

No injuries in electrical fire that burned in South Baker

By Chris Collins
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No one was hurt in a south Baker City fire that investigators determined was started Wednesday night by an electrical malfunction.

Fire Chief Sean Lee said Baker City

and Baker Rural fire departments were called to 2250 Miller St., about 8:50 p.m. The fire started on property owned by Donna Kanyid of Baker City. Kanyid's daughter, Shannon, lives in a single-wide mobile home at the site.

Lee said the fire started in the wall

of a small shop on the property. The mobile home was not damaged.

Three separate properties sustained damage as the blaze spread through what Lee described as "junk stacked end to end." A van parked in the area was destroyed in the fire

and a fence was burned.

The responders had difficulty getting to the fire because of the debris, and visibility was low because power lines were down and there was no electricity at the scene for a time, Lee said.

Five Baker City firefighters and four from the rural department spent about three hours working to put the fire out, Lee said.

"It was a potential for a huge disaster," he said. "They guys did a great job of saving things."

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

■ **Baker County Economic Development Council:** 3 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. The Council will hear from the new Baker City manager, Jonathan Cannon.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m. work session at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Commissioners will be reviewing proposed changes to the county's zoning ordinance. A copy of the ordinance is available at www.bakercounty.org/planning. Due to space limitations, citizens are encouraged to join the meeting using the link at www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald January 9, 1971

HALFWAY — Each team had a shot at winning at some point in the game last night, but at the end Pine-Eagle came out on top and defeated the Huntington Locomotives 48-42 to run their season record to 6-2.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald January 9, 1996

Two Powder River inmates are suspected of stealing a Jeep two blocks from the prison after scaling the fence to escape early this morning. Although the vehicle was recovered, police continued their search for the escapees today. The two white males are Brian Keever, 20, serving 39 months for first-degree robbery; and David Dehart, 32, sentenced to 70 months for first-degree rape and 22 months for first-degree sexual abuse.

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

Tim Smith knew he was going to the college football national championship a month before his favorite team, the Oregon Ducks, clinched a berth in the game.

What he didn't know is whether security would let him into the stadium.

Until last week, Smith, a teacher at Baker High School, had everything he needed to attend Monday's game except one.

A ticket.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald January 10, 2020

Baker County will eliminate the job of parks coordinator and instead look to hire a contractor to manage Hewitt and Holcomb parks near Richland.

The decision county commissioners made Wednesday was prompted by declining revenue from the two parks and the lack of any sustainable alternate sources of income.

"It's not a choice I'm trying to make, it's one we have to make," Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said. "Because we can't tax the citizens of Baker County for a very expensive model when you can have something that would be almost equal cost to what we're bringing in."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 6
19 — 23 — 34 — 41 — 43 — 46
Next jackpot: \$6.8 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 6
1 — 20 — 22 — 60 — 66 PB 3
Next jackpot: \$470 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 5
20 — 43 — 51 — 55 — 57 Mega 4
Next jackpot: \$510 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 6
9 — 11 — 12 — 71
PICK 4, Jan. 7
• 1 p.m.: 1 — 7 — 1 — 1
• 4 p.m.: 1 — 3 — 6 — 2
• 7 p.m.: 2 — 4 — 6 — 7
• 10 p.m.: 2 — 9 — 3 — 0
LUCKY LINES, Jan. 7
3-8-12-15-18-22-28-30
Next jackpot: \$78,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, winter-blend vegetables, rolls, Jell-O with fruit, lemon squares
- **TUESDAY:** Turkey noodle soup and turkey sandwich, pea-and-onion salad, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY:** Pork roast, red potatoes, green beans, roll, fruit cup, ice cream
- **THURSDAY:** Chicken-fried steak, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, fruit cup, pudding
- **FRIDAY:** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, roll, potato salad, tapioca

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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CABIN

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The guard station, by contrast, normally is open for overnight stays only during the spring, summer and fall.

During the ski season, though, the structure usually serves as the Nordic center for Anthony Lakes, with cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals, trail passes to groomed routes, lesson registrations, coffee and a warm fireplace to sit beside.

