

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 8, 1971

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Unemployment increased in December to 6 percent of America's workforce, the highest level in nine years.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 8, 1996

The gate that for 21 days blocked the road leading to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is open, and regardless of what happens the rest of 1996 in Washington, D.C., it will remain open.

That guarantee doesn't apply, however, to most of the 243 federal employees from Baker County who returned to work this morning after a three-week vacation they didn't ask for.

Congress has exempted the U.S. Bureau of Land Management center, as well as national parks and other visitor attractions, from federal government shutdowns the remainder of the year, said Gloria Brown, manager of BLM's Baker Resource Area. If there is a third partial closure in 1996, BLM will have enough money to keep the interpretive center open.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 7, 2011

Sara Bates is reducing waste in the county one string of twine at a time.

In her first year of operating East Oregon Plastics, Bates has collected, packaged and shipped more than 200,000 pounds of plastic agriculture waste such as baling twine and plastic containers.

Her latest load in December had 33 bales of twine that weighed about 32,000 pounds.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 8, 2020

Commissioners from Baker County and eight other counties voted today to appoint Lynn Findley, a Republican from Vale, to replace Cliff Bentz as a state senator representing Senate District 30.

Commissioners chose Findley, who is a state representative for House District 60, over two other candidates picked Saturday by Republican Party precinct committee members from the counties in District 30 — Rod Runyon of Wasco County and Eric Wattenburg of Sisters.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the people of Senate District 30," Findley said in a press release issued Monday afternoon. "I have worked hard to represent the voices of Eastern Oregonians since I have been in the House of Representatives and there is much more work to be done. It has been an honor to serve the people of House District 60 and I am looking forward to this new challenge."

Although party committee members nominate candidates, the final choice is made by commissioners from the counties in District 30. That district, the largest geographically in the Oregon Senate, includes all of Baker, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Malheur and Wheeler counties, as well as parts of Deschutes, Lake, Wasco, Clackamas and Marion counties.

Each county is allocated one vote for every 1,000 registered voters or major fraction of 1,000 (more than 500).

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, Jan. 4**  
5 — 17 — 24 — 26 — 32 — 47  
Next jackpot: \$6.7 million

**POWERBALL, Jan. 2**  
3 — 4 — 11 — 41 — 67 PB 5  
Next jackpot: \$410 million

**MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 5**  
20 — 43 — 51 — 55 — 57 Mega 4  
Next jackpot: \$490 million

**WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 4**  
2 — 6 — 28 — 33  
**PICK 4, Jan. 5**  
• 1 p.m.: 6 — 5 — 1 — 4  
• 4 p.m.: 5 — 3 — 6 — 8  
• 7 p.m.: 2 — 5 — 4 — 1  
• 10 p.m.: 7 — 6 — 6 — 1  
**LUCKY LINES, Jan. 5**  
1-6-12-14-19-21-28-30  
Next jackpot: \$76,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Beef pot roast, baby red potatoes, green beans, rolls, fruit, chocolate ice cream
- **MONDAY (Jan. 11):** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, winter-blend vegetables, rolls, Jell-O with fruit, lemon squares
- **TUESDAY (Jan. 12):** Turkey noodle soup and turkey sandwich, pea-and-onion salad, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY (Jan. 13):** Pork roast, red potatoes, green beans, roll, fruit cup, ice cream
- **THURSDAY (Jan. 14):** Chicken-fried steak, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, fruit cup, pudding

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; no dining on site.

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## RISK LEVEL

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During that same period the county recorded 71 new cases. However, 18 of those were inmates at the Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City, and those cases aren't included in the county's total if the prison cases would move the county from the high to the extreme risk category.

With 53 "official" cases, the county would return to the extreme category if there are more than six new cases from Wednesday, Jan. 6, through Saturday, Jan. 9.

Baker County was in the extreme risk category from Dec. 3, when the four-level risk system took effect, until Jan. 1.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett, who has served as the county's incident commander during the pandemic, said he's concerned that fluctuations in case totals and test positivity will leave the county, and its business owners, stuck on a

"roller coaster for an extended period of time," a ride that will move the county between risk levels multiple times.

"In my discussions with the Oregon Health Authority I've argued that we really can't handle it this way," Bennett said. "It's chaotic."

