

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Baker County Board of Commissioners: 9 a.m.; Work session to discuss the Special Transportation Funds and Special Transportation Improvement Funds with Community Connection. Commissioners will also review the county's travel policy. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, residents are encouraged to attend via Zoom. A link will be available on the county's website, www.bakercounty.org

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald March 6, 1971

The absence of Baker County delegates to the District 13 Governor's Commission on Youth plan for a youth care center has raised questions whether their "lack of commitment" extended to the whole plan.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 6, 1996

SALEM — When Baker tipped off against Junction City today at 3 p.m. in the first round of the Class 3A State Girls Basketball Tournament at the Salem Armory it marked the Bulldogs' first visit to state since 1993.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 7, 2011

Turns out an early symbol of how record-high gold prices might affect Baker County isn't a miner's pick or a dredge.

It's a snowplow.

Baker County commissioners last week heard about plans to plow deep snow from two forest roads near Sumpter to give miners access to a historic mining district that's virtually impassable for about half the year except by snowmobile.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald March 7, 2020

Oregon's two U.S. senators have endorsed a plan to rebuild a road through Baker City's watershed as part of a logging project designed to reduce the risk of wildfire in the 10,000-acre area in the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of town.

In a letter to Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen, senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, support the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's request for almost \$1.3 million through the agency's Capital Improvements Project fund to improve the Marble Creek Pass road.

"Funds from the Capital Improvements Project and the subsequent restoration work would provide greatly needed access for hazardous fuels reduction treatments to reduce impacts from a large fire," the senators wrote.

Those impacts could include ash and mud fouling the streams and springs from which Baker City obtains its drinking water.

City officials have worried for more than two decades that such a blaze could force the city to build a filtration plant for its water, at a cost likely exceeding \$10 million.

"Your support for this project would be greatly appreciated and significant for this small, rural community," Wyden and Merkley concluded in their letter to Christiansen.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 3

6 — 9 — 30 — 36 — 45 — 47
Next jackpot: \$2.7 million

POWERBALL, March 3

21 — 40 — 44 — 50 — 55 PB 16
Next jackpot: \$138 million

MEGA MILLIONS, March 2

4 — 8 — 13 — 34 — 64 Mega 18
Next jackpot: \$55 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 3

46 — 53 — 60 — 72

PICK 4, March 4

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

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 5 — 1 — 0

LUCKY LINES, March 4

2-79-13-20-21-26-32

Next jackpot: \$32,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Pork tips with gravy, fettuccine noodles, roll, peas and carrots, macaroni salad, lemon squares
- **TUESDAY:** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, Capri vegetables, roll, ambrosia, cheesecake
- **WEDNESDAY:** Hot meatloaf sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, cottage cheese with fruit, bread pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Boneless country style spareribs, scalloped potatoes, green beans and tomatoes, roll, Jell-O with fruit, cinnamon roll
- **FRIDAY:** Beef pot roast, red potatoes, green beans, roll, coleslaw, 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.

