

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
December 11, 1970

All rail traffic ceased through Baker and approximately 30 workers were idled as of 9:01 p.m. yesterday, as a result of the national railroad strike.

The Baker Union-Pacific passenger and freight depots were closed, and pickets were set up by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks this morning in front of the depot.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 11, 1995

The Baker City Council on Tuesday will hear the city golf board's recommendation for a contractor to design nine new holes at the Baker City Golf Club.

The golf board received 11 proposals for the work (costs ranged from \$35,000 to \$114,500) and interviewed five designers. Board members recommend the city hire William Robinson of Florence, Ore., who has designed several courses and owns one in Florence.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 10, 2010

Baker County commissioners, meeting at the Baker School District office Wednesday, tentatively approved an agreement for use of the North Baker School building as the temporary home of the Courthouse.

The 101-year-old Courthouse was severely damaged by water when two water pipe valves froze and broke during Thanksgiving weekend.

Under the agreement, the county will pay the school district \$2,600 for the first month, \$2,500 for the second month and \$2,300 per month for the remainder of the contract, which will end no later than June 30.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
December 11, 2019

Baker Valley farmer Mark Ward is excited about the potential benefits for the local and state agriculture industry from America's proposed new trade deal with Mexico and Canada.

"Foreign trade is crucial to us," said Ward, whose family grows potatoes, wheat, peppermint, alfalfa and silage corn. "Without foreign markets we probably wouldn't be growing potatoes."

Ward is a member of the Oregon Potato Commission.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Tuesday that Democrats had reached a tentative deal on a revision of the U.S. trade agreement with its two neighbors.

The pact would replace the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In a statement Tuesday, Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, urged the House and Senate to try to pass the new trade deal, called the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), by Christmas.

The deal has been a top priority for President Donald Trump.

"USMCA is a big win for American workers and the economy, especially for our farmers and ranchers," Perdue said in a press release.

Ward said in an interview Tuesday morning that he believes the trade deal could benefit growers of several crops by increasing exports to both Canada and Mexico.

Canada is already the biggest export market for U.S. agriculture products, and Mexico ranks second, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 7
5 - 10 - 17 - 39 - 47 - 48
Next jackpot: \$5.5 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 5
3 - 4 - 6 - 48 - 53 PB 10
Next jackpot: \$262 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 8
15 - 19 - 33 - 39 - 68 Mega 25
Next jackpot: \$276 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 7
16 - 39 - 55 - 71

PICK 4, Dec. 8
• 1 p.m.: 1 - 7 - 8 - 9
• 4 p.m.: 1 - 7 - 5 - 1
• 7 p.m.: 1 - 4 - 6 - 3
• 10 p.m.: 8 - 8 - 4 - 2

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 8
2-7-12-14-18-24-28-30
Next jackpot: \$48,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Beef pot roast, red potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, cheesecake
- **MONDAY (Dec. 14):** Chicken-fried steak, mashed potato, peas and carrots, fruit cup, roll, pasta salad, brownies
- **TUESDAY (Dec. 15):** Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, corn, green salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY (Dec. 16):** Shepherd's pie, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, coleslaw, bread pudding
- **THURSDAY (Dec. 17):** Baked ham, green bean casserole, candied yams, roll, broccoli-bean salad, dessert

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.

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School board to discuss bid exemption for BMS project

By Chris Collins
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The Baker School Board will meet in a special noon session Tuesday, Dec. 15.

The Board, as it has done routinely during the coronavirus pandemic, will meet online using the Zoom computer app. For more information about how to join the meeting, call the District Office at 541-524-2260.

The noon meeting will include a public hearing during which directors will accept oral and written comments on the District's "finding of fact" in support of an exemption from the competitive bidding process as allowed by Oregon law for the seismic rehabilitation of the Helen M. Stack Building at 2320 Washington Ave.

Cassie Hibbert, project manager with the Wenaha firm who has worked with the District on other facility planning projects in recent years, will present findings to demonstrate why the District wants to use the alternate construction management/general contractor (CM/GC) system in hiring WRK Engineers for the job.

The Baker School Board, at its Nov. 19 meeting, accepted a recommendation from a District committee to hire WRK of Vancouver, Washington, to perform the architectural and engineering services for the project.

The District was awarded



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File

Helen M. Stack Building.

a \$2.3 million seismic improvement grant in July through the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority of the Business Development Department. The grant will pay for seismic upgrades on the gymnasium of the Helen M. Stack Building, which dates back to 1936. The work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2021.

Tuesday's public hearing is a requirement of Oregon law

before WRK Engineers can begin work, Hibbert said. The company was one of five that responded to the District's request for proposals to complete the project.

In a legal notice published in the Herald on Dec. 1 announcing the District's request for an exemption from the competitive bidding process, Hibbert wrote:

"The CM/GC contracting method utilizes an integrated

team approach applying modern management techniques to the planning, design, preconstruction and construction phases of a project, in order to control time and cost and to assure quality for the project owner. Selection of the successful CM/GC contractor is by Qualitative-Based Selection, that is, evaluation/scoring of written proposals, interviews and the specified profit margins of all Proposers."

The legal notice also states that draft findings are available from the Wenaha Group Inc., 125 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801, Attn: Cassie Hibbert, Project Manager or by emailing her at chibbert@wenahagroup.com. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the hearing. Advance written comments must be received by 4 p.m. Monday by emailing Hibbert at the above address.