But not during the pandemic.

The issue, Judy said, is size.

The guard station, though it can accommodate eight people for overnight stays, has the typical tidy dimensions of a log cabin. That, combined with its single entrance, makes the cabin unsuitable as a Nordic center while the ski area follows social distancing guidelines, she said.

But resort staff members had a brainstorming session

during which they decided to ask the U.S. Forest Service, which owns the guard station, whether it could be opened for overnight stays this winter.

The agency agreed, Judy said.

Preparing the guard station was simple since it was still set up for overnight stays and had not yet been changed to serve as the Nordic center, she said.

The guard station is a bit more plush than the ski area's yurts, having both running water and electricity, as well as a full kitchen.

A new gas fireplace was installed recently, in the log cabin, Judy said.

Although the guard station is reserved for weekends, as of Thursday there were more than 35 nights available. That includes two Fridays — Feb. 12 and March 26 — as well as multiple Sunday nights — Jan. 24 and 31, Feb. 21 and March 7 and 14.

Judy said she's not sur-

prised the guard station was reserved on so many nights despite the two-night minimum and the relatively high rate compared with most regional lodging.

She noted that the charge is comparable to the yurts, considering the size and additional amenities at the guard station.

One of the yurts, which sleeps up to five people, rents for \$200 per night, and the larger yurt, with a capacity up to eight, goes for \$250 per night.

Another change this winter is the resort offering catered dinners, as well as growlers of beer, for guests at the yurts and the guard station, Judy said.

Although the guard station won't be the Nordic center this winter, cross-country skiers and snowshoers still have a place to go.

Judy said a 24-foot travel trailer will serve as the Nordic center starting Saturday, Jan. 9.

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Mitchell

Baker City, 1930-2020

Kathleen Mitchell, 90, a longtime Baker City resident, died Dec. 27, 2020, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Ontario.

Recitation of the rosary will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, at the Cathedral. The Rev. Suresh Kumar Telagani will celebrate the Mass. Face masks and social distancing is requested. The service can be livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT0gtOg_f7HW0s8sIL-9gCUw or by going to saintfrancis.cathedral.com and clicking on Fr. Telagani Masses. Interment will follow the service at the Haines Cemetery.

Kathleen Joan was born to Chester and Juanita Holbrook on Feb. 10, 1930, at Colfax, Washington. She grew up on the family farm with three sisters and two brothers. She attended school at St. John's in Colfax and attended Marycliff in Spokane.

She married Everett Green in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and together they raised six daughters. Kathleen was a devoted homemaker and focused on raising her girls. She spent her time gardening, sewing and baking.

Kathleen and Everett moved several times for his work, including to Silver Lake, Oregon, before settling in Baker City in 1966 and making a home.

Kathleen was active in her church, St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, with the Altar Society and the St. Francis Choir as well as teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible studies. She was also a member of the Eagles Auxiliary.

After her girls were older, she became a certified Nurse's Aide and certified Medication Aide. She worked at St. Elizabeth's Nursing Home for over 15 years. She loved her work and her residents.

After retiring from St. Elizabeth's, she worked for Jim and Donita Culbertson in their adult foster home. She spent her spare time in the garden as well as pursuing her passion for playing the piano. She also discovered a talent for



Kathleen Mitchell

flowers and crafted beautiful bouquets for countless weddings. She was a devoted grandmother as well, eventually welcoming 17 grandchildren.

Kathleen retired after Everett's death in 1991. Kathleen married Carroll Mitchell II on April 29, 1995. She continued to devote her time to St. Francis de Sales parish activities. She also delighted in collecting rosaries and dolls, seeking out unusual and beautiful pieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Juanita; an infant brother, David Holbrook; her sisters, Sheila Holbrook and Cynthia Hughes; as well as her husband, Everett; and an infant granddaughter, Alethea.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Carroll; sister, Penny (Russ) Gay; brothers, Patrick Holbrook and Greg (Ann) Holbrook; daughters, Sharon (Wayne) Flynn, Rebecca (Hank) Pasco, Joyce (Tony) Wroe, Theda Huels, Annette (James) Grover and Sarah (Brad) Beavers. She is also survived by 17 grandchildren and their spouses, 32 great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and numerous, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or to St. Francis de Sales Cathedral through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814

To light a candle in memory of Kathleen, go to www.colestributecenter.com

John Skiles

Baker City, 1941-2021

John Carroll Skiles, 79, of Toledo, Oregon, died on Jan. 4, 2021.

