for thunder and lightning, though her husband, who was out irrigating, enjoys storms.

Although the storm pummeled Keating Valley with torrential rain and wind gusts, it apparently exhausted much of its third element — hail — in Baker City.

Soft hailstones, some with a diameter about that of a quarter, whitened the ground in town starting around 6:30 p.m.

But both Phillips and Winton said they didn't see any hail.



Photo by Julie Winton

One of the two trunks from the massive box elder tree in Julie and Mark Winton's front yard near Keating fell directly between a pair of decorative stone pillars.

"There was tremendous thunder, lightning and rain," Winton said.

The tree made a mess but caused little damage, she said.

Its trunk was divided into two thick sections, one of which fell directly between a pair of decorative stone pillars that line the walkway in front of the Winton home.

### Farmers happy to not see hail

Hail poses a serious threat to crops, but the icy innards of Wednesday's storm largely bypassed cultivated ground near Baker City.

Mark Ward, whose family grows wheat, potatoes, peppermint, alfalfa and other

crops in Baker Valley, said he didn't see a single hailstone at his home, along Pochontas Road near the hospital.

That's atypical, Ward said. He branded the area just north of the city limits, where Imnaha Road veers off Highway 30, as "hail alley" because he's seen many storms pound the fields there with frozen stones.

Ward said crops such as fall wheat, which is about 4 to 5 inches tall now, are quite vulnerable to hail damage.

He said hailstones can split the leaves of wheat plants, making them susceptible to fungal and other diseases.

Jess Blatchford, whose family grows wheat, pota-

"There was tremendous thunder, lightning and rain."

— Julie Winton, who lives in Keating Valley about 15 miles east of Baker City

toes and field corn near the center of Baker Valley, said Wednesday's storm not only didn't drop hail on their property, but it was stingy with what would have been welcome — rain.

One of his gauges collected just .01 of an inch — scarcely more than a trace.

Blatchford said that when he drove a gravel road near his home Thursday morning the "dust was flying behind me."

"I wouldn't have opposed some rain," he said.

Both March and April were drier than usual at the Baker City Airport.

March's rain total of 0.18 of an inch was less than a third the monthly average of 0.8. April's numbers were similar, with a total of .20 and an average of 0.79.

Blatchford said it wasn't the first time a storm has skirted the heart of the valley, something he attributes to the 9,100-foot crest of the Elkhorn Mountains several miles to the west.

"That mountain range does a real good job of splitting these storms," he said.

Wednesday's storm concluded a day that exemplified the sometimes tempestuous nature of spring weather in Baker County.

Before the cells barreled in, the temperature climbed to a record-tying 82 degrees at the Baker City Airport.

The record high for April 29 was set in 1968 and matched in 1992.

## OBITUARIES

### James Wilson

Formerly of North Powder, 1926-2020

James Bruce Wilson, 93, a former Baker City resident, died April 28, 2020, at Walla Walla, Washington.

A private burial service will take place Tuesday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. at Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens in Walla Walla.

Jim was born on Dec. 27, 1926, at Baker to James A. and Margaret Wilson.

After graduation from North Powder High School in 1944, Jim enlisted in the Navy. He was assigned to the Navy Construction Battalion (Seabees), where he served two years in the Pacific Theater and was honorably discharged after his return stateside.

Jim enrolled at Oregon State College in 1946 and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics. After graduation he returned to the family ranch in North Powder to work with his father and his brother, Jack Wilson.

While in college he met Jean Graffenberger and they were married on Sept. 17, 1950, at Prineville. September of this year would have marked their 70th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed living on the ranch where they raised their two children, Susan and Jim Jr.

Jim was a respected leader in the North Powder community, serving on the school board, water board, Oregon Cattlemen's Association as well as leadership roles in several other local and regional organizations.

Jim and his brother Jack purchased Nine Mile Ranch near Touchet, Washington, in 1979. Jim and his wife Jean soon relocated to Walla Walla where he oversaw the Washington end of their cattle operation. He enjoyed a successful partnership in the business with his brother Jack for over 40 years, and

was always proud of the fact that he was in business with his son, Jim, and nephew, John Wilson. His integrity, knowledge and dedication to the cattle industry helped fuel that success and brought great respect from his peers.

Jim retired in 1987 and he and Jean started spending winter months at Palm Desert, California, where he enjoyed playing golf and the company of close friends. They enjoyed traveling throughout Europe, the Far East, Africa, South America as well as extended driving trips throughout the United States. One of their travel goals was to visit all of the U.S. Presidential libraries, which they accomplished during their domestic travels. Jim was an avid history buff of both world wars and enjoyed learning and reading biographies of prominent business and world leaders of the 20th century.

Jim is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jean; his daughter, Susan Wooters, and her husband, Patrick, of Yakima, Washington; his son, Jim, and his wife, Kim, of Walla Walla; his brother, Jack, and his wife, Meredith, of North Powder; four grandchildren, Bryon Wooters of Walla Walla, Jennifer Balderston

of Yakima, JB Wilson of Tacoma, Washington, and Ross Wilson of Edmonds, Washington. He also had five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Janet Bauer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made through Herring-Groseclose Funeral Home to the Walla Walla Christian Aid Center or the Portland Shriners Hospital for Children.

### King Polley

Baker City, 1950-2020

King Reed Polley, 70, of Baker City, died April 27, 2020, at his home.

On Jan. 13, 1950, Frank and Arlene (Reed) Polley welcomed King into the world at the old St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker City. He graduated from Baker High School, and after high school he joined the United States Army. He served for three years and was stationed in Korea for part of the time.

King worked in the automobile industry in tire sales and service, as well as car sales and service. He worked

for Roy And Owen Tires for 18 years, Phillips-Long Ford, Gentry Ford, and the Baker City Auto Ranch. He retired in 2017 after working for the Ford dealership for 30 years.

Cecilia Suzette Ellis and King were married at the Haines Steakhouse in 1984. King loved Suzette through richer and poorer, in sickness and in health, and until death us do part.

His favorite things to do in his spare time were four-wheeling, camping, fishing, hunting, and spending time in nature. For the last five years of his life, his favorite thing was to play and love on their dog, Stubby, and as King was slipping away, he did not want to leave Stubby. She stuck by his side through everything.

King is survived by his wife, Cecilia Suzette Polley of Baker City; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and, of course, Stubby.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked donations to be made to Best Friends of Baker City through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

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



King Polley

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