

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

■ **Baker School Board:** Special meeting, noon, online via Zoom app; for information on how to join: 541-524-2260

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 12, 1970

There is general agreement among Baker doctors and among people who have had to wait to see doctors, that Baker County is short of physicians.

Doctors report that ideally there should be one physician for every 750 people in a community. Oregon's ratio is presently around one per 1,000. But Baker County, which under Oregon standards should have 15 physicians for its 15,000 people, has only eight.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 12, 1995

NORTH POWDER — A Powder Valley High School senior has been awarded \$5,000 from the Horatio Alger Association.

Heidi Kerns was selected for the honor after the school was chosen by the association to host a career day.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 13, 2010

JOHN DAY — Baker senior Jesse Brown feels right at home dishing the ball to a teammate, whether on the football field or the basketball court.

After leading the Bulldogs to a Class 4A football crown earlier this month, Brown took over the control of the Baker boys basketball team last weekend at John Day.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 13, 2019

Access to Baker County's history is richer than ever thanks to an updated program on the Baker County Library's website.

The library has preserved historic photographs for a number of years. The newest update is Past Perfect 5 and features an easy-to-navigate menu and search option.

"It's more user-friendly," Perry Stokes, library director, said of the program.

Access the collection here: <https://bakerlib.pastperfectonline.com/>

From the library's main website, bakerlib.org, click on "Historic Photos and Archives" to find the collection.

Gary Dielman is chair of the library board and has been instrumental in scanning, researching, and uploading the photos.

In some cases, that's quite a process. Take, for instance, the collection acquired last spring of photographs taken by Robert N. Gambbs, who owned a studio in Baker City in the 1930s and '40s.

The boxes, which very nearly headed to the trash, were donated to the library by Gambbs' family. The seven boxes were full of photographs, negatives, and keepsakes.

The negatives — about 1,000 — measure 8 inches by 10 inches. Dielman's scanner can scan only a portion of those negatives at a time.

"I have to scan it three to four times," Dielman said.

Then he uses Photoshop to stitch the image together.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 9
4 — 33 — 36 — 37 — 38 — 45
Next jackpot: \$5.6 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 9
11 — 14 — 31 — 47 — 48 PB 4
Next jackpot: \$277 million

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

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 9
25 — 48 — 60 — 75
PICK 4, Dec. 10
• 1 p.m.: 1 — 0 — 3 — 7
• 4 p.m.: 4 — 2 — 7 — 9
• 7 p.m.: 7 — 4 — 0 — 9
• 10 p.m.: 0 — 0 — 2 — 8
LUCKY LINES, Dec. 10
1-8-10-15-20-22-25-32
Next jackpot: \$50,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Chicken-fried steak, mashed potato, peas and carrots, fruit cup, roll, pasta salad, brownies
- **TUESDAY:** Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, corn, green salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY:** Shepherd's pie, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, coleslaw, bread pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Baked ham, green bean casserole, candied yams, roll, broccoli-bean salad, dessert
- **FRIDAY:** Pork roast, red potatoes, baby carrots, roll, potato salad, tapioca

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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Lumber truck crash closed freeway

The eastbound lanes of Interstate 84 were closed for about five hours in parts of Baker and Union counties Wednesday night after a commercial truck hauling lumber crashed on a curve in the Burnt River Canyon southeast of Baker City, spill-

ing two-by-fours across the freeway.

The eastbound lanes were initially closed at Baker City, and the closure was later extended to La Grande after truck parking areas filled in Baker City, said Tom Strandberg, a spokesman for

the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The eastbound lanes reopened around midnight.

The crash was reported at 6:55 p.m., according to an OSP report. It happened on a curve near Milepost 332, about 28 miles southeast of

Baker City. OSP Sr. Trooper Nicholas Hagedorn wrote in a report that when he arrived, lumber was strewn across both eastbound and west-bound lanes, and the truck and trailer were overturned.

See **Crash**/Page 3A

OBITUARIES

Fern Homan

Formerly of Baker City, 1926-2020

Fern Homan, 94, died on Dec. 6, 2020, at her home in Union with family by her side.

She requested cremation by Loveland Funeral Chapel, and a private family memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Fern was born on Oct. 17, 1926, at Twin Falls, Idaho, to Archie Searles and Augusta (Massengale) Searles.

She was raised and educated in La Grande and Baker City. At her dad's berry farm, Fern met and later married John "Jack" Hunter Jr. They had five children, and divorced after 15 years.

She then met and spent 24 years married to Richard Homan and they had two children.

Fern worked in her dad's restaurants as a teenager. When she married Jack, they started the Gypo Logging Co. and had a contract with Union Pacific Railroad making car stakes for flatbed cars. After Jack was injured, they acquired a contract with the Forest Service gathering pine cones for tree seeds.

Throughout her life she found enjoyment in camping, fishing, boating, traveling, and spending time with family. She had an amazing talent for drawing and writing poetry. She won many local contests with her photography. She was not afraid to tackle home remodel projects. You never knew what was going to be different when you came home at the end of the day. Every year she would enter her kids on the Fourth of July parade and spent days decorating the float. We always won, her children said. Looking back, there was not much she could not do if she set her mind to it. But her true passion was her family and raising seven kids.

