

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

■ **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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 1, 1970

Sig Ellingson, co-owner of Ellingson Lumber and Timber Co., said yesterday he hopes to reopen the Ellingson plywood plant shortly after the first of the year.

Speaking before a noon luncheon of the Rotary Club, Ellingson explained that housing starts have increased in the last few months.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 1, 1995

The power is on again, but the final cost from Monday night's blustery snowstorm won't be available until next week.

Electricity was restored to the last customers, Elton and Loretta Cook of Keating Valley, about 10 p.m. Wednesday, said Ken Kissell, Baker District superintendent for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 1, 2010

Baker County employees are moving out of the water-damaged Courthouse today to set up temporary offices in the former North Baker School building at 2725 Seventh St.

The Baker School District and the county are finalizing details of an agreement for use of the building today, said Karen Spencer, the county's information assistant.

An earlier plan to move county services to the former Extension building on Grove Street fell through after it was discovered that wiring had been pulled from the building.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 2, 2019

A pair of snowstorms, one starting the day before Thanksgiving and the other two days after the holiday, have kept snowplowing crews from the Baker City Public Works Department busy.

"There's a lot of snow out there," Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said this morning.

A nine-person crew started at midnight Sunday to plow and haul away snow from sections of several downtown streets and other higher-priority routes such as Campbell, Broadway and 10th streets, Owen said.

Crews also plowed streets near schools to prepare for this morning's rush.

A day crew was working today, and workers will be out overnight again to continue hauling away snow from temporary berms, Owen said. Trucks are dumping snow at the Ellingson Lumber Company property off Broadway, and at the Baker County Fairgrounds.

Owen said she'll decide later this week whether to have residential streets plowed. Warmer temperatures, with daytime highs in the upper 30s, are forecast for much of this week.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Nov. 28

22 - 25 - 30 - 38 - 39 - 48
Next jackpot: \$5.1 million

POWERBALL, Nov. 28

8 - 12 - 18 - 44 - 51 PB 10
Next jackpot: \$231 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 27

4 - 10 - 27 - 35 - 58 Mega 10
Next jackpot: \$229 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 28

14 - 58 - 64 - 72

PICK 4, Nov. 29

• 1 p.m.: 0 - 6 - 0 - 7

• 4 p.m.: 4 - 6 - 6 - 1

• 7 p.m.: 9 - 2 - 3 - 4

• 10 p.m.: 5 - 3 - 9 - 8

LUCKY LINES, Nov. 29

2-7-12-15-18-23-28-29

Next jackpot: \$39,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Spaghetti with beef sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadsticks, green salad, pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, macaroni salad, cheesecake
- **FRIDAY:** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, roll, coleslaw, cookies
- **MONDAY (Dec. 7):** Boneless chicken with cream gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, baby carrots, ambrosia, lemon squares
- **TUESDAY (Dec. 8):** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, roll, brownies

Lunches 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.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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BIGHORNS

Continued from Page 1A

Sheep from two other domestic flocks near Richland, at the north end of the Lookout Mountain unit, were tested earlier this year and none was carrying the Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae bacteria, Ratliff said. A llama owned by a resident along the Snake River Road was also tested, and was also negative for the bacteria.

The owners of those animals volunteered for the tests, which ODFW paid for; Ratliff said. He welcomes owners of sheep and goats in either area to call the ODFW office at 541-523-5832 if they're interested in having animals tested.

Ratliff said it's also plausible that the Baker County bighorns were infected by contact with other bighorn sheep, possibly from Idaho.

The bottom line, he said, is "we just don't know" the source of the bacteria that infected the two bighorn herds.

Ratliff is confident, however, in saying that whatever the source, sheep from the Lookout Mountain herd were infected first.

The reason, he said, is timing.

Lookout Mountain bighorns were infected some time before Feb. 13, the day biologists, responding to a report from a passerby, found a dead bighorn ram lying on the Snake River Road near Connor Creek, about 18 miles north of Huntington.