Among other effects, Bennett said changing regulations would make it difficult for business owners, and in particular restaurateurs, to know how much food and other products to order in advance.

Bennett noted that public health administrators from six counties, including Nancy Staten from Baker County, in late December sent a letter to the Oregon Health Authority, asking officials to make the high risk category the most severe level, and to give county health officials the authority to determine COVID-19 restrictions in their counties.

Gov. Kate Brown announced on Dec. 29 that the county would remain in the extreme risk category

through Jan. 14, but the governor's office reversed that a day later, saying the county would drop to the high risk level (the two other levels are moderate and lower risk).

The county qualified for the high risk designation based on its 7.9% positivity rate from Dec. 13-26.

The county recorded 68 new COVID-19 cases during that period; however, state officials didn't initially recognize that nine of those who tested positive are inmates at Powder River.

Deducting those nine cases dropped the county's total to 59 — the maximum allowed for high risk counties.

The difference in restrictions between the high and extreme risk levels applies largely to restaurants, bars, fitness centers and gyms, theaters and museums.

### Restaurants and bars

- Extreme risk: Indoor dining prohibited; outdoor dining allowed with a maximum of 50 people, six people, from no more than two households,

per table. Required closure at 11 p.m.

- High risk: Indoor dining allowed, with a limit of 25% of capacity or 50 people, including customers and staff, whichever is fewer; required closure at 11 p.m.

### Indoor fitness centers, gyms, theaters and museums

- Extreme risk: Prohibited
- High risk: Maximum of 25% of capacity or 50 total people, whichever is fewer

### Faith institutions, funeral homes, mortuaries, cemeteries

- Extreme risk: Indoor maximum of 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer; 150 people outdoors
- High risk: Indoor maximum of 25% of capacity or 150 people, whichever is fewer; 200 people outdoors

### Long-term care facilities

- Extreme risk: Outside visits only
- High risk: Visits allowed, including indoors

## OBITUARY

### Harley Derrick

Formerly of Baker City and Halfway, 1934-2020

Harley Sidney Derrick, 86, of Fruitland, Idaho, and formerly of Baker City and Halfway, died on Dec. 29, 2020, at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise.

Due to COVID restrictions, the family will postpone a memorial service until a later date.

Harley was born on Aug. 27, 1934, at Ontario to Margaret (Wilburn) Derrick and Marve Derrick. He spent his early years with his parents on a ranch near South Crane, Idaho. Later he went to third grade in Caney Valley, Tennessee, then moved to Lime, Oregon, where he attended grade school in Lime and middle school in Huntington. In 1946, Harley started high school in Baker, where he graduated in 1952. He joined the Army in 1954. He was first stationed in San Francisco, and later he served in the Intelligence Division at the Headquarters of the United Nations Command in Tokyo.

After serving in the Army, Harley returned to Baker City in 1958. Upon his return, he married Sharon Cathey, and they made their home in Baker. Harley then made use of the GI Bill and earned his bachelor's degree at Eastern Oregon College in 1962, majoring in Secondary Education. During this time, Harley and Sharon welcomed twin daughters, Kathy and Karen, in 1959 and son, Michael, a year and three weeks later. Harley often worked two and three jobs to make ends meet while earning his degree; he truly believed in the power of education to enrich and change a person's status in life and did his best to help all of his children and grandchildren reach their individual education goals later in life.

After earning his degree, Harley accepted a position teaching civics, government, and history at Halfway High School (later Pine Eagle High School) in Halfway. Harley held this position his entire teaching career, from 1962 to 1992. He loved teaching and helping his students learn, and his students loved him. Harley was also a true lifelong

learner; he was an avid reader and always had two or three books at a time he was reading, generally on topics such as history, geography or current affairs.

Harley was not one to settle on just one livelihood; in 1967 he and Sharon purchased their dairy farm outside of Halfway. Harley rose at 4 o'clock every morning to milk cows, finished and went on to start his day teaching, milked again in the evening, and participated in many extracurricular activities at the high school after milking chores were done in the evening. He also attended all of his children's many sports activities as well, all in the span of a day. Interspersed in all of this was time spent farming and raising beef. During this time, Harley and Sharon also helped raise their twin nieces, Darla and Karla. Harley retired from teaching in 1992 and he and Sharon sold the dairy herd in 1995; they moved to Ontario to be closer to their next adventure — grandchildren.