A memorial service and scrapple party will occur at a later date.

John was born on May 25, 1941, at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, the eldest son of Elmer and Lillian (Detweiler) Skiles. John married Barbara Becker on March 16, 1962. He and Barbara Skiles (Becker) built an incredible life over their 59 years together. Their claim to fame was to have had a child in every decade, starting in the '50s and ending in the '80s.

They built a career in various agricultural entities including owner/operator of a dairy in Brownsmead, Oregon, a

cattle ranch in Durkee, and a water well drilling business in Redmond. Dad also enjoyed nearly a decade of agricultural consulting in underdeveloped countries throughout the world, his family said. One of his many highlights was the years he spent in Saudi Arabia as a crops specialist for one of the largest dairies in the world.

Dad and Mom eventually retired and built a working farm in Toledo, where they enjoyed their golden years farming and caring for numerous herds of sheep and cattle. Dad loved his home and could often be found driving his farming equipment in pursuit of the betterment of the farm. His final years included daily trips in his "covered wagon" ensuring all sheep and cattle were healthy and accounted for and checking on "Mr. Big," his bull elk he watched grow over many years. Mr. Big was so accustomed to his presence, they formed a sort of bond.

Dad's biggest joys were found in family and friend gatherings. He took on the role of "Grand PooPaw" hosting numerous scrapple gatherings and attending yearly Mastodon parties at Christmas. His smile, deep laugh, and firm handshake would capture the hearts of anyone who met him. He had a way of connecting to people and they loved him for it. He always had grandiose ideas that to a normal person would seem unattainable, but for him, were just problems needing solved. No matter where he went, he found friends, both old and new.

Over his 79 years of hunting and fishing adventures, a lifetime of memories were made with those who shared his passions. Dad was funny, clever, kind, warm-hearted and extremely outgoing. He has left a positive impression and profound impact on the lives of young and old. We are proud of the life that Dad and Mom built, his children said. He will be missed immensely.

John is loved and missed by his wife, Barbara; his children, John, Dolly (Victorine), Doug and Jackie (Wierup); his brothers, Brent, Dale, Jerry and Bill Skiles, and his sister Sharon (Rogers). He was blessed with 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Audrey; and "Mr. Big."

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Kathy Edmondson: 68, formerly of Halfway, died on Jan. 6, 2021, at her home in Ontario. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Baxter Moore: 82, of Baker City, died on Jan. 7, 2021 at his home with his family at his side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker

County warrant): Pearl Naomi Adair, 40, of Baker City, 11:43 p.m., Wednesday, in the 3600 block of 10th Street; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE DOMESTIC ASSAULT: Andrew Jay Culley, 32, of Baker City, 8:10 p.m. Thursday, in the 1200 block of Second Street; jailed.

Crime reports
SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY: At Saf-T-Storage, 3100 15th Street, between July 2019 and January 2021; Police Chief Ray

Duman said a camp trailer stored on the property belonging to Dianna Reeve, 76, of Baker City, was burglarized and ransacked. Duman said the burglar also broke into Reeve's storage shed near the trailer and removed four guns with a total value of about \$1,000 and miscellaneous other items valued at about \$500.

SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY: In the 2700 block of Main Street; Matthew Shirtcliff, 53, of Baker City, reported on Jan. 5 that his shop was entered and miscellaneous items were taken from a

camp trailer stored inside.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County warrant): Amanda Renee Crews, 42, transient, 10:57 a.m. Wednesday, in the 200 block of Third Street; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant) and **DANGEROUS DRUGS** (Oregon State Parole Board warrant): Michael Allen Payne, 37, of 2307 Main St., 10:57 a.m. Wednesday, in the 200 block of Third Street; jailed.

