

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Commission meetings will be streamed live. A link will be available on the county's website, www.bakercounty.org

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

■ **Transient Lodging Tax Work Group:** 5 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald April 5, 1971

Will the Burnt River Division of Ellingson Lumber and Timber Co. go union or will it remain non-union? This question will be decided April 15 when the approximately 95 employees of the Burnt River mill vote on whether to form a local union.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 5, 1996

Heather Richards has been hired as Baker City downtown manager.

Richards, from Ann Arbor, Mich., was chosen from an initial list of 22 applicants from seven states. She replaces Timothy Bishop, who left to take a job in Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 15. Richards' first day on the job will be May 20.

Richards, who served as the intern for two months with Bishop during the spring and summer of 1994, will receive a starting salary of \$24,000.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 6, 2011

A ground and air search over the past few days that has covered thousands of miles of highways and backroads, and thousands of square miles of remote country in four counties, has not turned up any sign of a Canadian couple last seen March 19 in Baker City.

Albert and Rita Chretien of Penticton, British Columbia, were reported missing March 31 by their children after the couple failed to return from a road trip to Las Vegas.

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

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett believes the county has found a balance in its effort to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus in the county while still allowing people to safely enjoy one of the county's favorite outdoor destinations.

But reaching that point required an adjustment.

"I'm always sorry when there's confusion," Bennett said Monday.

That confusion arose Friday afternoon when the county announced that it had closed, at least until April 17, the 41-mile Snake River Road, most of which follows the western shore of Brownlee Reservoir, the county's most popular fishing and boating spot.

The county's press release stated that "access will continue to be provided for local residential users."

What wasn't clear is whether that access applied to all Baker County residents or only to people who have property along the road. There are homes, some year-round and some vacation residences, on Brownlee.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, April 3

2-8-13-21-23-34
Next jackpot: \$1 million

POWERBALL, April 3

1-12-17-39-53 PB5
Next jackpot: \$43 million

MEGA MILLIONS, April 2

10-42-48-53-62 Mega 19
Next jackpot: \$184 million

WIN FOR LIFE, April 3

9-17-34-47

PICK 4, April 4

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

LUCKY LINES, April 4

2-8-9-14-18-23-26-30
Next jackpot: \$63,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Soup and sandwich, ham and cheese sandwich, split pea soup, coleslaw, cookies
- **THURSDAY:** Beef pot roast with gravy, red potatoes, roll, peas and carrots, potato salad, cherry cheesecake
- **FRIDAY:** Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, mixed vegetables, roll, macaroni salad, tapioca
- **MONDAY (April 12):** Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, Capri vegetables, fruit cup, brownie
- **TUESDAY (April 13):** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, roll, mixed vegetables, Jell-O with fruit, apple crisp

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 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

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SNOW

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This balancing act can be particularly precarious in early spring.

That's the period when the impoundment, which has a relatively modest capacity compared with other reservoirs in the region, can be nearly full, leaving Morgan with a meager buffer to hold the melting snow that rushes from the Burnt River's multiple branches.

As of Monday morning, Unity Reservoir was about 82% full.

(The reservoir's capacity of about 25,000 acre-feet is about one-third that of Phillips Reservoir, in the Sumpter Valley between Baker City and Sumpter. One acre-foot of water would cover one acre of flat ground to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons.)

Morgan said that based on the amount of snow in the Burnt River basin — snow that will melt this spring, with much of it ending up in the reservoir — he will have to release more water from the reservoir to make room.

For an irrigation district manager, having more water is a far better situation, of course, than not having enough.

And Morgan said water for irrigation from the reservoir should be ample this year, drought or no.

Snowfall this winter — and especially during the two-week period in the middle of February that brought a barrage of blizzards to Baker County — was above average in the Burnt River basin, Morgan said.

He expects each of the Burnt River's forks to deliver significant volumes well into spring.



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Snow clings to the mountains south of Durkee Valley.

"Anything that comes into Unity Reservoir is looking fantastic," Morgan said.

Although March was dry compared with February, Morgan said nighttime temperatures, even during mild periods, have been low enough to keep the pace of snowmelt placid.

"It's hanging on," he said of the mountain snow.

The statistics prove Morgan's point.

At all but two of 16 measuring snowpack measuring sites around Northeast Oregon, the water content in the snow is above average for the first week of April.

Well above average, in many instances.

At Gold Center, for example, in the Blue Mountains between Sumpter and Granite, the water content is more than three times the average.

In the Burnt River basin, an automated measuring site near Tipton Summit, along Highway 7, is reporting

a water content 19% above average.

The snowpack is also bountiful on the southern and west sides of the Wallowa Mountains.

Schneider Meadow, on the south end of the region's tallest mountain range, has a water content 17% above average.

Taylor Green, near West Eagle Creek, is 41% above average, and at Moss Springs, above Cove, the water content is 21% above average.

The exception to the plentiful snowpack is the northern part of the Wallowa.

At Mount Howard, near Wallowa Lake, the water content is 12% below average, and at Aneroid Lake, about four miles south, it's 30% below average.