Harley lovingly cared for Sharon during her nine-year battle with cancer. After her death, he became active with the Ontario Seniors, and enjoyed attending the various senior dances in the local communities. He developed many friendships, and worked with son Mike at Mike's business in Ontario right up until his death.

Harley was a wonderfully witty, wise man who loved his family and friends with his whole heart. He was a hard worker who loved deeply and always did his best to help those he cared for with all that he had. His family was so very precious to him, and he was proud of each child and grandchild and the unique things that made each one special. He will be deeply missed by all those who loved and enjoyed the very special person that he was.

Harley is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Lee and Susan Derrick of Payette, Idaho; his sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Gary Geils of Ontario, and sister-in-law, Verla Boles of Baker City; his daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Steve Iida of Ontario, and Karen Derrick and Kirby Wood of Urbandale, Iowa; his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Diahann Derrick

of Ontario; his special niece, Karla Cathey of Sacramento, California; and six grandchildren, Chelsey Iida, Chase Iida, Dashel Ross, Sophia Ross, Daniel Derrick and Katie Derrick.

Harley was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sharon; his parents; his brother, Tim; his sister, Shirley Dorrah; and his niece, Darla Cathey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org

In a tribute to Harley, his family wrote that he would like you all to know that his work here is done. He had a call from God that could not exactly be ignored. And, he had a date with Sharon, the love of his life, that he was dying to make.

This teacher's last assignment guarantees a perfect reunion with his wife, Sharon, mother, Margaret, father, Marve, sister, Shirley, brother, Tim, and a host of other family and friends. The syllabus includes no restrictions on travel, no social distancing, and no masks. Bonus of this assignment includes a brand-new body, dancing with Sharon, endless storytelling, and incredible farming.

His last lesson plans included instructions to his children, Kathy (Steven), Karen (Kirby), Mikey (Diahann), Karla, and grandchildren, Chelsey, Chase, Dashel, Daniel, Katie and Sophie, that a summer family celebration is to be held in his beloved Halfway. This party is to be full of laughter, memories, and love.

We want Harley to know that he was an amazing Daddy and Grandpa and we are so happy that he is home. We will always remember the lessons he taught us: that there is no substitute for honesty and integrity, that life's greatest treasures cannot be purchased, that true love is giving of oneself and serving others, and that trials and failures are some of life's greatest gifts.

His warmth, passion, and love of life will be remembered by his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

As the final bell has rung, please know that you were our beloved Daddy and Grandpa, mentor, counselor, and friend. You, Daddy, were one for the ages, and we are grateful for all your lessons and love.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Agnes Heck:** 84, of Baker City died on Jan. 5, 2021, at Memory Lane Homes with her family at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

### FUNERAL PENDING

**Kathleen Mitchell:** Recitation of the rosary will be Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales. Interment will take place afterward at the Haines Cemetery. Attendees are asked to wear masks, and social distancing will be observed at both services. Donations in Kathleen's memory can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital through CokesTribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Kathleen's memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police**  
Arrests, citations  
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Uma-

tilla County warrant related to charges of possession of methamphetamine and second-degree criminal trespass): Jessica Dianne Striker, 42, transient, 2:39 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT** (two Baker County Justice Court warrants): Craig Anthony Willey, 42, of 2440 15th St., 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Fifth and Campbell streets; cited and released.

**Crime reports**  
**SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY:** In the 900 block of Elm Street between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Jan. 4; Matthew Dinger, 37, of Baker City, reported that the door of his garage was kicked in and numerous items, including a television set, a camera, jewelry, silverware and boots, were removed from his garage. Damage to the garage door was estimated at \$500. Police Chief Ray Duman said Dinger is compiling an inventory of items taken in

the break-in and an estimated value of the loss.

**Baker County Sheriff's Office**  
Arrests, citations

**MENACING CONSTITUTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Travis James Sprague, 23, of Baker City, Monday, Jan. 4, at the Baker County Parole and Probation Office; jailed.

## Rachel Pregnancy Center

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