

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
January 4, 1971

Nearly 2,600 head of cattle were offered for sale at today's feeder cattle sale, exceeding the previous 2,000 head estimate.

"This will be the best sale of the season," said Leo Case, auction treasurer. "The 2,600 consignments were even more than we expected."

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
December 29, 1995

Calvin and Hobbes, the highly rated cartoon on the Baker City Herald's comic page, will be bidding adieu today, but readers will be seeing a new panel in its place on Monday.

Cartoonist Bill Watterson has discontinued his popular panel. In that space will be Mike Peters' Mother Goose and Grimm.

The panel features the funny antics of Ms. Goose and the weird bull terrier, Grimm.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
December 31, 2010

Baker County officials have stopped employees from entering the basement of the water-damaged Courthouse since Dec. 23, the day the county received test results from an air sample taken in the basement that showed the air quality there was not acceptable.

"The air quality was not where we needed it to be," Mark Bennett, the county's director of emergency management, said on Thursday. "The moment we got the results we closed (the basement) down."

The basement air sample was collected Dec. 20, Bennett said.

He said no employees had been working full-time in the basement, about half of which sustained water damage when two water pipe valves above the second floor of the Courthouse froze and broke during Thanksgiving weekend.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
December 30, 2019

The brown patches on the mountains tell the tale more blatantly, if not quite so precisely, as a table of numbers.

The one just to the right, for instance.

But however you measure it, the snowpack in Northeastern Oregon — the biggest source of water for irrigation and recreation in the region — is well below average as the year approaches its end.

The snow season, however, is just beginning.

The Northeastern Oregon snowpack typically peaks in March, and it's not uncommon for a series of midwinter storms to boost a sparse pack to near or even above average.

Indeed, the National Weather Service is forecasting significant snowfall for the higher elevations of the region later this week.

More than a foot of snow could fall in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wes Morgan, manager of the Burnt River Irrigation District in southern Baker County, said that although he'd prefer a more robust snowpack, it's too early to be especially worried about summer water supplies.

"There's lots of winter left," Morgan said. "It's way too early to predict."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 28

5 — 27 — 30 — 31 — 34 — 38
Next jackpot: \$6.4 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 26

10 — 24 — 27 — 35 — 53 PB 18
Next jackpot: \$363 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 29

1 — 31 — 35 — 48 — 62 Mega 19
Next jackpot: \$401 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 28

21 — 24 — 51 — 53

PICK 4, Dec. 29

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

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 29

2-5-12-13-20-21-26-32

Next jackpot: \$69,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** New Year's Day; office and transit are closed.
- **MONDAY (Jan. 4):** Boneless chicken breast, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed blend vegetables, roll, coleslaw, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Jan. 5):** Breaded pork loin, red potatoes, peas and carrots, roll, fruit ambrosia, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY (Jan. 6):** Spaghetti with beef sauce, capri vegetables, garlic bread, green salad, cake
- **THURSDAY (Jan. 7):** Roasted turkey with cranberries, stuffing, green beans, roll, beet-and-onion salad, cheesecake

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

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Health officials: ease COVID limits

By Jayson Jacoby
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Public health officials from six rural counties, including Baker, have sent a letter to the Oregon Health Authority asking state officials to ease COVID-19 restrictions in the counties and give local health officials authority to decide whether more stringent limits are needed to combat the virus.

The Dec. 28 letter is from public health administrators in Baker, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur counties.

Nancy Staten is the director of the Baker County Health Department.

The county officials contend that the current restrictions for counties in the extreme risk category, including Baker, Klamath and Malheur, have "significantly different implications in rural counties than in more densely populated ones."

(The three other counties represented in the letter — Grant, Harney and Lake — will be in the lower risk category, the lowest of four, starting Jan. 1.)

Baker County has been in the extreme risk category since Dec. 3, when the current four-category system — lower, moderate, high and extreme — took effect, but will drop to the high risk category starting Friday, Jan. 1.

Counties are placed in a category based on their number of new cases, and for some counties their test positivity rate, over a two-week period.

