

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald April 15, 1971

Citing his inability to operate the city fire department with only 12 men, Baker fire chief John Everson, 63, this week submitted his resignation.

City manager Vern Jacobson accepted and said "I'm not going to beg or chase him. Anyone who wants to submit his resignation, I'll accept."

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 15, 1996

A video about the Oregon Trail that features the Bureau of Land Management's Oregon Trail Interpretive Center recently won an award.

The International Association of Audio Visual Communicators presented a "Cindy" award to the BLM and Trail Tenders Inc., the interpretive center's volunteer group.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 15, 2011

The day the last trace of ice disappears from Phillips Reservoir is for anglers a symbol of a fresh start.

For yellow perch it's just the end.

Of everything.

For the third straight April, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is letting the perch's penchant for procreation lead legions of the fish to their demise.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald April 16, 2020

Lisa Grigg's sons — ages 7, 5, and 2 — weren't too sure about leaving their stuffed animals outside for a Zoo Parade.

"But after I started setting up they got super excited and engaged in coming up with how to display them," Grigg said.

Her sons decided that Grippy Grabby the Octopus likes to play with other octopuses but always gets stuck, and that Bark the Dog loves to chase cats up trees. Roar the Dragon, on the other hand, loves to fly but is also lazy and loves to sleep.

"I loved watching my boys come up with ways to display and name their animals," Grigg said. "It gave us something to work on together and got us out of the house waving to friends."

Grigg and nearly 40 others in Baker City created a zoo display in their yards with stuffed animals on Friday, April 10.

The idea started with Karen Baxter, whose daughter-in-law was making a walk-by zoo on a Marine base in California.

Baxter printed a flyer with details and texted it to friends from her church. She encouraged participants to make signs describing the animals and display them in a cage (chair, laundry basket or other item).

"Then someone posted it on the Baker City Moms group and it just grew," Baxter said.

She made a list and map of the 37 participants. Zoo displays were up for most of the day as people drove by and honked their appreciation.

"My son loved it," Melody Hall said. "We all pitched in as a family and had fun with our zoo."

Hall's 8-year-old son, Sam, couldn't wait to see the other displays around town.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, April 12

3 — 9 — 10 — 19 — 34 — 35

Next jackpot: \$1.4 million

### POWERBALL, April 10

14 — 16 — 23 — 50 — 53 PB 3

Next jackpot: \$67 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, April 13

10 — 15 — 19 — 45 — 68 Mega 9

Next jackpot: \$240 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, April 12

9 — 13 — 49 — 57

### PICK 4, April 13

• 1 p.m.: 1 — 9 — 0 — 8

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 6 — 6 — 6

• 7 p.m.: 0 — 5 — 2 — 6

• 10 p.m.: 6 — 9 — 6 — 6

### LUCKY LINES, April 13

3-6-12-16-19-23-27-29

Next jackpot: \$18,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Barbecue beef ribs, scalloped potatoes, rolls, corn, sauerkraut salad, pudding
- **MONDAY (April 19):** Pulled pork sandwiches, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, ambrosia, cheesecake
- **TUESDAY (April 20):** Beef burgundy with fettuccine noodles, rolls, peas, macaroni salad, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY (April 21):** Ham and cheese sandwiches, turkey noodle soup, green salad, apple crisp
- **THURSDAY (April 22):** Baked ham, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, pea and onion salad, cookies

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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## SURGE

Continued from Page 1A

"This is a critical time, and we all play a role," Staten said. "We don't want to close down our businesses and restaurants."

Tuesday's total of 14 cases was the most in a single day since Dec. 28, when the county set a daily record with 25 new cases.

The second-highest daily total was 18 cases on Dec. 3.

There were 14 new cases on Jan. 12.

Between Jan. 16 and March 23 the county never had more than seven new cases in a single day.

But since March 24 the county has had four days with 10 or more cases, including 13 on April 2.

The county's daily average, which peaked in December at 6.3 per day, dropped to 3.4 per day in January and to 2.5 in February, before rising slightly to 3.1 per day in March.

