Local

Turning Back the Pages

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
February 2, 1971

Pine-Eagle High School took first in Oxford Debate and second in Serious Interpretation at the Redmond speech tournament, January 23.

The win in debate was especially gratifying to Joan Robertson and Tara Shepherd because they beat Bend High School, one of the top debate teams in the state.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
February 2, 1996

David J. Wheeler is gone, but his legacy and his name will live permanently in Baker City.

President Clinton on Thursday signed into law a bill to name the city's federal building for Wheeler, a U.S. Forest Service engineer who was murdered last April in Idaho.

Wheeler's name will grace the building where he worked. The three-story structure, which also houses the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Postal Service, is at 1550 Dewey Ave.

"I'm very pleased," said Mayor Larry Griffith, who first proposed the idea at Wheeler's memorial service.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
February 2, 2011

About 130 Baker County students will not be allowed to attend classes on Feb. 16 unless their immunization records are brought up to date beforehand.

The school exclusion deadline, set by state law, falls annually on the third Wednesday of February.

The Baker County Health Department is mailing letters today to notify parents of children whose shot records are not up to date. Those children will not be allowed to attend public and private schools, preschools or certified child care centers.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
February 4, 2020

BOISE — Korri Anderson shakes his head and utters a rueful chuckle when he hears a sentence that includes both "snow" and "Halfway."

For Anderson, whose job is to forecast weather, Halfway, a town in eastern Baker County, is an enigma.

Halfway, and the Pine Valley in which it sits, are places where certain of the reliable properties that define weather prediction frequently do not apply.

The peculiar nature of this place, which measures only about 5 miles by 6 miles, presents itself most notably during winter, and specifically in the form of snow, said Anderson, a forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Boise. That office, although in Idaho, issues forecasts for Baker, Harney and Malheur counties in Oregon.

Halfway's snowfall totals in many years are better measured in feet than in inches.

This aspect of Halfway's climate seems particularly abnormal when compared with the neighboring Eagle Valley, just 6 miles or so to the southwest as the magpie flies.

Quite often during midwinter the Eagle Valley's only incorporated city, Richland, will be snow-free while in Halfway the drifts are burying ranch fences.

Historical records, which date to 1936 in Halfway and to the late 19th century in Richland, put the difference in stark contrast. Halfway's average yearly snowfall is 69 inches, Richland's 17 inches.

Oregon Lottery

MEGABUCKS, Jan. 30
1 — 13 — 16 — 37 — 38 — 42
Next jackpot: $1.3 million

POWERBALL, Jan. 30
1 — 2 — 7 — 52 — 61 PB 4
Next jackpot: $20 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Jan. 29
4 — 44 — 58 — 59 — 70 Mega 3
Next jackpot: $42 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Jan. 30
27 — 32 — 34 — 42

PICK 4, Jan. 31
- 1 p.m.: 5 — 4 — 0 — 9
- 4 p.m.: 3 — 7 — 3 — 9
- 7 p.m.: 6 — 1 — 1 — 3
- 10 p.m.: 4 — 5 — 5 — 2

LUCKY LINES, Jan. 31
3-5-11-15-18-21-25-32
Next jackpot: $14,000

Senior Menus

- **WEDNESDAY:** Sweet and sour chicken, rice, Asian vegetables, roll, Asian salad, brownies
- **THURSDAY:** Pork tips over fettuccine noodles, mixed vegetables, roll, green salad, bread pudding
- **FRIDAY:** Baked cod, cup of clam chowder, capri vegetables, roll, coleslaw, lemon squares
- **MONDAY (Feb. 8):** Chicken-fried chicken, country gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, ice cream
- **TUESDAY (Feb. 9):** Lasagna, zucchini, garlic breadsticks, pasta salad, cookies

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.

Contact the Herald

1668 Resort St.
Open Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673
Fax: 541-833-6414

Publisher
Karrine Brogoitti
kbrogoitti@lagrandeobserver.com
Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com
Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com
Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com
Circulation email
circ@bakercityherald.com

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Obituaries

Mason Toubeaux-Handy
Baker City

Mason Connor Toubeaux-Handy of Baker City left us unexpectedly Jan. 12, 2021, and his memory will forever be etched in our hearts and minds, his family said.