Restrictions for counties in the extreme risk category include a ban on indoor dining in restaurants and bars, and the closure of fitness centers and gyms, theaters and museums.

Churches are limited, for indoor services, to 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever involves fewer people.

The rural county health officials

are proposing the state eliminate the extreme risk category, making the high risk the category with the most stringent limits.

Under the current system, in counties at high risk, restaurants can allow indoor dining not to exceed 25% of capacity or 50 total people, whichever is fewer, with the same limitations for fitness centers, gyms, theaters and museums.

"Each of our counties has heard personal accounts of businesses who have lost nearly everything and they are pleading with our health departments to allow them to open carefully under significantly reduced capacity," the county health officials' letter reads.

In addition to eliminating the extreme risk category, the officials are proposing to allow county health administrators to set capacity for restaurants and other businesses.

RISK

Continued from Page 1A

For counties with a population between 15,000 and 30,000 — Baker County has about 16,800 residents — two statistics determine the risk level.

If the county, during the two-week measuring period, either

has 60 or more new COVID-19 cases, or it has a test positivity rate of 10% or higher, then it falls into the extreme risk category.

During the most recent measuring period, Dec. 13-26, Baker County had a positivity rate of 7.9%, which qualifies for the high risk level. But the total

of 68 new cases would have put the county in the extreme risk category.

But Bennett said that total of 68 included nine inmates at Powder River who tested positive. The minimum-security prison has had 29 inmates and four employees test positive since Dec. 13.

Deducting those prison cases leaves the county's two-week total at 59, just below the 60-case threshold for the extreme risk category.

"It's not where we want to be, but it's moving us in a positive direction," Bennett said. "This is so important to our businesses."

MOVING

Continued from Page 1A

County commissioners decided in early August to buy the building, which was constructed in 1970, for \$500,000 from New Directions Northwest.

County Commissioner

Bruce Nichols said one of the benefits of the move is the county was able to use federal money from the CARES Act for the \$150,000 down payment and for much of the remodeling, which will cost an estimated \$80,000 to \$100,000.

The county will pay the remainder of the cost over

10 years at 3% interest. The building has a real market value of \$515,000, according to the Assessor's Office.

"It's going well," Staten said of the move. "We are very grateful for the work that has been done in a short period of time to make this venture possible."

Staten said some services are limited this week, but she encourages residents to call the Department at 541-523-8211 to schedule appointments or help with immediate needs.

"We plan to be running as usual on Monday, January 4, 2021," Staten said.

OBITUARIES

Mary Plummer

Richland, 1927-2020

Mary Plummer, 93, of Richland, died Dec. 24, 2020.

"A beautiful gracious woman, loyal to her God, husband of 70 years, 93 years for family and friends, our pretty Mama joined Dad in heaven," her family said.

The family plans to share time with friends for the celebration of such a special life in 2021. They had a family gathering for the reunion of their mom and dad on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City with Pastor Carl of the New Bridge Church of the Nazarene officiating.

George and Dottie Morin were given this special little soul on May 6, 1927, at Gooding, Idaho. Mary spent most of her life in Baker County, where she met Don Plummer. They were married at Weiser, Idaho, with family and friends on June 19, 1942. They purchased and farmed 160 acres on Ruckles Creek in the 1950s but sold the farm to care for our grandmother. Mom was wonderful there too. D & M Merchandise was their next adventure during the early 1970s. They enjoyed the venture and were totally successful but missed country, so they made their home in Richland. They enjoyed the weather and made many new friends forever.

Her Nazarene church family celebrated her 93rd birthday of May 6, 2020, with a drive-by, with balloons, horns, lots of love and best wishes. Pastor Carl asked her if anyone had sung "Happy Birthday" to her. She told him no, so he did, and she loved it.

Projects of crochet, knitting, quilts and bazaars with Barbara Holcomb were some of her enjoyable challenges



Mary Plummer

of pride. Some of her quilts are listed in the Quilt Museum.

