

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
July 31, 1970

The Baker number two team in the 13-year-old tournament in Wallowa advanced into the winners bracket Thursday with a win over Wallowa Valley in the first game of the tournament.

The Baker team defeated Wallowa 6-2 to move into the second round of the double elimination tournament.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
July 31, 1995

U.S. Forest Service fire experts continue to monitor a lightning-caused blaze near Crawfish Lake, 24 air miles northwest of Baker City.

Friday's near-100-degree heat and strong winds pushed flames over a ridge toward the lake. The blaze produced a smoke cloud that was visible from Baker Valley.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
July 30, 2010

Road closures are making it difficult to do business in Richland, Halfway and Hells Canyon, but a contract is expected to be awarded around the end of next week to repair flood damage to Road 39 of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway between Halfway and Wallowa Lake.

Debi Bainter, manager of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, said it's important to get the word out that the Eagle Valley and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area are open and accessible up to the lower portion of Forest Road 39, which washed out south of the Hells Canyon Overlook in May.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
July 31, 2019

Two fires, the largest of which covered about 19 acres, burned in sagebrush and grass Tuesday afternoon on the south slopes of Coyote Point, a small butte about 2 miles northeast of Haines.

The smaller fire, which was about one-quarter to one-half acre south of the larger blaze, burned about one-tenth of an acre, said Steve Meyer, wildland fire supervisor at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Baker City office.

A fire investigator from the BLM's Vale District arrived Tuesday evening to try to determine the cause of the fires.

Fire officials have ruled out lightning as the culprit, Meyer said.

He said both fires started beneath an Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative power line.

The larger blaze burned mostly on private rangeland, but flames also spread to about 4 to 5 acres of BLM land, Meyer said.

There are two separate parcels of BLM land, totaling about 430 acres, in the area. Both parcels are surrounded by private property.

OTEC crews were upgrading a substation in that area on Tuesday, said Eric Wirfs, district superintendent for the cooperative.

The fire didn't damage any OTEC facilities, Wirfs said.

Although the fire burned outside the Forestry Department's protection area, Meyer said he drove to the site, accompanied by a fire engine, after hearing about the fire on an emergency radio frequency.

He said that when he arrived the fire had burned about 15 acres, and flame lengths were 5 to 10 feet.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, July 27
3 — 8 — 20 — 25 — 36 — 42
Next jackpot: \$4.6 million

POWERBALL, July 25
5 — 21 — 36 — 61 — 62 PB 18
Next jackpot: \$126 million

MEGA MILLIONS, June 28
17 — 20 — 27 — 31 — 34 Mega 19
Next jackpot: \$22 million

WIN FOR LIFE, July 28
6 — 10 — 13 — 16

PICK 4, July 28

- 1 p.m.: 8 — 7 — 5 — 1
- 4 p.m.: 6 — 4 — 9 — 5
- 7 p.m.: 3 — 5 — 2 — 1
- 10 p.m.: 0 — 9 — 5 — 9

LUCKY LINES, July 28
3-8-10-15-18-23-28-31
Next jackpot: \$22,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Chicken-fried steak, potatoes and gravy, carrots, roll, coleslaw, cookies
- **MONDAY (Aug. 3):** Beef tips over mashed potatoes, carrots, biscuit, fruit cup, lemon bars
- **TUESDAY (Aug. 4):** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise sauce, baked potato, mixed vegetables, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, apple crisp
- **WEDNESDAY (Aug. 5):** Old-fashioned steak, rice pilaf, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, coleslaw, cake
- **THURSDAY (Aug. 6):** Baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, cornbread, beet-and-onion salad, cheesecake

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, under 60. Meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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THE TWO VICTIMS, BOTH FROM HOOD RIVER, WERE NOT WEARING LIFE JACKETS

Two people drowned while fishing at Oxbow Reservoir

By Chris Collins
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Baker County Sheriff's officers believe a 14-year-old boy who waded into the water on the banks of Oxbow Reservoir at the eastern edge of the county stepped into a steep drop-off and drowned Monday morning.

In an attempt to save the boy, his adult fishing partner also fell into the deep water and drowned, a press release stated.

The bodies of 14-year-old Wyatt James Smith, and Matthew Titus Kellogg, 41, both of Hood River, were found in about 10 feet of water below Brownlee Dam, Ashley McClay, Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Oxbow Reservoir is the middle of the three reservoirs on the Snake River forming the border between Oregon and Idaho.

Brownlee Reservoir is upriver from Oxbow, and Hells Canyon Reservoir is downriver.

Oxbow Reservoir is about 75 miles east of Baker City.

The Baker County Sheriff's Department was called about 10:53 a.m. Monday by the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Weiser, Idaho, reporting that two people had gone underwater while fishing from the Oregon side at Oxbow Reservoir below Brownlee Dam. Shaun Jason Moore, 41, Wyatt's



Baker County Sheriff's Office photo

Law enforcement from Baker County and from two Idaho counties participated in the search for two Hood River residents who drowned Monday in Oxbow Reservoir.

“A lot of people don’t think about wearing life preserver devices along the shore, but from our viewpoint they should wear life jackets when they are near water. Even sometimes the strongest swimmers can get in trouble depending on the current and the depth.”

— Ashley McClay, Baker County Sheriff's Office

father, reported the incident, McClay said.

Moore told police that his son and Kellogg had been walking in the water while fishing. McClay said the boy got too far from shore and began having difficulty and when Kellogg tried to help him he also began having difficulty in the water.