Mason Toubeaux-Handy with his daughter, Amelia

A private celebration of life will take place.

Mason leaves behind a young 3-year-old daughter, Amelia, and fiancee, Julianna De La Torre, whom Mason loved very much. Mason had always taken great care to ensure Amelia "made the rounds" to family and friends. Mason was a good and loving dad and cared deeply for the future that he was committed to with Julianna.

Mason always disguised himself with a tough exterior and was a strong young man; however, Mason was truly an introspective and compassionate soul, whose heart was open toward others and this showed most with the concern for people's salvation in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mason wanted everyone to know, "God loves you ... no really, God loves you." Mason attended Bible Study every Tuesday morning, 6:30 a.m. at the Little Bagel Shop where his banter, camaraderie and studious presence will be sorely missed. He was employed as a mechanic at John Deere and enjoyed fixing and repairing equipment.

Mason leaves behind brothers, Logan and Timmy, and sisters, Alexis and Jera. Mason had a special bond with each of his siblings in an individual and private way, the way only an older brother knew how to do. He loved his siblings very much and their struggles were his struggles. Mason's mother, Michelle Knadle, and he shared the love of snowmobiling and four-wheeling at their family cabin, as well as summer excursions to their family dock for boating, fishing and swimming. He especially loved to take his daughter Amelia to swim at Phillips Lake. Mason "drove his mom crazy" the way many a son does, but let no one mistake the love for his mother or the love for her son.

And I, Mason's father, Justin Handy, reluctantly relinquish my son to our Father in Heaven for Mason's one request, "Dad, I just want a hug from Jesus." From a father's perspective, Mason's life story is complex to tell in few words. If you felt so inclined to ask and have the time, I would gladly share his story. For Mason's story is my story. His story is our story. His story may even reflect your story, for it is relevant to the human condition. Mason fought a valiant fight in life and battled on his terms. His love and friendship I will forever miss. Mason was my battle buddy and in the words of King David, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

To the many family and friends of Mason Connor Toubeaux-Handy, we are eternally grateful for your love, kindness and friendship given and shared with our son, brother, grandson, father and an aspiring husband. Love is eternal.

We encourage all who knew Mason or his story to celebrate his memory as they would see fit. We do so appreciate the many condolences by phone and by mail.

Mason is survived by his beautiful daughter, Amelia Handy, and his fiancee, Julianna De La Torre; his father, Justin (Kristina) Handy; his mother, Michelle (Randy) Knadle; his siblings, Logan and Jera LeNay Handy, and Alexis and Timothy Knadle; his stepsister, Rachelle Knadle, and stepbrothers Wyatt Knadle, and Kyle and Jesse Hamann; his grandmother, Susan Payne, and Nana, Pamela Toubeaux.

Mason was preceded in death by his Grand Poppy, Richard Toubeaux.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to "In Memory of Mason" through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Jo Myers
Baker City, 1934-2021

Claudea Mae Myers, 86, aka Jo, Gramma or Aunt Sis, died of natural causes on Jan. 26, 2021, at her second home in St. George, Utah.

Due to COVID-19, we will not be having a service at this time, her family said. We're looking forward to a celebration of her life this summer. At her request, we will eat fried chicken and play lots of "real" country music ... more of her favorite things!

Jo Myers

Jo was born on March 19, 1934, at home in Sparta, the first of eight children of Boe and Ila Wilson. She married her sweetheart, David Myers, on March 31, 1951, at Weiser, Idaho. They raised their children, Kitty and Daniel, in Halfway, where they settled after Dave served in the Air Force and worked on various missile sites around the country.

She spent her working career at Brooklyn Grade School, first as a reading aid and then as the school librarian. She loved kids, always remembering their names and was excited to see them as they grew up.