For the first 13 days of April, the daily average was 5.2 cases.

### Vaccinations increase

The surge comes while Baker County continues to inoculate residents against COVID-19.

Staten said the Health Department does not have any evidence of "breakthrough" cases in the county — people who are infected even after they're fully vaccinated.

Although the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) doesn't list breakthrough cases by county, a recent report from the agency noted nine such cases in a region that includes Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Malheur counties.

As of Tuesday, 5,146 Baker County residents — 30.6% of the population — had been either partially (1,292, or 7.7%) or fully (3,854, or 22.9%) vaccinated, according to the OHA.

Staten said Oregon's decision announced Tuesday to

stop administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires only one dose unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, won't have a significant effect on vaccination rates in Baker County.

As of Tuesday, of the 8,521 vaccine doses administered in Baker County, 444 were Johnson & Johnson (about one half of 1%).

Baker County has used primarily the Moderna vaccine — 7,293 of the total doses (almost 86%).

### Positive case at Baker Middle School

The Baker School District announced on Tuesday that an "individual" at Baker Middle School had tested positive for COVID-19. The district was notified of the positive test on Monday.

The district's press release did not note whether the person is a student or employee.

District officials have made that distinction with past cases, but to protect individual privacy they don't intend to do so in the future, said Lindsey McDowell, the district's public information and communications coordinator.

Baker Middle School and Baker High School students, who had been attending in-person classes two days per week since Jan. 25, returned to a full four-day weekly schedule starting Monday, April 12.

"It's disappointing to have a positive COVID-19 case to report following the first day that secondary students in the district returned to full-time, in-person instruction," Superintendent Mark Witty said in the press release.

"We will continue to follow all health protocols in place to keep our community safe and healthy, and we hope that parents and students will help us by staying home when they are ill. These protocols, along with increased vaccinations locally, are the key to a return to normal."

Students in all grades

continue to attend in-person classes four days per week. Students also have the option of taking online classes.

Since July 2020, 14 school district employees and nine students have tested positive. That doesn't include this week's case at BMS.

According to both the school district and the Health Department, none of those students or employees was infected at school.

"I think the schools have done a good job of keeping community spread out of our schools," Staten said. "The protocols that our schools have followed have helped out immensely."

### Potential effects on restaurants, bars

Tyler Brown said the prospect of Baker County moving back to the high risk level is "incredibly frustrating."

Brown owns Barley Brown's Brew Pub and Tap House, separate businesses on Main Street in Baker City.

If the county jumps from the current lowest risk level to high risk on April 23, the indoor dining capacity for Brown's restaurants will drop from 50% to 25%.

The same change in capacity would apply to theaters, indoor fitness centers and gyms, and indoor swimming pools.

Brown believes the state's COVID-19 restrictions are unfair because they have outsized effects on a relatively narrow business sector.

For grocery and other retail stores, capacity drops from 75% at the lowest risk to 50% at high risk.

Moreover, Brown said that although he has asked Staten many times whether the county's contact tracing has linked COVID-19 infections to restaurants or bars, she has said no.

Staten, as mentioned earlier in the story, attributed many of the cases to social gatherings.

"Regardless of how people act elsewhere, we're the only

## COVID-19 vaccinations in Baker County, by age group

As of Tuesday, April 13, a total of 5,146 Baker County residents — 30.6% of the population — were either partially or fully vaccinated. The breakdown by age:

• **80 AND OLDER:** 708

• **75 TO 79:** 511

• **70 TO 74:** 795

• **65 TO 69:** 785

• **60 TO 64:** 566

• **50 TO 59:** 701

• **40 TO 49:** 448

• **30 TO 39:** 389

• **20 TO 29:** 206

• **19 AND YOUNGER:** 37

businesses that are most affected when the risk level changes," Brown said.

Although Brown said it has been beneficial to have indoor dining limits remain the same since Feb. 12, he only has to look into a storage building to recognize the reality.

That's where workers moved chairs and tables that were removed to comply with occupancy and spacing requirements.

"It's a constant reminder that even at low risk we're only partially in business," Brown said.

