

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Due to COVID-19 occupancy limitations, the public is encouraged to attend by using the Zoom link on the County's website, <https://www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html>.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the **Democrat-Herald**
March 1, 1971

Low gas sales have prompted a "price war" among Baker's service stations. However, whether the "war" is going to make money or increase business is doubtful.

25 YEARS AGO

from the **Baker City Herald**
March 1, 1996

Despite having the fewest seats for spectators, and despite hosting schools with fewer students than other high school basketball tournaments in Oregon, the Class 1A tourney in Baker City attracts several thousand fans every year.

And on Saturday nights, when championship games are played, Class 1A fans usually come closer to filling the Baker High School gym (and in 1994 did fill it) than their counterparts at the five other tournament sites.

The statistics are particularly surprising because compared with teams from larger schools, 1A squads have much smaller populations — of both students and community members — from which to draw fans.

10 YEARS AGO

from the **Baker City Herald**
March 2, 2011

The Siletz Valley Warriors haven't played in the boys state basketball tournament since Gerald Ford was president.

They have quite the compelling excuse, though, for the 36-year drought that ended this afternoon when the Warriors ran onto the court at Baker High School.

For 24 of those years Siletz Valley didn't have a basketball team.

Didn't have a high school, come to that.

Which makes it sort of difficult to put together a squad.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the **Baker City Herald**
March 3, 2020

Weeks before coronavirus began to hog headlines worldwide, the new illness was the main topic of conversation among local hospital officials.

This is the seventh straight week in which officials from the Saint Alphonsus Health System, which includes the Baker City hospital, have been convening for phone conferences at least twice per week to "prepare to respond to potential patients in our region," said Kathryn Dudley, safety officer for Saint Alphonsus.

The health system also operates hospitals in Ontario, Nampa and Boise, as well as about 70 health clinics in Eastern Oregon and Idaho, Dudley said.

As of Monday afternoon there had been three confirmed cases of coronavirus in Oregon (none in Baker County) and none in Idaho.

Dudley said Saint Alphonsus officials have taken an aggressive approach in bracing for the potential arrival of the virus in the area.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Feb. 27

2 — 6 — 15 — 17 — 23 — 24

Next jackpot: \$2.5 million

POWERBALL, Feb. 27

2 — 28 — 31 — 44 — 52 PB 18

Next jackpot: \$123 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Feb. 26

11 — 15 — 37 — 62 — 64 Mega 5

Next jackpot: \$43 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Feb. 27

3 — 17 — 29 — 41

PICK 4, Feb. 28

• 1 p.m.: 3 — 2 — 9 — 8

• 4 p.m.: 3 — 0 — 7 — 8

• 7 p.m.: 5 — 5 — 9 — 2

• 10 p.m.: 9 — 6 — 1 — 4

LUCKY LINES, Feb. 28

3-8-10-14-20-21-26-31

Next jackpot: \$28,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Baked ziti, zucchini and tomatoes, garlic bread, pasta salad, pudding

■ **THURSDAY:** Breaded pork loin, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, brownie

■ **FRIDAY:** Barbecued pork ribs, baked beans, corn, cornbread, potato salad, apple crisp

■ **MONDAY (March 8):** Pork tips with gravy, fettuccine noodles, roll, peas and carrots, macaroni salad, lemon squares

■ **TUESDAY (March 9):** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, Capri vegetables, roll, ambrosia, 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; 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

Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 1668 Resort St. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are \$10.75 for print only. Digital-only rates are \$8.25.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Copyright © 2021



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

More than 450 people were inoculated against COVID-19 on Friday, Feb. 26, in the Baker High School gym.

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1A

Friday's clinic helped boost Baker County's vaccination rate, per 10,000 residents, to the sixth-highest among Oregon's 36 counties. As of Monday, March 1, Baker County's vaccination rate was 1,662 per 10,000 residents.

The county has now offered the vaccine to residents age 80 and older who wanted to be inoculated, and many of those attending Friday's clinic are between 75 and 79, said Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department.

"We're working through our waiting list," Staten said. "People can sign up on our Baker County COVID website and there's that questionnaire, which is a smart sheet, and get on the list."

The website is www.bakercountycovid19.com/

Staten said Health Department employees will phone people who sign up to schedule appointments.

Staten said the Health Department continues to work with its vaccination partners — Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City, the Pine Eagle Clinic in Halfway and, soon, the Bi-Mart pharmacy in Baker City — to administer the vaccine.

Pharmacies at the Safeway and Albertsons grocery stores in Baker City have also received vaccines.

Staten said the county has received 500 first doses for this week, along with 100 second doses. The county will distribute some of the first doses to its vaccine partners this week. That gives residents more options, for



Staten

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Baker County

FIRST DOSES

• 1,648 — 9.8% of county residents

SECOND DOSES

• 1,147 — 6.8% of county residents

TOTAL

• 2,795 — 16.6% of county residents

Source: Oregon Health Authority, data as of March 1

which day they get the vaccine, than if the county keeps most of its doses for a one-day clinic such as Friday's event.

"It's taking all of us (vaccine providers) to get people vaccinated," Staten said.

Due largely to the clinic at BHS, Friday was by far the busiest day for inoculations in Baker County, with a total of 724 doses recorded for that day, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

(That might not represent the actual number of doses given on that day, as vaccine providers have up to 72 hours to report inoculations.)

The previous one-day high was 452 doses given on Jan. 26, with 361 administered on Feb. 12.