Family was first, always and forever! Family reunions and her sister get-togethers were her all-time favorites. She enjoyed trading fabric, hair colors, books and bling with her four sisters. Nothing was too sparkly or glitzy for her. She never found a lipstick too red or a purple too bright. She enjoyed sewing — especially for kids, big or small — embroidery, growing beautiful flowers, feeding hummingbirds, spoiling her dog Sadie and loving on all the babies in the family. She was also a tech-savvy Gramma, who not only texted almost as much as a teenager, but who wielded a laptop to Skype with her sisters, make Facebook friends with former students, surprise her grandkids with PayPal money, win bargain book auctions from eBay and buy cute shoes online.

She is survived by her daughter, Kitty, and her son Dan; favorite daughter-in-law, Sue; her grandchildren, Che, Chelsea and Sara; her great-granddaughters, Alex and Marinah; her sisters, Leanna, Margie, Phyllis and Ila; and many nieces and nephews, and cousins by the dozens who she adored.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dave; her daughter, Judy; her favorite son-in-law, John; her parents; and her brothers, Delton, Walt and Jerry.

In remembrance of Sis, plant flowers, have a margarita, dye your hair purple, wear red lipstick, eat chocolate, always visit with children and dogs, wear all your bling at once (even if it doesn't match) and call your family!

Clista Smith-Ward-Hasse
Baker City, 1926-2020

Clista Noveta Smith-Ward-Hasse, 94, of Baker City, died on Dec. 24, 2020, at her home, accompanied by her family.

Clista's graveside service will take place on Friday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

Chris, as Clista was known by family and friends alike, was born in 1926 at Springfield, Colorado. Her family moved to Oregon in 1936 to escape the ravages of the Dust Bowl and lived in the mountains between Pondosa and Union. They thrived on the bounty of Oregon's wild land, berries, venison and fish. They lived in Cove and she attended school there along with her siblings. The family later moved into town and Chris graduated from La Grande High School in 1944. She went on to study nursing, earning her certificate from the Grande Ronde Hospital and worked in hospitals and doctor offices in both La Grande and Baker City.

Clista Smith-Ward-Hasse

Chris fulfilled her lifelong dream of learning to fly and obtaining her pilot's license. She loved to travel, make wine, go camping in her numerous RV's, boating (launching and docking were her specialties), gardening, fishing, and bird watching. She also enjoyed playing cards with family and friends and cooking, and baking for them as well.

Her last year of life was benchmarked by precious visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her family is very grateful for her day-to-day caregivers, Leanna, Billy and Larry.

Chris is survived by her children, Cheryl (Cherie) Stone, Donna Hughes and Gary Smith; six grandchildren, Maverick Fisher, Sean Bowen, Jon Fisher, Jennifer (Smith) Raymond, Adam Smith and Carlin Smith; 15 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; two stepsons, Dave and Joel Hasse, and the 10 grandchildren and great-grandchildren in their families; and by her beloved nieces and nephews and their families.

To light a candle for Clista or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Barbara Cropp
Baker City, and formerly of North Powder, 1937-2020

Barbara Alice (Lee) Cropp, 83, a former North Powder resident, died on Jan. 24, 2021, at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City.

Barbara was born March 3, 1937, at Portland. She attended elementary school in Southwest Idaho. Her family then moved to Baker City where she attended junior high. She graduated from Robert S. Farrell High School in Salem in 1954.

Barbara Cropp

Barbara moved back to Baker City and later married Joseph William "Billy" Hughes on April 30, 1955. Barbara and Billy had five children, Cathy, Robin, Bradley, Donald and Ronald. The family lived in Keating and Baker City.

On Aug. 19, 1972, Barbara married her second husband, William "Bill" Wilbur Cropp. They had one daughter together they named Tanya. She and her family lived in North Powder where she worked as a waitress and bartender. Barbara was most known for working at the Powder Club.

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Baker County Veteran Services
Until further notice Veterans will not be seen in person. If you need assistance, call Rick's work number 541-523-8223 and he will call you back to help you over the phone. This is a measure that is being implemented to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

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