Public comment is tentatively set to begin at 12:25 p.m. Tuesday, according to the agenda.

The Board then is expected to act on Hibbert's fact-finding report.

In other business, Superintendent Mark Witty will provide information on the District's instructional model based on current metrics regarding the number of people who have tested positive with the coronavirus in Baker County in recent weeks and state requirements.

OBITUARIES

Antoine Mulder

Formerly of Baker City, 1949-2010

Antoine J. Mulder, 70, a former Baker City resident, died Nov. 15, 2020, at Boise.

He lived in Baker City from 2001 to 2018.

He was cremated and no service is planned.

Antoine was born on Nov. 30, 1949, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. As the oldest son, it was tradition that he would become a monk.

So, from age 13 weeks until he was 12 years old, he was raised in the Shaoin Buddhist Temple. But that was cut short when civil war came and his family moved to Holland. He then went to chef school in Bordeaux, France, for five years and became the youngest chef ever to have graduated.

He also studied martial arts and competed widely. Because of his expertise in that field, he was invited to join the U.S. Marine Corps, which he did in 1967. He served in Vietnam until 1971.

In 1973 he helped rescue U.S. medical students held hostage in Panama.

As well as being a Marine trainer, he also became a martial arts instructor. When one of his young students died from an injury, he was held responsible for the death and served 12½ years at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. Post-prison, he was sent to a work-release program in Seattle where he established himself as a chef.

He worked as a chef at many famous places, including St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, where he served dignitaries such as Ronald and Nancy Reagan, and Richard Nixon.

On Sept. 11, 2001, he

opened a restaurant in Baker City called Chef's Signature.

It closed in May 2002 due to him suffering a heart attack and seizure and becoming disabled.

On Nov. 27, 2003, in the midst of struggling through a divorce, he surrendered his life to Jesus Christ under the prayerful watch of his neighbor, Libby Carnahan. Antoine was baptized on Feb. 29, 2004, by his first Christian mentor and pastor, Roger Scovil at the Baker City Christian Church, where he subsequently attended.

He was a voracious reader, and soon read the Bible cover-to-cover. He earned his lay pastor diploma from Prison Fellowship (founded by Chuck Colson) on July 22, 2005.

Antoine suffered the effects of Agent Orange as well as PTSD. He was only able to get around in a wheelchair the last decade or so of his life. He had many who helped him because of his disabilities.

He had just finished serving a 28-month prison sentence at Snake River Correctional Institute in October 2020 for a probation violation when he passed away.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1975, and by an infant daughter and her mother in Vietnam during the war.

John Schaer

Formerly of Baker City, 1930-2010

John William Schaer, 90, of Corvallis, and a former Baker City resident, died Dec. 1, 2020.

A celebration of John's life will be scheduled later.

John was born on Oct. 3, 1930, at Pocahontas, Oregon, in Baker Valley west



John Schaer

of Baker City, to William Andrew Schaer and Anna May (Powell) Schaer. John was the youngest of their three children. The family were descendants of Swiss immigrants who farmed and logged in Oregon on his father's side, and ranchers in Durkee on his mother's. John grew up on the family farm working after school and during the summer alongside his father and brother. He remembered how happy he was when, as a young teenager, World War II ended and the family was able to stop farming with horses and bought their first tractor.

John graduated from Baker High School in 1948 and was hired by Witham Brothers Construction Company in Baker City. He worked for the Withams for seven years. John met his future wife, Glenda Marie Ward, while in high school. After Glenda graduated from college from both Oregon State University and Western State University, they married in 1955 and John decided he would enter college to complete a degree at what is now Western Oregon University. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education and then a master's degree in 1963. John was hired by the Corvallis School District and worked as an elementary teacher and then elementary school principal for the district for over 30 years.

John and Glenda had three children, Mary, John and Karen, and enjoyed raising their family in Corvallis and participating in many community activities. John fished on the Alsea River and returned with Glenda and their children often on Thanksgiving and every summer vacation to visit

family and friends in Baker City. In Eastern Oregon, he especially loved boating, waterskiing, fishing and hunting chukars in the Snake River Valley.

John and his wife, Glenda, took pleasure in traveling together. They first started traveling around Baker as a young couple on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. After they married, they visited many sites in the United States, Europe and North Africa. In the U.S.A. they visited Yosemite, California, Nevada, and Washington, D.C., and drove across America, retracing the steps of their ancestors on the Oregon Trail. They toured many countries outside of the United States including England, France, Switzerland, Canada and Morocco.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Glenda; and his siblings, Arlene Spriet and brother-in-law Deal Spriet, brother, Duane Schaer, and sister-in-law, Sherry Schaer.

John is survived by his children and their spouses: daughter Mary (Schaer) Thompson and son-in-law Martin Thompson, son John Schaer and daughter-in-law Christi Schaer, daughter Karen Schaer-Arib and son-in-law Ed Arib; grandson Jason Hirko and his wife, Megan Hirko, granddaughter Kelsi Schaer, grandson Will Schaer and his wife, Lauren Schaer, and grandson William Arib; great-grandchildren, Jack Hirko, Henry Hirko, Claire Hirko, and Luke Hirko; his sister-in-law, Beverly Schaer; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations can be made to the Oregon PTA Teacher Education Scholarship.

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