Ratliff said the first evidence of illness in Burnt River Canyon bighorns didn't show up until October.

Although he acknowledges it's possible that bighorns from each herd were infected separately, from different sources, Ratliff said he thinks that's highly unlikely.

He's skeptical of that scenario largely because evidence is mounting that Burnt River Canyon and Lookout Mountain bighorns mingle more often than biologists had believed.



Nick Myatt/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011 Photo

A bighorn sheep ram photographed in the Burnt River Canyon.

The two herds generally are 10 miles or so apart, and with Interstate 84 between them.

But early this summer, two young rams from the Burnt River Canyon herd tried to cross the freeway from the south (Burnt River) side to the north, Ratliff said. One of the rams was hit by a car and killed. A tissue sample from that ram did not contain the Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae.

Ratliff said that had he been asked a year ago to estimate the relative risk of Baker County bighorns contracting a bacteria or virus from domestic sheep, he would have rated the Burnt River Canyon as more vulnerable because of the proximity of domestic sheep in Durkee Valley.

"I would have been wrong," he said, citing his belief that the Lookout Mountain bighorns were infected first.

Recent ram death deepens mystery

Ratliff said that on Nov. 19, ODFW biologists found a dead bighorn ram near Little Deacon Creek, a few miles west of Brownlee Reservoir and near the geographic center of the Lookout Mountain herd's range.

Ratliff said the ram definitely died from pneumonia, although he has yet to receive a lab result confirming the

animal was infected with the same strain of bacteria.

But the more significant part of the story, he said, is that he's all but certain — again, pending lab confirmation — that the dead ram wasn't from the Lookout Mountain herd but rather from the Burnt River Canyon herd.

Ratliff said the ram, which was 9 to 10 years old, is about one-third smaller, both in body size and horns, than a typical mature ram of the Rocky Mountain subspecies.

The ram's size was consistent, however, with the smaller California subspecies, and Ratliff believes the ram migrated from the Burnt River Canyon herd — further evidence that the two herds mingle.

What's impossible at this point to determine, Ratliff said, is how the bacteria spread from the Lookout Mountain herd to the Burnt River Canyon sheep.

Either Lookout Mountain sheep crossed the freeway and mingled with Burnt River Canyon sheep and infected the latter, he said, or Burnt River Canyon sheep made the journey, became infected from contact with Lookout Mountain sheep, then returned to the Burnt River Canyon and spread the bacteria among that herd.

Ratliff said biologists found

the dead ram while working on a project to learn more about the prevalence of the bacteria in Lookout Mountain sheep.

Biologists used tranquilizer darts to capture sheep, take tissue samples for lab testing, and attach tracking collars to the animals.

Ratliff said ODFW has collared nine sheep during the operation, with about a dozen collars remaining.

Collaring bighorns will allow ODFW to employ the "test/cull" strategy if the illness is so prevalent, and lethal, that it threatens the future of the entire Lookout Mountain herd.

Biologists can track the collared sheep and test them occasionally for the bacteria. That's important, Ratliff said, because some sheep are likely to be "intermittent shedders," meaning they carry the bacteria but shed it only some of the time.

Those that are actively shedding bacteria could potentially be euthanized to prevent them from infecting others.

The Lookout Mountain herd was established in the early 1990s when a few dozen bighorns were captured elsewhere and released along Fox Creek. The animals have thrived in the steep canyons on the breaks of the Snake River.

OBITUARY

Kenneth Johnson

Formerly of Baker City, 1928-2020

Kenneth G. Johnson, 92, of Dallas, Oregon, and a former Baker City resident, died Nov. 20, 2020, at the Salem Hospital.

Private family interment with military honors will take place at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Ken was born on Feb. 22, 1928, at Baker, the son of Sydney and Clarissa Gates Johnson. He grew up at the family farm near Pleasant Valley and later moved to the family ranch at Muddy Creek outside of Haines. Ken gradu-



Kenneth Johnson

ated from Baker High School in 1946 where he excelled at football and basketball. He attended both the University of Oregon and Eastern Oregon University, where he played basketball. He earned a bachelor's degree at Eastern Oregon and a master's degree at the University of Oregon. He served in the Oregon National Guard for 30 years. He retired at the rank of captain in 1988.

