

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald July 25, 1970

Today while firefighters from throughout the Pacific Northwest are fighting forest fires in Washington let us turn back the clock 10 years this month to the Anthony Creek Fire, which destroyed 19,500 acres of National Forest and killed three men.

It was the worst fire in Eastern Oregon since 1931. Rehabilitation efforts began immediately after the fire are producing a new, young forest in the area.

The lightning-caused fire began at 6:30 p.m. July 19, 1960. It burned out of control until July 30.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald July 25, 1995

SUMPTER — Lifting 2,500,000 pounds seems a daunting task, but for Kent Cochran it's just another job.

Cochran is general manager of Advanced American Diving Service Inc., the Oregon City firm the state hired to lift the Sumpter dredge from the bottom of its 10-foot-deep pond and rest it on a stable sand pedestal.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald July 26, 2010

Ten cars from a Union Pacific freight train jumped the tracks near Durkee on Sunday afternoon.

The cars came to rest in a field near Interstate 84.

The derailment did not block traffic on the freeway or Old Highway 30, Baker County Sheriff Mitch Southwick said this morning.

No injuries were reported.

Southwick said he had not heard what caused the cars to derail.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald July 26, 2019

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has banned overnight camping on a 240-acre site near Sumpter due to damage caused by people staying in the area for longer than the 14 consecutive days allowed.

“Because of this type of use, the area has become very impacted from the campers,” according to a memorandum from Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman supervisor.

The affected area is near Huckleberry Creek, along Forest Road 1090 just east of Highway 7, about 5 miles southeast of Sumpter.

In his memo, Montoya wrote: “The visitors to the area appear to have established a pattern of being disruptive to the local residents. There have been reports of forest visitors digging septic holes, leaving litter behind, and damaging wetlands with off-highway vehicle play activities.”

Montoya wrote that Wallowa-Whitman employees have documented some of this damage, including with photographs.

“To prevent this damage from continuing, the area needs time to be closed to let the area rehabilitate,” Montoya wrote.

Forest employees have received reports that people have stayed in the area for as long as 3 to 4 months, according to Montoya's memo.

He also wrote that employees have “received multiple complaints and requests for the Forest Service to do something.”

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, July 22
1 — 13 — 17 — 29 — 30 — 33
Next jackpot: \$4.4 million

POWERBALL, July 22
16 — 25 — 36 — 44 — 55 PB 14
Next jackpot: \$117 million

MEGA MILLIONS, July 21
14 — 25 — 26 — 41 — 43 Mega 15
Next jackpot: \$124 million

WIN FOR LIFE, July 22
15 — 19 — 43 — 59

PICK 4, July 23
• 1 p.m.: 1 — 9 — 9 — 3
• 4 p.m.: 6 — 9 — 7 — 3
• 7 p.m.: 8 — 9 — 5 — 7
• 10 p.m.: 0 — 9 — 5 — 8

LUCKY LINES, July 23
1-8-11-13-17-24-28-29
Next jackpot: \$17,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY (July 27):** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, succotash, bread, three-bean salad, brownie
- **TUESDAY (July 28):** Chicken strips, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, roll, carrot-raisin salad, cinnamon roll
- **WEDNESDAY (July 29):** Spaghetti with beef sauce, green beans, garlic bread, green salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY (July 30):** Reuben casserole, peas, fruit ambrosia, bread pudding
- **FRIDAY (July 31):** Chicken-fried steak, potatoes and gravy, carrots, roll, coleslaw, cookies

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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GRAND JURY

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Johnson died at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center where she had been taken by her boyfriend, Brandon Ray Davis, 33, of Baker City, in the early morning hours of July 5.

Baxter said Davis was driving the truck the couple used for their woodcutting business when Johnson fell from the vehicle in the area of Brown Road and Sky Ranch Lane, about 10 miles northwest of Baker City. They were heading out to cut wood the morning of the accident, he said.

“There were a lot of questions about her death and people who knew the parties,” Baxter said. “It was a suspicious death, and that’s why we took it to the grand jury.”

Calligraphy class set July 30

Ginger Rembold will teach Introduction to Italic Calligraphy on July 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. in Baker City. The class is for ages 12 and older. Cost is \$16 members, \$24 nonmembers. There is also a

As he does in all cases, Baxter said he instructed the jurors not to read anything about the investigation on Facebook or in the newspaper and to set aside any preconceived notions. He asked that they consider the evidence presented in deciding whether a crime had been committed.

In this case, the jury ruled there was none.