## OBITUARY

### Louetta Stutzman

Halfway, 1928-2021

Louetta Stutzman, 92, of Halfway, died on April 10, 2021, at Boise.

A service will take place at a later date at the Filer Cemetery in Filer, Idaho.

Louetta Faye Phinney was born on Dec. 5, 1928, at Appleton City, Missouri, to Ira Phinney and Freeda Murrow. Louetta had no siblings, but had many cousins and aunts, and she loved it when they got together on her grandparents' farm. At the age of nine, Louetta's mother passed away. Since her father had to travel for work, Louetta lived on her grandparents' farm, and attended a small country school. A matter of fact, the school was so small that Louetta would always laugh and say "I was related to all my classmates one way or another."

At the age of 14, Louetta moved back to Appleton City and continued her education. She would later receive her diploma at the Appleton High

School. After finishing her education, Louetta moved to Oklahoma, and stayed there for a while and worked as a waitress. After Oklahoma, Louetta decided to move to Idaho where her father lived.

While in Idaho, Louetta met Glenn Stutzman. On Oct. 6, 1951, five weeks after meeting each other, Louetta and Glenn married. When people would ask Louetta why they married so fast, she would say, "Glenn's birthday was in October, and he didn't want to be another year older without being married to me." Soon after, they welcomed their first son, Ira Stutzman, in July 1952. Their family would later be completed with the arrival of their second son, Rodney Stutzman, in March 1956.

Louetta and Glenn worked hard and taught their boys the quality of having a good work ethic and helping others out when needed.

After their retirement, they moved to Gibsonville, Idaho. During this time, they loved to travel, play card games, and most of all be with their family. They would stay in Gibsonville and enjoy the beautiful mountain town,

until 2004 when they moved to Halfway to be closer to their son Ira and his family.

From the beginning, Louetta made friends in Halfway. She worked at Jacobs Dream, a local shop, and would always greet customers with a friendly and helpful smile. Then again if she had to, she could put you in your place with that spunky attitude she had. She also did activities around town whether it be volunteering or going to lunch with her friends. She was an amazing cook, quilter, crocheter, and sewer.

She continued to live in Halfway after Glenn's death in 2011. She was always involved in her great-grandchildren's lives. She could be in the stands cheering for them during a sporting event or teaching them how to cook. Whatever it was, she was there and made it known to them how much she loved and cared for all of them. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She will be missed every day, but will forever be in our hearts.

Louetta is survived by her sons, Ira (Sharon) Stutzman,

and Rod (Liz) Stutzman; her grandchildren, Kim (Casey) Stutzman-Rowen, Matt (Caroline) Stutzman, Kara (Jamie) Burton, and Elisha Stutzman; and her great-grandchildren, Kerri, Kadie, and Kira Stutzman-Rowen, Asher Burton, and Oliver Stutzman.

We love you Grandma, and we know you are watching over us, her family said.

Louetta was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn; her mother, Freeda, and her father, Ira.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Louetta, the family suggests the Halfway-Oxbow Ambulance Service through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834.

Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).



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### DEATHS

**Michael Ralph Beam:** 65, of Baker City, died April 11, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho. A memorial service will take place later, the date and time will be announced soon. Memorial contributions can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Michael's family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Arlene Mae Schoorl:** There will be a public celebration of Arlene's life, with a potluck, on Saturday, April 24, from 10:30

### NEWS OF RECORD

a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Unity Community Hall. To offer online condolences, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com)

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations PROBATION VIOLATION** (Union County Parole and Probation detainer): Angela Renee Sanders, 34, La Grande, 11:50 a.m. Tuesday, April 13 in the 3600 block of Midway Drive; jailed.

### Baker County Sheriff's Office

PAROLE VIOLATION: Ian Eugene Eastland, 32, Baker City, 9:16 p.m. Tuesday, April 13 at the Sheriff's Office; jailed.

### Oregon State Police

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Zack Sperl, 39, Baker City, 12:08 a.m. Wednesday, April 13 at Campbell and Sixth streets; cited and released.

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