He served in various administrative posts in the Baker and Dallas school districts, where he was principal of Dallas High School from 1971 to 1986. He also served as juvenile counselor of Baker County.

Ken married Marilyn Dorthey Muller in 1952. She

died in 1973. He later married Carol "Jean" Berry on June 29, 1974, at Dallas.

Ken attended St. Thomas Episcopal Church at Dallas. He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hunter with favorite hunting spots in the Elkhorn Mountains of Eastern Oregon. A voracious reader of both fiction and nonfiction, Ken would, upon retirement, travel extensively to many corners of the world. He was an avid University of Oregon fan and enjoyed working with his flowers in later life. He was well known for his wit and puns, often being too hip for the room.

Kenneth is survived by his brother, Tim Johnson of

Clarkston, Washington; his sons, Kyle Johnson of Kalama, Washington, Kent Johnson and his wife, Phyllis, of Baker City; his daughter, Jeri and her husband, Ken Houle, of Hillsboro; his son, Greg and his wife, Christina Miller of Seattle; his grandchildren, Robbie and Kerrie Houle, and Natalie and Jacqueline Miller; and his friend, Nancy Rosenbalm.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Sidney Johnson.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Dallas Booster Club for the Dallas High School Athletic Department in care of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. To leave an online condolence for the family go to www.dallastrIBUTE.com

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Belva 'Mickey' Mae Reynolds: 98, of Baker City, died on Nov. 29, 2020, at her home. She will be interred at Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville at a later date. To leave an online condolence for Mickey's family, go to www.graysvestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
POSSESSION OF METH-AMPHETAMINE (Multnomah County warrant): Christopher John Carroll, 34, of Baker City, 4:07 a.m. Saturday, in the 1900 block of Main Street; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Two Baker County warrants): Alexander Allen Adams, 24, of 2375 Campbell St., 2:01 p.m. Friday, in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

Crime reports

FIRST-DEGREE THEFT: At a Baker City motel in the 600 block of Campbell Street Sunday. Police Chief Ray Duman said Ashleigh Nelson, 20, and Daniel Schick, 20, both of Everett, Washington, reported that a large suitcase filled with clothing was taken from the top of their 2007 Mazda 6 sedan about 6:40 p.m.; the loss is valued at \$3,140.

SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY: At St. Francis Catholic Church, between Nov. 26 and Nov. 27. Police Chief Ray Duman said a burglar entered the church through a basement door and took a projector, rosary beads and other items. Duman said entry was gained through a door on the west side of the church. A second basement door was damaged in an unsuccessful attempt to enter the church. Duman said church officials will

take inventory to determine what else might have been taken.

Oregon State Police Arrests, citations

POSSESSION OF A FALSELY APPLIED FOR HUNTING LICENSE/ELK TAG and UNLAWFUL TAKE/POSSESSION OF A COW ELK: William G. Frerichs, 43, of Herald, California, 1:16 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, on Highway 86 near Halfway; cited and released.

HUNTING FROM A PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT OF WAY and UNLAWFUL TAKE/POSSESSION OF A COW ELK: William George Frerichs, 76, 1:16 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, on Highway 86 near

Halfway; cited and released.

FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM: Brandon Charles Harris, 41, of Halfway, 3:20 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at his home; cited and released.

Baker City Fire Alarms Sunday, Nov. 29

6:04 p.m. — Firefighters responded to 295 Elm St. on a report of a fire in a front-end loader belonging to Bill Harvey Jr. Fire Chief Sean Lee said the front-end loader had been plugged in to warm the engine and the fire was caused by an electrical problem in the wiring. Firefighters spent about an hour extinguishing the blaze, Lee said.

APPLIANCES
AND MORE

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MAYTAG

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