

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St. Council members will be attending in person. The Council Chambers will be open for members of the press and limited audience. A link to watch the meeting live online is available at www.bakercity.com

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald March 22, 1971

PORTLAND (UPI) — The Baker Bulldogs and the Grant Generals won first round victories before 8,431 fans in low scoring action at the opening of the Oregon Class AAA high school tournament Tuesday night. Baker downed South Salem 39-34 and Grant beat Parkrose 45-42.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 22, 1996

A Wisconsin District Court jury on Thursday ordered J.I. Case Corp. of Racine, Wis., to pay \$8.5 million in damages to Steven Sharp, a former New Bridge resident who had both arms severed near the elbow during a farm accident on Aug. 22, 1992.

The jury awarded Sharp \$6.5 million in compensatory damages and \$2 million in punitive damages.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald March 23, 2011

Police arrested a 42-year-old Baker City man about 7:30 this morning after an overnight standoff in a south Baker City duplex that brought about 40 officers from agencies around the region.

After negotiations that stretched over more than 15 hours, members of an Oregon State Police SWAT team entered the home at 695 Fourth St. and arrested Donald Huff. No one was hurt in the incident, said Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald March 24, 2020

Matt Reidy has two checks in his hand but he's not quite ready to hand them to Patsy Hoelscher and spoil the surprise.

Reidy is standing in the lobby of the Rachel Pregnancy Center on Friday morning with Hoelscher, chairman of the organization's board of directors, and Hal Huntington.

Huntington and Reidy are both members of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic fraternal service group.

They've met with Hoelscher to donate the proceeds from a recent chili contest and silent auction that took place at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City.

After a few minutes of conversation, Reidy decides to end the suspense.

He turns over the first check, for \$2,526. That's from Smokin' Joe's Chili Contest and silent auction on Feb. 22.

But Reidy isn't quite finished; there is the matter of that second check.

That \$420 donation comes from the Knights of Columbus state office, which made the donation after local members applied on behalf of the Rachel Center, Huntington said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 20
3-12-14-31-39-44
Next jackpot: \$3.4 million

POWERBALL, March 20
1-6-22-42-61 PB4
Next jackpot: \$220 million

MEGA MILLIONS, March 19
9-14-40-58-69 Mega 8
Next jackpot: \$122 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 20
11-23-37-59

PICK 4, March 21

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

• 10 p.m.: 5-3-7-0
LUCKY LINES, March 21
3-7-10-15-18-21-28-30
Next jackpot: \$49,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Spaghetti, zucchini and tomatoes, garlic breadsticks, green salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY:** Pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, beet-and-onion salad, ice cream
- **FRIDAY:** Boneless chicken breast, baked potato, winter blend vegetables, fruit cup, cinnamon roll
- **MONDAY (March 29):** Barbecued pork ribs, au gratin potatoes, corn, biscuit, coleslaw, cookies
- **TUESDAY (March 30):** Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, 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.

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Wolf attack possible in death of calf

By Jayson Jacoby
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Wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack in eastern Baker County consumed a recently born calf last week near Pritchard Creek, north of Durkee, but state wildlife biologists couldn't determine whether the wolves actually killed the animal.

There was no blood, hide or muscle tissue, and nothing left of the calf but the front incisors and two parts of the jawbone, which made a definite conclusion about the cause of death impossible, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Baker City office.

There were tracks in the area from an adult cow and from multiple wolves, and matted down vegetation indicating some sort of "altercation" took place, Ratliff said.

The incident is listed as a possible/

unknown wolf depredation.

The Lookout Mountain pack consists of a male and female adult wolf, and two pups that were born in the spring of 2020, Ratliff said.

Both the adults have tracking collars.

On Tuesday, March 16, ODFW received a signal from the GPS collar fitted to the female adult wolf, which has black fur, showing the animal was in the Pritchard Creek area, Ratliff said.

ODFW notified a rancher who has cattle in the area.

The rancher found the remains of the calf on the evening of Wednesday, March 17, Ratliff said.

According to an ODFW report, the rancher reported that his cattle were "stirred up" on the morning of March 16, and that he saw a black, radio-collared wolf carrying a leg bone on the evening of March 17.

The site where the teeth and bones were found is north of Interstate 84 in the Durkee Valley area, on public land adjacent to a large private pasture. Ratliff said cattle are scattered on both private and public land in the area, which is about 20 miles east of Baker City.

Ratliff said on Friday, March 19 that based on signals from the collars, the adult female wolf was in the area where the teeth and bones were found at 10 p.m. on March 16 and at 6 a.m. on March 17. Signals later in the week showed that the wolves have remained in the general area, he said.

Ratliff said ranchers who have cattle in the area are aware of the wolves' presence, and Ratliff said he has suggested they take precautions such as ensuring the cattle are in groups, which can help protect them from wolves and other predators.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

He said the apparent cause of the fire was a problem with a damper on a woodstove in a separate, smaller structure where Gary Holland lives.

Kingsbury said it's possible that embers from the woodstove ignited the fire, which didn't damage the smaller structure where Gary lives but did spread to the larger home where his mother lives.

The buildings are about 75 to 80 feet apart, Kingsbury said.

Among the potentially dangerous items on the property were multiple oxygen-acetylene tanks for cutting torches, and several propane tanks.