Mary Edith was the loving mother of four children: Milt Plummer and "Teresa" purchased a lovely home in Richland so they could be closer to Mom. Teresa is a dream come true for Mom. She knew Milt and Teresa are soulmates. Martina "daughter" and Tom Edwards are from Alaska. Martina has brought pride, love, best friends and fun memories for Mom forever. Jim and Recia Plummer were here for eight years helping with Dad and Mom during rough times, a true hero. Recia, daughter-in-law of 54 years, was truly like a mom-and-daughter relationship. Donnalee Moorcroft, we (Morry and I) moved to Richland from Alaska to be here at the time of need. I feel blessed to have such an honest loving family and able to be here for them, Donnalee said. Grandson Orin and Sherill came from Alaska 27 years ago to have their wedding with Mom and Dad at the Nazarene Church in Richland.

Mom has six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Many family and friends are so very important but don't have the space for all of your names. You know who you are, such as the Wilcox Family, Bill, Gloria and Ollie. Thank you.

Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Mary may do so the New Bridge Church of the Nazarene through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Tanna Morris

Richland, 1947-2020

Tanna Morris, 73, of Richland, died on Dec. 24, 2020, at her home.

Her memorial service will take place

Saturday, Jan. 2 at 11 a.m. at the Richland Christian Church. Interment will follow at Eagle Valley Cemetery. Due to COVID-19 regulations, please wear a mask and remember social distancing.

Tanna Lee was born on Nov. 2, 1947, at La Grande. She was raised in Adams, Oregon. She attended Adams Elementary School, Pendleton Middle School and graduated from Baker High School.

On July 19, 1998, Allen and Tanna were married in Richland with Gordon Bond officiating. They blended their family of eight children. During her life she worked at Maxi-Mart (located where D & B Supply is) in Baker City, then when Tanna and Allen moved to Richland, she went to work at the Richland Feed & Seed until her retirement.

Tanna loved doing puzzles, every day of her life. She loved to camp on the Snake River. Every summer they lived on the river, where Tanna could fish. She also enjoyed knitting and she was a very talented painter. Tanna loved the summer and red roses. One thing that she always said was "If it is meant to be, it will be." She will be remembered most for her generosity and kindness.

Tanna is survived by her husband, Allen; her children and many grandchildren; and her sisters, Linda Gentry and Jean Hansen.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Gary Baldwin; and her stepson, Brian Morris.

Donations in her memory can be made to St. Jude's Boise Hospital through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com



Tanna Morris

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Quinten James Stephens:

25, of Haines, died Dec. 24, 2020, at Fruitland, Idaho. A private family service will take place Saturday, Jan. 2 at 1 p.m.; the public can watch the service through Zoom. Go to www.grayswestco.com to access the service. A public celebration of Quinten's life will take place Jan. 2 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 45043 Pocahontas Road. Memorial contributions can be made to the Quin Stephens Memorial Fund through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave a condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Ronald 'Bud' Warbis: 85, of Baker City, died in the early morning of Dec. 25, 2020, at his home. To leave an online condolence for Bud's family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Johnnie Marvin Horn: 79, of Brookings, and a former Baker

City resident, died on Dec. 25, 2020, at Brookings. A graveside memorial service will take place this spring at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City, with the date and time to be announced later. To leave an online condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Clista 'Chris' Noveta Ward: 94, of La Grande, died on Dec. 24, 2020, at her home. A graveside memorial service will take place this spring at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City; details will be announced later. To leave an online condolence for Clista's family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING (Baker County warrant): Todd Mitchell Post, 57, Baker City, 12:59 a.m. Tuesday at Chestnut Street and Washington Avenue; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER: Nicholas Lee Reed, 41, Sumpter, 3:13 p.m. Tuesday at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (Baker County warrant): Michael A. Davidson, 55, Sumpter, 5:45 p.m. Monday in the 100 block of Mill Street in Sumpter; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (Domestic): David Carson Weiss, 18, 145 E. Madison St., Huntington, 8:39 a.m. Monday at his home; cited and released.

FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, THIRD-DEGREE THEFT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Alexander Harold Wise, 19, transient, 12:17 p.m. Monday at the Baker County Jail, where he was incarcerated on other charges.



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