Moore told police he saw his son and Kellogg go under. They were not wearing life jackets.

Moore tried to go in the

water, but he was unable to reach the pair and they did not resurface, McClay said.

In addition to Oxbow resident deputy Brian Harvey, Baker County Sheriff's marine deputies responded along with officers from Washington County, Idaho, and Adams County, Idaho, at Council. They launched two boats and a jet ski to search for Smith and Kellogg, McClay said.

The two were found in about 10 feet of water in an

eddy below Brownlee Dam.

The bodies were recovered by the Baker County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue dive team.

McClay advised people to wear life jackets, even while fishing from the shores of the Snake River or its reservoirs.

The drop-off at the water's edge can be extremely steep, she said.

“A lot of people don't think about wearing life preserver devices along the shore, but from our viewpoint they should wear life jackets when they are near water,” she said. “Even sometimes the strongest swimmers can get in trouble depending on the current and the depth of the water.”

A teenage boy from the Portland area who was visiting Baker County over the Fourth of July weekend with family and friends, drowned in Brownlee Reservoir near Hewitt Park, 3 miles east of Richland, just off Highway 86.

Authorities believe Thierno Bah, 17, who could not swim, waded into the water, which dropped off from the shore to a depth of about 40 feet, and drowned when he was unable to get back to safety. A week-long search ended on July 10 when a kayaker found Bah's body floating near the boat docks at Hewitt Park about 50 yards from shore.

OBITUARIES

Sally Farmer

Baker City, 1932-2020

It is with the deepest sadness that the family of Sally Anne Farmer announces the passing of their beloved mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, and friend.

“Grandma Sally,” 88, died peacefully at her Baker City home on July 25, 2020.

Visitations will be at Coles Funeral Home, 1950 Place St., on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. with limited space to ensure social distancing. A graveside funeral will follow at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband, Clifford. Face masks will be required at both the visitation and graveside services.

Sally joined this world on Feb. 19, 1932, as the second child to Lila Grace Friedly and her first husband. She was born in rural Redwing, Kansas. When she was a small child, her family moved to Oregon, where she spent her childhood living on a sheep ranch near John Day and Kimberly, Oregon. She took pride in taking care



Sally Farmer

of the bumper lambs that had lost their mothers. Her family moved to Baker when she was a teenager, and she graduated in the 1950 class of Baker High School.

On June 27, 1948, she married the love of her life, Clifford George Farmer Jr. She spent the first phase of her married life as a homemaker. Together they raised their three children, Karen Anne Eck, Kay Marie Patterson, and Kipton George Farmer. In 1958, they started the family business, Cliff's Saws and Cycles, on Tenth Street in Baker City. As the kids went off on their own, Sally began doing the office work at the shop where she continued to work until just recently.

“Grandma Sally” was often accompanied at the shop by her many grandchildren. Sally and Cliff enjoyed traveling across the U.S. on their Honda Goldwing, and their grandchildren were always delighted when they showed up on the motorcycle for a visit.

Sally enjoyed riding her bicycle, picking huckleberries, cooking, sewing, studying the Bible, and spending time with her family. Family was very important to Sally,

and she could often be found down at the Inland Café enjoying food and many laughs with them.

Sally was a longtime member of the Baker United Methodist Church, active in all aspects of the life of the congregation. She touched many lives as a Sunday school teacher, a leader in adult Bible study groups and a layman minister, and she invested in youth through church activities and the Scouting troop. Sally was quick to reach out to anyone in need of her care. She served in nearly every leadership capacity with the church board and the United Methodist Women's group.

She took great pride in hosting her annual UMW Christmas party. Sally was always a part of the Methodist potlucks, ice cream socials, funeral dinners, and other church events and was known for eating only after the last person was served and staying to clean until the final dish was done.

Sally is survived by her brother, Darrell Bales; her

children, Karen Eck, Kay Patterson and Kip Farmer; her grandchildren, Lori Buschke, Jeanie Dexter, Stephanie Eck, Jessica Eck, Jason Waldrop and Brad Waldrop; her great-grandchildren, Cody Buschke, Brett Buschke, Sarah Rea, Ryan Buschke, Elizabeth Rea, Amanda Buschke, Hayden Waldrop, Braxton Waldrop, Meadoh Waldrop, Maddox Waldrop, Kate-lyn Buschke and Gemma Waldrop; and her great-great-grandchildren, Callie Brown and Chloe Buschke.

Sally was preceded in death by her mother, Lila Bales; her husband, Clifford Farmer Jr.; her sisters, Roberta and Patricia; her brother, Dennis; and her sister-in-law, Bertha.

Memorial contributions can be made in Sally's name to the Baker City United Methodist Church through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle for Sally or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.colestributecenter.com

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERAL PENDING

Annie Tomat: Interment of her remains, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION (out-of-county warrant): Dominic Michael Silva, 27, transient, 3:15 a.m. Tuesday, at Washington Avenue and Cherry Street; cited and released.

BAKER COUNTY JUSTICE COURT (Two warrants): Valerie Jean Brinton, 52, of Baker City, 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, in the 800

block of Elm Street; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Starlynn Marie Brown, 41, of 2609 14th St., 1:48 p.m. Tuesday, at 14th and A streets; cited and released.

Crime reports
FIRST-DEGREE THEFT: At Campbell and 17th streets, between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon; taken: a lighted stop sign valued at \$1,500 belonging to Baker City; the sign was damaged in a crash at the intersection about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, police said; a Public Works employee reported the sign missing at 1:24 p.m. Monday.



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