

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. To comply with the Governor's order for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings will be streamed live. Due to occupancy limitations, the public is encouraged to attend the meetings by using the Zoom link provided on the County's website <https://www.bakercounty.org/online/meetings.html>.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the *Democrat-Herald*
May 3, 1971

The Baker Bulldog track team travelled to Pendleton Friday and whipped the Buckaroos in a dual meet, 79-57, grabbing firsts in nine of 16 events and breaking one school record in the process.

Mike Bennett ran the high hurdles in 14.8 seconds for the new school record and picked up first places in the high jump and low hurdles.

25 YEARS AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
May 3, 1996

Not long after the third anniversary of their August 1993 purchase of the Geiser Grand Hotel, Dwight and Barbara Sidway plan to open the renovated three-story structure to overnight visitors.

The Sidways' schedule calls for an opening in late summer or early fall, said July Daly, director of sales and purchasing for Sidway Investment Corp.

10 YEARS AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
May 4, 2011

The deep snow lingering in the mountains of Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho is the reason Brownlee Reservoir, which divides the two states, looks so shrunken these days.

The reservoir, about 40 miles east of Baker City, is 60 feet below full.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the *Baker City Herald*
May 5, 2020

A bacterial illness has spread through Baker County's biggest herd of bighorn sheep, but a state wildlife biologist said it won't be clear until later this year how severe the death toll is likely to be.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) employees continue to monitor sheep in the Lookout Mountain unit in eastern Baker County, said Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the agency's Baker City office.

Ratliff said he and other biologists have seen bighorns coughing — something the sheep rarely do unless they're suffering from pneumonia — throughout the range of the Lookout Mountain herd.

With close to 400 sheep, it's the largest herd of Rocky Mountain bighorns in Oregon.

The state also is home to California bighorns, mostly in the central and southeast parts of the state. Baker County has a herd of California bighorns in the Burnt River Canyon between Durkee and Bridgeport.

Until this winter the Lookout Mountain herd had apparently been healthy.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, May 1

27 — 34 — 35 — 39 — 40 — 42
Next jackpot: \$2.2 million

POWERBALL, May 1

35 — 36 — 47 — 61 — 63 PB 3
Next jackpot: \$142 million

MEGA MILLIONS, April 30

8 — 19 — 26 — 48 — 49 Mega 5
Next jackpot: \$345 million

WIN FOR LIFE, May 1

8 — 28 — 33 — 54
PICK 4, May 2

• 1 p.m.: 8 — 5 — 2 — 0

• 4 p.m.: 3 — 6 — 8 — 6

• 7 p.m.: 4 — 1 — 0 — 1

• 10 p.m.: 1 — 4 — 2 — 5

LUCKY LINES, May 2

3-6-10-15-19-21-25-29

Next jackpot: \$19,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Salisbury steak, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, coleslaw, pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Liver and onions, baked potatoes, corn, beet-and-onion salad, rolls, tapioca pudding
- **FRIDAY:** Baked ham, candied yams, mixed vegetables, green salad, rolls, tapioca pudding
- **MONDAY (May 10):** Meatloaf, red potatoes, mixed vegetables, coleslaw, rolls, apple crisp
- **TUESDAY (May 11):** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with country gravy, corn, biscuits, Jell-O and cottage cheese 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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8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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OREGON TRAIL

Continued from Page 1A

If an agreement is reached, the BLM would lease 2,500 square feet at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St. in Baker City. The leased area would include the Adler Room, located just inside the entrance, as well as the south end of the second-floor ballroom.

The temporary Oregon Trail exhibit would focus on the section of trail between Farewell Bend and the Blue Mountain Pass.

"It will be a smaller footprint, but the quality of exhibits will be equal to what we have at the center," said Wayne Monger, incoming Vale BLM district manager.

The trail center is scheduled to close in the spring of 2022 for a "sustainability retrofit" that includes new energy-efficient siding, roofing, insulation and HVAC. Construction is slated to start March 1, 2022, and the center will be closed a month or more before that to accommodate the move.

The center will be closed to the public for about two years during the construction. Although the driveways and trail loop around the center will be restricted to construction traffic, the lower trails and Oregon Trail Ruts Access



Baker County Heritage Museum/Contributed Photo

Some exhibits from the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center could be moved temporarily to the Baker Heritage Museum next year when the Center is closed for a major renovation project that will take more than two years.

"We see this as an opportunity to revitalize our relationship with NHOTIC and promote Eastern Oregon's rich heritage together."

— Cammy Warner, Baker Heritage Museum Commission

will be accessible from Highway 86.

As for the agreement, Oregon-Washington BLM State Director Barry Bushue has "authorized the submission of a formal proposal to the

BLM's national leasing office in Denver."

The next steps, according to the press release, are "an analysis of the proposal, including a local market assessment and potential improvement costs,

among other things."

"We see this as an opportunity to revitalize our relationship with NHOTIC and promote Eastern Oregon's rich heritage together," said Cammy Warner, Baker Heritage Museum Commission Chair.

Center staff would offer a regular schedule of interpretive presentations at the museum, and Baker City has agreed to allow NHOTIC to offer programs and Saturday evening performances at Geiser-Pollman Park.

The Saturday performances will begin this summer with a complete schedule to be announced soon. The press releases states that the concerts will be "a permanent summer program no matter the outcome of the co-location negotiations."