“It was a tragic accident,” Baxter said.

The district attorney expressed his appreciation to the Baker County Sheriff’s Office and specifically to deputy Jeff Spencer, who investigated the case and prepared it to go before the grand jury. The Baker City Police Department and Oregon State Police also helped with the investigation and reconstruction of the fatality.

\$5 supply fee for handouts and practice papers.

Please bring calligraphy pens — sizes 2.0 mm and 3.5 mm are preferred.

To register for classes at Crossroads, go to www.crossroads-arts.org or call 541-523-5369.

OBITUARIES

‘Chuck’ Ferdig

Baker City, 1929-2020

Charles Robert “Chuck” Ferdig, 91, of Baker City, died July 8, 2020, of natural causes at his residence in Memory Lane Homes.

At his request there will be no funeral or service.



Chuck Ferdig

Chuck was born on Jan. 21, 1929, at Filley, Nebraska, to Charles E. and Rachel Ferdig. He was one of six children.

He was a veteran, serving in World War II after joining the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17.

He married Lavella (Reed) Ferdig on Feb. 4, 1951, at Sioux City, Iowa, and they moved to Boise in 1953. In 1966 they were blessed with a son, Robert. Chuck moved his family to Baker City in 1967 to take a job at Ellingson Lumber Mill, working there until he retired.

Chuck served as the pastor of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (Community of Christ) from the mid-1970s until the 1990s.

Chuck was a simple, hardworking, patient man with a deep love for the Lord and his family. He would do anything for anyone in need. Among his many interests he mostly enjoyed tinkering around the house, reading, watching football (Green Bay Packers), baseball (Dodgers) and his nightly game shows, “Jeopardy” and “Wheel of Fortune” with his loyal granddogs, Kinzey and Madison, at his feet. He will best be remembered by his infectious

smile that he shared so freely and the mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

He is survived by his son, Robert “Rob” (Julie) Ferdig of Baker City; his granddaughter, Allisyn Ferdig of Baker City and Jessica Johnson of Boise; his grandson, Joshua Johnson of Baker City; his great-granddaughter, Adalynn Johnson of Hillsboro; his brother, Norman “Norm” (Rosa) Ferdig of Excelsior Springs, Missouri; his sister, Patricia “Pat” (Richard) Brown of Meridian, Idaho; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles E. and Rachel Ferdig; his wife, Lavella Ferdig; his son, Baby Boy Ferdig; his daughter, Baby Girl Ferdig; his brothers, John and William “Bill” Ferdig; his sister, Altamae (Ferdig) Knickerbocker; and his nephew, David Ferdig.

Memorial contributions may be made to the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) through Community Connection, 2810 Cedar St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle for Chuck or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Elwain McKeen

Formerly of Baker City and Haines, 1928-2020

Rev. Elwain E. McKeen, 91, formerly of Baker City and Haines, died peacefully of natural causes on May 17, 2020, in Bend.

Elwain was born on Oct. 27, 1928, at Whitefish, Montana, to Floyd and Hazel (Rogers) McKeen. When he was 5 years old his mother passed away of tuberculosis, and he was placed in an orphanage by the state until age 13. He was brought home and at the age

of 17 his father passed away.

He attended high school at Klamath Falls, where he met Lois E. Morgan, whom he married on Aug. 17, 1947, while on leave from the U.S. Army which he had joined in early 1946. He was part of the World War II Occupation Force, Japan, and served in Korea until October of 1949.

In December 1950 Elwain and Lois moved to Seattle, where they attended Seattle Pacific College. While in the Seattle area they participated in the ministry of the Korean sailors, Olive Branch Missions, and the startup of Lynwood Free Methodist Church.

In 1965 they moved to Oakland, California. From 1968 to 1970 they were in Liberia, West Africa, as missionaries. Following their return to the States, Elwain worked at various jobs over the years — in the medical field, as a truck driver, and he pastored a couple of small churches. Elwain moved to Baker City

in 1992 where he served as pastor to the seniors at the Nazarene Church, and Chaplain for the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.

Elwain is survived by one remaining sister, Eunice; his children: Elwain Jr., Raphael, and Eunice; his grandchildren: Verland, Cynthianna, Angel, Sarah, Jeremiah, Genevieve, Kourtney, Benjamin and Ariel; 14 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nephews and nieces.

Elwain was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lois; and five sisters.

Elwain loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and was always sharing the good news with all he met. Even though he will be greatly missed, we, his family and friends, rejoice in his graduation to Heaven.



Elwain McKeen

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