To accommodate the larger numbers on Friday, Staten said the county enlisted help from about 69 people, compared with about 50 people who helped with the Feb. 12 clinic.

"It's going well," Staten said. "We have a great community and people want to volunteer and people want to help and I think this gives people hope. I'm very proud of our community. I'm very proud of our people."

"My husband and I got our COVID protection at the high school yesterday. I am a retired pediatric nurse practitioner so have some experience with immunization clinics. My hat is off to whoever planned and organized this one. We were in and out in less than 20 minutes. It took only minutes for us to be seen at the various stations and was exceedingly well run. Congratulations."

— Iva M. Mace

Staten said she's not aware of anyone having severe reactions to the vaccine.

Those who receive a dose have to wait for 15 minutes so nurses can monitor them for any problems.

Janet Van Diepen, who received her first dose Friday, said she was glad to be inoculated. She has some reservations about the second dose, as some people have reported more serious reactions, including soreness on the arm in which the shot is administered.

"I'm OK with it, doing my part," Van Diepen said.

Nurse Stacy Bingham said Friday morning that she had already administered more than 30 doses.

"We've been busy and consistent which is really nice. It's nice to see people in the community come out for this," Bingham said.

OBITUARY

Tawni Smith

Haines, 1956-2021

Tawni Smith, 64, of Haines, died on Feb. 5, 2021.

There were no public services.

Tawni was born on May 10, 1956, at Walla Walla, Washington, to Bing Potter and Jan Potter.

She is survived by her sister, Dixie; her half-brother, Jerry Row; her nephew, Jerry Row Jr.; her best friend, Sandy Row; and her friends, Darlene Butcher, Cat Manrow, Clifford Smith, Mike, Emma, Trish, Linda and Charlie.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Eddie Potter Row.

All who knew her will miss her. We love you, Tawni, her friends said.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Steven M. 'Steve' Haney:

61, of Echo, a former Baker City resident, died on Feb. 20, 2021, at his home. A family gathering will take place. You can share memories of Steve with his family at burnsmortuary.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

William F. Davis: 82, of Nampa, Idaho, is former of North Powder and La Grande, died on Feb. 26, 2021, at his home. All Valley Cremation in Nampa is in charge of arrangements.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Angela Theresa Emmons, 35, of Baker City, 12:16 a.m. Saturday, in the 2200 block of Second Street; cited and released.

BLIZZARD

Continued from Page 1A

That station is near the junction of Highways 26 and 7, about 50 miles southwest of Baker City.

But it was the other ingredient that makes a blizzard — gusting wind — that made Friday's storm so noteworthy.

"It was unlike anything we've seen," Gangler said.

Gangler said John Burke, a plow driver who's in his 22nd winter plying the storm-prone Blue Mountains, told him he could remember only one storm during his career comparable to Friday's tempest.

For about two hours starting around 7:30 a.m., the section of Highway 7 from Austin Junction to Sumpter Valley was hit by a blizzard that reduced visibility to, well, basically zero, Gangler said.

Burke radioed in an estimate of "maybe 20 feet."

Gangler, who later went out in another plow to help Burke, said "you couldn't see the plow at the front of your truck."

Gangler's crew is responsible for about half of Highway 7 — from Austin Junction to the Sumpter Valley Railroad crossing.

Often the worst sections are the two mountain passes, Larch Summit near Sumpter Valley, and Tipton Summit about 8 miles from Austin Junction.

But during Friday's blizzard the storm was most fierce in Whitney Valley, about 33 miles southwest of Baker City, Gangler said.

On that stretch, where the highway runs between the meadows along the North Fork of Burnt River and Camp Creek, the wind and snow created a whiteout — a situation where the lack of visual references means drivers are, almost literally, flying blind.

Conditions were similarly atrocious from Whitney Valley to around Larch Summit, a distance of about 5 miles, Gangler said.

At times Friday morning, Gangler said, the wind was whipping the light, powdery snow to the point that the plows were less effective than

usual, since some of the snow their blades pushed along ended up back on the road anyway.

"We probably shouldn't have been out there," he said of the snowplow drivers. "Much less the traveling public."

The conditions were so dangerous that ODOT issued a public notice urging drivers to avoid Highway 7 as well as Highways 245 (Dooley Mountain) and 26.

Gangler said the wind made it difficult to estimate how much snow actually fell during the storm, which in places continued into Saturday morning, Feb. 27.

"We might have had a foot in one place and five feet in another," he said.

An automated snow-measuring station at Tipton Summit recorded 3 inches of new snow between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Friday, and 8 inches between 3 a.m. and 4 p.m.

CASHWAY Lumber Co.

- Lumber
- Plywood
- Building Materials
- Hardware
- Paint
- Plumbing
- Electrical

And much more!

3205 10th Street
Baker City
541-523-4422

Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Closed Sun

TULIP TIME
APRIL 17-26, 2022

Spend 2 nights in Amsterdam and then embark on a 7-night Holland & Belgium river cruise aboard the AmaCerto

FLORIADE EXPO 2022 INCLUDED!

Trisha (541) 523-9353 or Sam (541) 963-9000
Trishan@AlegreTravel.com or Sam@AlegreTravel.com
Join Sam or Trish this fabulous Floral cruise.
Call today for more information.

"You'll love the work we do. I guarantee it." - JR

225 H Street • East of I-84 • 541-523-3200 • grumpysrepair.com