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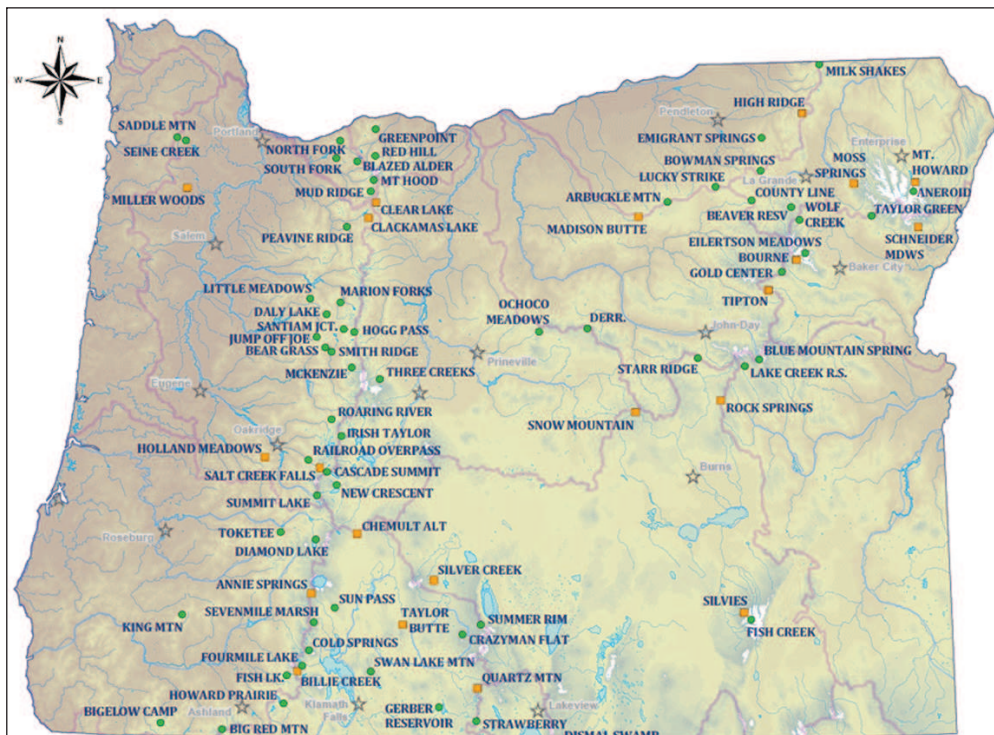
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U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

The map shows the snow-measuring stations listed in the box at right.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Snow-draped ponderosa pine trees near Sumpter on Feb. 27.

SNOWPACK

Continued from Page 1A

Although the depth increase was impressive, a different statistic — snow water content — is the one that matters most in gauging snowpack.

Water content, as the term implies, measures the amount of water that will trickle away when the snow melts this spring and summer.

To calculate the water content, snow surveyors such as Petrucci and Albert thrust an aluminum tube into the snow until it hits the ground. The tube measures the snow depth, and more importantly, by weighing the cylinder of snow within the tube the surveyors can derive the water content.

In that respect February's feat wasn't quite as noteworthy. The water content rose from 13 inches at the start of February to 22.6 inches at the end.

But that's still a significant jump. The water content was 18% below average when February began, but it was 32% above average when the month ended.

This was the second February in the past three years

that reversed a relatively moribund snowpack in the Elkhorns.

In February 2019 the snow depth at the meadow near Anthony Lake increased by 37 inches, to 83 inches at month's end.

This year's figure of 89 inches is the fifth-deepest, at the end of February, since snow surveys started there in 1936.

The top four:
• 109 inches, Feb. 23, 1965 (this is the deepest snow ever measured at the site, at any time; in many winters the snow depth peaks around April 1)

• 96 inches, Feb. 24, 1956
• 95 inches, Feb. 27, 1949
• 92 inches, Feb. 28, 1972

Although the onslaught of storms that distinguished February dissipated with the arrival of March, Petrucci said this week's mainly sunny and milder weather can potentially have a benefit for the summer water supply.

The daily cycle, with the snow surface thawing during the day and refreezing at night, creates ice layers. Those layers will slow the melting of the snowpack this spring, Petrucci said.

"We like it to ice up," he said.

Jeff Colton has the same feeling about a snowpack that disappears gradually rather than rapidly.

Colton manages the Baker Valley Irrigation District, which supplies irrigation water, stored in Phillips Reservoir between Baker City and Sumpter, to more than 30,000 acres of farmland, mostly in Baker Valley.

Colton said he was "getting a little bit scared" during January, when storms were scarce.

February's series of storms was welcome.

"I'm thankful for every bit of it," Colton said. "Things are looking up."

Which is not to say Colton is completely confident about this year's water supply.