Summer 2021

Center hours this summer will depend on the current health guidelines.

The annual Memorial Day wagon encampment is still planned for May 29 and May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. Hank Cramer will be performing live music throughout the weekend, and be featured at the Saturday evening concert at the park.

For updates, visit the website www.oregontrail.blm.gov.

OBITUARY

Walter Wood Jr.

Baker City, 1947-2021

Walter Otis Wood Jr., 74, of Baker City, lost his long battle against cancer on April 28, 2021, at St. Luke's Medical Center in Boise.

Interment will be at the Shipman Cemetery in Illinois next to his parents with a graveside service. A memorial celebration of his life will take place in Baker County at a location and time to be determined, and anyone who wishes to attend will be welcomed.

Walt was born on Jan. 9, 1947, at Alton, Illinois, the only child of Walter and Stella Wood of Shipman, Illinois. He attended local grade school and Southwestern High School making many lifelong friends. He delighted in working on local farms, mowing and cleaning in the town cemetery (his father was the town's mayor), hunting raccoons at night and squirrels during the days in the woods and growing up in a caring, Christian community of family and friends.

Walt's dearest wish was to be a farmer, but when his grandmother sold the family farm, he turned to forestry as the closest substitute and attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, earning a bachelor's degree in forestry and a master's in Silviculture in 1972. He worked his way through college as a teaching assistant, working in the janitorial service, cutting cordwood for charcoal kilns, tree climbing for Davey Tree Service in the St. Louis area and as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in Arizona and California.

It was that first summer, while working for the Klamath National Forest Siskiyou County, California, that he

met Christina Crawford of Fort Jones, California. The two shared interests in astronomy, natural history and sciences, politics, history, travel and especially their shared sense of humor. They married in Reno, Nevada, on June 23, 1973, and shared their lives together for the next 48 years. The couple lived briefly in Fredonia, Arizona, Kanab, Utah, and Middletown, Pennsylvania, before settling in Oregon. In Pennsylvania, Walt supervised the tree nursery program for the state's Bureau of State Parks and its gypsy moth spray program. Because of the difficulty of reaching some areas, he began his interests in helicopters and whitewater rafting, using both modes of travel to inspect and treat barely accessible areas of the state.

In 1974, the couple transferred to Roseburg and Walt began his career for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management for the next 32 years as a forester covering nearly every aspect of timber and forestry management. In 1993 he transferred to the Baker City office of BLM until his retirement. During his years in service he was trained as a first responder medical technician, helicopter foreman, explosives handler, truck driver, wildland firefighter, ATV safety officer and trainer, surveyor, and investigator. He was very proud of his work in timber genetics and tree stand improvement and his work with experimental compressed air foam systems used in wildlands fire control. During his career he used horses, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, helicopters, airplanes, skis, snowshoes, snowmobiles, boats, rafts and especially shank's mare to cover thousands of miles in the outdoors in pursuit of his calling. It was in nature he found his love and life's work.

In 1993 and 2002, Walt and Christina together traveled to the People's Re-

public of China to adopt two little girls, Lillian (Tagg) Wood Holmes and Anna (Mei). Along the way Walt often mentored other young people in the communities in which he lived. He was also very interested in working with animals and enjoyed the rescue and care of dogs.

After his retirement, Walt worked briefly as a fence builder and renewed his interest in the shooting sports. For all his hunting and fishing time, he only harvested one deer in his life, shooting it off the back porch of his home in the Roseburg area. He often returned from hunting and fishing trips with excuses like too far away, poor visibility, unsure of the target and the fish just weren't biting, when family and friends knew the real reason was he enjoyed the outdoors so much more than the taking of his limit.

Walt and Christina planned to move into a new phase of their lives together this year with selling their longtime home in Baker City and moving to property in Alton, Missouri. But his health failing, he contracted pneumonia and passed away within 24 hours of his admission to the hospital with Christina at his side.

Walt is survived by his wife and daughters, Tagg and her husband, Shane, and Mei.

He was preceded in death by his parents; all of his aunts and uncles; and some of his cousins.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Baker High School Trap Club through the Powder River Sportsmen's Club to encourage the safe training and education of the new generation of shooters, both male and female. Any contributions may be sent to or hand delivered to Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place Street, Baker City, OR 97814.

To offer online condolences to Walter's family, go to www.coletributecenter.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
COMPUTER CRIME, FRAUDULENT USE OF A CREDIT CARD: James Dewayne Reedy, 54, Baker City, 2:01 p.m. Sunday, May 2 at 1 Sunridge Lane; jailed.
SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Adrienna Dione

Morris, 23, Baker City, 2:25 p.m. Saturday, May 1 at Ash Street and Valley Avenue; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR, PROBATION VIOLATION (Umatilla County warrants): Jessica Diane Stricker, 43, Pendleton, 5:33 a.m. Saturday, May 1 in the 500 block of Church Street; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker

County Circuit Court warrant): Brandon Douglas Culbertson, 33, 2:26 p.m. Friday, April 30 at 10th and C streets; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING, MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL:

Zachary John Thomas Christman, 18, Baker City, 7:16 p.m. Sunday, May 2 at Highway 30 and Imnaha Road; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Brian Scott Griffin, 37, Baker City, 2:19 p.m. Saturday, May 1 at Broadway and 10th streets; cited and released.

Spring is here
for ranchers...
Please watch
for animals!



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