Kingsbury said none of the tanks exploded, so far as he can tell from examining the property, but there were explosions inside the two-story



Sherrie Kvamme/Contributed Photo

The aftermath of a Saturday, March 20 fire that destroyed Carmelita Holland's home in New Bridge.

home when the fire reached gun ammunition and reloading supplies.

He said the house was a total loss, although firefighters poured enough water into one part of the home that some papers and other items were salvageable after the fire was out.

Carmelita Holland is a

longtime local historian who has much information about Baker County mining history. She wrote a book, "Stories, Legends and Some Oregon History."

According to the Baker County Assessor's Office, the 1,040-square-foot home was built in 1930 and has a market value of \$8,970 based

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

The letter the Council approved on March 9, written by Councilor Jason Spriet, notes that Baker City's small businesses "have been forced to weather this monumental obstacle with very little assistance from the state or federal government."

"The community is clearly asking us to stand with them and speak out for them as best we can," McQuisten said. "I hope we can show them we heard them by passing this (Resolution 3881)."

Although the resolution concedes that the city "has no legal ability to summarily flout these mandates" and "therefore cannot protect any local business from State-directed targeting, repercussions and penalties if such local business personally chooses to," the document goes on to state that "we do believe our citizens are fully capable of making their private, individual health-care and lifestyle decisions themselves."

The resolution calls into question whether the steps Brown has taken to slow the spread of COVID-19, including restrictions on businesses

and limits on attendance that prompted the cancellation of most of Baker City's major summer events in 2020, were justified.

"Science has shown over the last year that COVID-19 is overwhelmingly survivable and lockdowns do not stop its spread," the resolution states. "All models and projections used to justify initial state emergency mandates have been proven inaccurate over the past year."

The resolution contends that the state's restrictions, by affecting residents' ability "to earn a living or pursue other rights as outlined in our State and U.S. Constitutions, have resulted in an unconstitutional seizure of property without compensation."

The resolution also refers to "inappropriately weaponized State agencies."

The document notes that some local businesses have closed and that others "are on the brink of permanent closure, creating a fiscal emergency and a devastated local economy."

The resolution also mentions state mandates for wearing masks and social distancing, claiming those and other rules "are actively creating division and unrest

with the increased potential of physical violence within our community as those of one opinion are encouraged by it to impose their opinions over the free will of those of another in a physical way ..."

The resolution cites limits on the number of inmates housed at the Baker County Jail, which has a capacity of 45 but generally has been holding around 15 during the pandemic. The resolution cites an "ongoing 'cite and release' system that puts criminals straight back on the streets to further victimize our community immediately after arrest."

The resolution goes on to state that "the Governor's mandates result in pitting local law enforcement against law-abiding citizens rather than criminals, which damages our community's strong relationship with our valued local law enforcement, and which is a dynamic no community should tolerate."

Another clause in the resolution states that the "deliberate isolation of the ill in hospitals or the elderly left to die alone of that isolation is the cruelest of abuses and is not to be accepted in any civilized society."

The resolution concludes with a series of actions, which include that "the City will communicate in writing

on a 2017 appraisal.

Volunteers from the Eagle Valley, Pine Valley, Keating, Medical Springs and Baker Rural fire departments also responded to the fire, Kingsbury said.

A fire truck from the North Powder department was en route but its engine broke down, he said.

In a post on the city of Richland's Facebook page, local resident and journalist Sherrie Kvamme wrote that Don Flowers bought all the pizzas from the Shorthorn restaurant in Richland, and women from the Nazarene Church baked the pizzas for the firefighters. Other local residents brought drinking water for the volunteers.

Donations of cash and groceries for Carmelita Holland are being collected at the Hitching Post in Richland, according to the post, and a GoFundMe account is being set up.

with the Governor's Office to encourage the full opening of our city and county, recategorization to low-population status, or suggesting other means necessary to give our citizens relief from these mandates."

The resolution also states that the city "recognizes the citizenry of Baker City are free, sovereign individuals within a Constitutional, Representative Republic, not subjects or slaves, and will be recognized as such as we firmly stand to represent them."

McQuisten said she was motivated to write the resolution, and propose that the City Council approve it, because of a lack of action by the governor.

"Counties and cities across Oregon have been asking Kate Brown to fully open the state for months," McQuisten said. "The requests have fallen on deaf ears, and Oregon is in the national news in a negative way yet again — we're looking at permanent OSHA distancing, masking, and vaccine rules that will indefinitely harm our businesses and schools. This defies science, hurts our community, and shouldn't happen. This resolution approach is unusual. I'll be interested to see if other cities and counties take it up and run with it as well."

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

Tommy G. West: Graveside services will be Wednesday, March 24, at 2 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery, with military honors. Those wishing to make memorial contributions in Tommy's memory can direct them to a charity of one's choice through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Tommy, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

James Dwight 'Jimmy' Hebert: Celebration of Jimmy's life, April 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Bonita's home in North Powder. Donations in his memory can be made to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland or the Wolf Creek Grange No. 596 in North Powder in care of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Jimmy's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Arlene Mae School: Celebration of her life, with a potluck,

will take place on Saturday, April 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Unity Community Hall. To offer online condolences, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO PERFORM DUTIES OF A DRIVER TO AN INJURED PERSON: Josiah Francisco Arenas, 19, Baker City, 8:08 p.m. Saturday, March 20 in the 900 block of East Street; jailed.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Shawn James Boothby, 47, Baker City, 11:38 p.m. Saturday, March 20 in the 2100 block of Second Street; cited and released.

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