Phillips Reservoir was severely depleted during the 2020 drought. As of today, the reservoir is holding just 10% of its capacity.

And although February bolstered the snowpack, the measuring site that Colton is most interested in has lagged behind.

That's near Bourne, in the headwaters of the Powder River, the biggest source of water for Phillips Reservoir. The water content at Bourne improved from 23% below

What A Month

The snowpack in Northeast Oregon took a major leap ahead during February. Below are the snow-water content changes for several measuring sites (snow-water content is a more accurate reflection of the snowpack than snow depth).

Moss Springs

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
9.0 inches	13.8 inches
106% avg.	119% avg.

Schneider Meadow

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
21 inches	29.5 inches
107% avg.	117% avg.

High Ridge

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
15.5 inches	32.1 inches
96% avg.	150% avg.

Bourne

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
8.6 inches	16.0 inches
77% avg.	114% avg.

Eilertson Meadow

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
8.1 inches	13.1 inches
103% avg.	142% avg.

Gold Center

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
8.5 inches	14.6 inches
116% avg.	162% avg.

Taylor Green

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
14.1 inches	26.7 inches
97% avg.	148% avg.

Tipton

FEB. 1	MARCH 1
9.0 inches	13.8 inches
106% avg.	119% avg.

average at the start of February to 14% above average at month's end.

But the latter figure is the fifth-lowest, based on percentage, among 15 sites around the region.

Colton attributes this to a microclimate that brings comparatively less snow to Bourne when the trajectory of storms favors places such as Anthony Lakes and the western part of the Elkhorns.

The measuring site nearest Bourne, at Gold Center along the Sumpter-Granite Highway, is just 8 miles or so away. But it's on the west side of a ridge that casts a rain shadow in the Bourne area. The water content at Gold Center is 62% above average.

Although snowpack is vital, Colton said another factor can have an outsized effect on how far Phillips Reservoir rises — spring rainstorms.

"Those are godsend," he said. If enough rain falls during spring, when crops begin growing, Colton doesn't have to release as much water from the reservoirs for irrigation, allowing more melting snow to stay in the reservoir.

OBITUARY

Lanny Flynn

Baker City, 1943-2021

Lanny Mack Flynn, 77, of Baker City, died on March 1, 2021, at his home.

There will be no services.

Lanny, or more commonly known as Mack, was born on July 1, 1943, at Bedford, Indiana, to Jesse and Gladys (Covey) Flynn. He received his schooling in Indiana, and after school, Mack served one tour in Vietnam with the United States Army. He was a helicopter chief



Lanny Flynn

and "the man in the door." He earned a Vietnam service medal, a Vietnam campaign medal, and a national defense service medal. Mack also earned air medals with the first, second, and third OLC; he never wanted to speak about his time in Vietnam.

Mack owned a concrete and construction business in Indiana for 20 years before retiring in 1993, and on June 10, 2000, Mack married Carrie Lee Grider in Baker City.

He loved horses and woodworking, he also enjoyed mushroom hunting, but he would not eat them. Mack was a

Christian and a lifetime member of the VFW.

Mack is survived by his wife, Carrie Flynn of Baker City; two daughters and three stepdaughters; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in Mack's honor may be made to Heart 'N Home Hospice or to the local VFW Post No. 3048 by making a check out to the organization and sending it to Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

FIRST-DEGREE THEFT: In the 2400 block of Birch Street, between March 1 and March 4; Alvah Ingraham, 66, of Baker City reported the theft of three guns.

Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT, three counts, (Baker County Justice

Court warrant): Alexander Harold Wise, 19, 2:48 p.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Jail where he is being held on other charges.

THIRD-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF and **SECOND-DEGREE**

DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Raleigh David Rust, 46, of Baker City, 2:57 p.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Jail where he is being held on other charges.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrants): Joshua Milton Thomas, 31, of Baker City, 3:05 p.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Jail where he is being held on other charges.

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