She had a mischievous little grin when she was about to do or say something she knew she shouldn't, but here it comes.

She is survived by her children, Larry "Buck" Hunter (Mary) of Kuna, Idaho, Linda Weldon of Arlington, Washington, Allan "Buster" Hunter (Mary) of La Grande, John Hunter (Janice) of Union, and Julie Homan (Rick) of Baker City; her sister, Darlene Martin of Port Orchard, Washington; a sister-in-law, Vernitta Searles of Pendleton; her forever-daughter-in-law, Sheral Morrison; 16 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Fern was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, John "Jack" Hunter Jr. and Richard Homan; a brother, four sisters and three brothers-in-law;

her son, Jim Hunter; her son-in-law, Steve Weldon; her great-granddaughter, Samantha Weldon; and her daughter, Karen Homan.

Online condolences can be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

Arthur Warren

Union, 1960-2020

Arthur Perry "Art" Warren, 60, of Union died tragically on Nov. 27, 2020.

There will be a memorial service with military honors for Art on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Pastor Lennie Spooner of the Baker City Church of the Nazarene will officiate.

Art was born at Leavenworth, Kansas, on Feb. 20, 1960, to Sherryl Burke (Union) and Arthur Warren (deceased). He is survived by 7 of 8 siblings.

He married his wife, Nancy Warren, on July 14, 1991, at Kennewick, Washington.

He was a hard worker who put his family and friends first. After starting his career in the Navy, Art spent the majority of his employment as a long-haul truck driver. That included seven years in Iraq as a civilian contractor and many years in the oil fields. He was passionate about serving his country and supporting the men and women who do so.

Art strived to make a positive impact on everyone he came into contact with. He was a man who prided himself on his work ethic and his patriotism. He enjoyed helping others, collecting rocks and coins, talking to his family daily, and making others laugh.

Survivors include his longtime loving wife, Nancy Warren; children, Brandie Galster, Remington Warren, Ritter Warren and Chandra Greenhalgh; and grandchildren, SadieRae, JC, Draven, Leicee, Tobi, Greyson, and Brogan.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Navy Wounded Warrior through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for Art's family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Belva Reynolds

Baker City, 1922-2020

Belva Mae "Mickey" Reynolds, 98, died Nov. 29, 2020, at Baker City.

A graveside memorial will be scheduled later.

Mickey was born on Nov. 28, 1922, to Chester Charles and Jessie Mae (Cowles) Warren in the Black Hills of South Dakota. She graduated from Laurelwood Academy in 1942.

Mickey married Percy McDaniel Reynolds in 1948, and they had two children, Dennis and Julia.

In her 39 years of working as a bookkeeper, she worked at Tumalum Lumber Co. and for the Hudspeth Sawmill Co., retiring in 1983. Mickey enjoyed horse-back riding, 4-H club work, ranch work, raising bottle calves, hunting, crocheting and baking pies.

Mickey was a member of the Grant County 4-H Leaders Association. She enjoyed volunteering at the County Fair and was a Baptist Church member.

In 1947 Mickey was the Crooked River Round-Up Queen. In 1995, she received the 4-H Distinguished Service Award, and in 2001 she was very proud to be the Grant County Fair Grand Marshal.

Mickey is survived by her daughter, Julia Reynolds of Fort Collins, Colorado; daughter-in-law, Julie Reynolds of Canyon City; grandsons, Percy D. Reynolds of Bend, Beau Reynolds of Pendleton and Jake Reynolds of Canyon City; and her great-grandchildren, Jack and June Reynolds.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Jessie Warren; her siblings, Adeline, Dorothy, Hazel and Buck; her husband, Percy M. Reynolds; and her son, Dennis Reynolds.

Memorial contributions in memory of Mickey may be made to the Dennis Reynolds Memorial Scholarship through Grays West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for Mickey's family, go to www.grayswestco.com

James King

North Powder, 1941-2020

James King, 79, of North Powder, died Dec. 8, 2020, at his home.

James was born on Feb. 8, 1941, at Centralia, Washington, to Willard and Barbara King. He lived in North Powder for 20 years. During his life James did millwork and was also the caretaker of the North Powder Cemetery for a time.

James was a simple man who kept to himself. He loved hunting, especially when he was able to do it with his son, Andy.

James was preceded in death by his wife, Judith, and his son, Andy King.

Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com



Fern Homan



Arthur Warren



Belva Reynolds

Ranger pickup truck driven by Thomas Leblanc, 72, of Baker City. Hagedorn's report stated that the crash happened as the semi truck was traveling east in the slow lane when the driver dropped his cigarette on the floorboard. After picking up the cigarette, Woodward stated he looked forward and saw the

pickup truck directly in front of him. Leblanc unsuccessfully attempted to avoid the crash by steering toward the right shoulder, Hagedorn wrote. The pickup truck entered the sloped gravel shoulder where it rolled, coming to rest on its wheels along a wire fence. Leblanc was taken to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center

in Baker City with apparently minor injuries, Hagedorn said. The semitractor-trailer sustained minor damage and was operable after it came to a controlled stop along the right shoulder. OSP was assisted at the scene by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) workers and the Baker County Sheriff's Office.



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