The situation at reservoirs around the region varies even more widely.

Thief Valley Reservoir, on the lower Powder River east of North Powder, is full.

But Phillips Reservoir, a key source of irrigation for Baker

Valley, is just 18% full.

Mark Ward, whose family uses water from Phillips Reservoir to irrigate its crops in Baker Valley, said he expects irrigation supplies will be "adequate."

"It's still not going to be a full reservoir by any means," Ward said.

Phillips, which is part of the Baker Valley Irrigation District, was drawn down to near empty last fall during a drought that continues.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor Index, the drought in Baker County ranges from moderate to severe in much of the central part of the county, to extreme in a band that includes Baker Valley.

Elsewhere in the region, the southern part of Union County is in either moderate drought or rated as abnormally dry, while the northern part of the county, along with all of Wallowa County and the eastern part of Umatilla County, are rated as normal.

LEARNING

Continued from Page 1A

"We look forward to celebrating with our community," Angela Lattin, BELC principal, stated in a press release. "Our thanks to the BELC Collaborative for the vision of the Baker Early Learning Center and the support of the Baker School District Board and family partners."

Building tours will be offered to those attending the open house. All COVID-19 protocols, including face masks and physical distancing, will be followed, the press release stated.

The dedication plaque acknowledges 5J Board members Chris Hawkins, chair; Katie Lamb, vice chair; and directors Julie Huntington, Kevin Cassidy and Andrew Bryan, along with

Superintendent Mark Witty.

Also included are the design and construction team of Sid Johnson & Co., LKV Architects, Musgrove Engineering, The Land Group and Wenaha Group. These funding sources also are listed: Oregon Community Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation and the State of Oregon Student Investment Account.

FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

Timm recommends property owners outside Baker City not only avoid lighting fires on especially blustery days, but that they also call their local fire department or protection district before igniting grass or brush on more placid days.

(Residents within Baker City need to obtain a free

permit from the Fire Department, 1616 Second St.)

A quick call alerts local fire officials about where to expect smoke, and potentially save volunteer firefighters from making an unnecessary trip to check on a fire report from a citizen who mistakes a planned blaze from one that's burning out of control, Timm said.

That's happened several times this spring in Baker

County, he said.

Sometimes the call for help is needed, though, Timm said.

In a few cases, he said, a landowner needed help dousing a fire that spread faster than expected due to wind gusts.

The Keating Rural Fire Department helped confine a blaze in the Keating Valley on Saturday afternoon, according to the Baker County Consolidated Dispatch Center.

The Dispatch Center's log also includes two other controlled burns reported that day, one along Interstate 84 near North Powder, the other along Highway 245 in the Burnt River Valley.

Timm concurs with a recent press release from

the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) that encourages property owners to be careful with planned fires this spring.

"We've had some significant wind events over the past couple of weeks," said Matt Howard, Wallowa Unit forester for ODF. "These winds have caused issues with debris burning around the state. It is important to be aware of the weather conditions, not only at the time of the burn, but also in the following days. We've had a couple of debris fires in Wallowa County that were pushed by wind and burned a larger area than the landowner was wanting, as well as causing other damages."

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Lewis Arthur Gray: 75, of Baker City, died on April 3, 2021, at his home. To leave a condolence for Lewis' family, go to www.grayswestco.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Robert 'Bob' J. Hendriksen: A memorial service will take place Friday, April 9, at 2 p.m. in Mount Hope Cemetery for Bob and his wife, Nita, who died April 28, 2017. The Rev. Suresh Kumar Telagani of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City will officiate. Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to Cancer Research through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Bob and Nita, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Arlene Mae Schoorl: There will be a public celebration of Arlene's life, with a potluck, 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

county warrant): Kevin Rickey Tomlin, 43, Baker City, 12:54 a.m. Monday, April 5 at Campbell and Birch streets; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (out-of-county warrant): Paul Adam Heller, 49, Baker City, 11:33 p.m. Sunday, April 4 at Campbell and Cherry streets; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Shebb Robert Bassman, 33, Baker City, 4:31 p.m. Sunday, April 4 in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

IMPROPER USE OF 9-1-1: Joshua Adam Carpenter, 35, Baker City, 10:59 a.m. on Sunday, April 4 in the 2500 block of 10th Street; cited and released.

PAROLE VIOLATION: Eric Lee Cayvill, 30, Baker City, 9:42 p.m. Friday, April 2 in Baker City; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Charles Bradley Sharp, 56, Baker City, 8:01 p.m. Friday, April 2 in the 3400 block of Broadway Street; jailed.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (out-of-

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**REGISTERING NOW
FOR 2021-22**

**St. Stephens
Preschool PreK**
2177 1st Street (south entry)
Friday, April 9th • 3 PM – 5 PM
Saturday, April 10th • 9 AM – Noon
Tala Yencopal, Head Teacher
For more information call:
Tala - (541)519-3091
Email: talayencopal@hotmail.com

TEACHING
A work of heart