

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 13, 1971

A Baker businessman whose daily business depends on prompt, efficient mail delivery said today the post office will suffer a tremendous loss of business after the increased postal rates take effect Sunday.

Leo Adler says publishers and reshippers are dissatisfied at the way the post office has increased rates without conducting hearings where they would be able to testify in their behalf.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 13, 1996

Baker tuned up for the District 7-3A track meet by placing first and second at the Baker Invitational Friday at Baker High School.

Baker won the girls' meet and placed second in the boys' meet. The other teams at the invitational were La Grande, Ontario and Pendleton.

The Bulldogs earned six first place finishes in the girls' meet.

Angie Henes was a double winner in the two hurdle events. Sarah Cotton was also a double winner, in the shot and discus.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 13, 2011

Ever wish, when you look at a photograph of Baker City's Main Street in the 1930s, that you could step into that scene and truly understand what life was like?

Or you could just ask Chet Smith.

He can tell you the names of the businesses, who ran them and what they sold.

He'll even rattle off the addresses.

He was there, and in his 100 years he's witnessed a lot in Baker City.

Smith was born May 10, 1911, in a house on 10th Street.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 14, 2020

Annie Franks had a tree problem.

Actually she had 30,000 tree problems.

The trouble wasn't the trees themselves.

The 30,000 tamarack (western larch) seedlings arrived at the BLM's Baker Field Office as scheduled on April 8, packed in a refrigerated truck to protect their delicate bare roots.

Franks' dilemma was that she didn't have anybody to plant the trees on about 600 acres burned during the Cornet-Windy Ridge fire south of Baker City in August 2015.

The coronavirus pandemic was at the root of the situation.

Just a few hours after the truck delivered the tamarack seedlings, Franks, a forestry technician, learned that the BLM, which had planned to award a contract to a tree-planting contractor later that day, would not be doing so.

The BLM couldn't guarantee housing, meals and other accommodations for the crew of 10 to 15 planters, said Larisa Bogardus, public affairs officer for the BLM's Vale District.

In addition, Baker County officials had asked agencies to avoid bringing in large groups of contractors from outside the county during the pandemic, Bogardus said.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, May 10

23 — 35 — 40 — 44 — 46 — 47

Next jackpot: \$2.6 million

### POWERBALL, May 8

12 — 17 — 20 — 21 — 26 PB 8

Next jackpot: \$168 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, May 10

7 — 8 — 20 — 36 — 39 Mega 22

Next jackpot: \$430 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, May 10

18 — 24 — 53 — 54

### PICK 4, May 11

• 1 p.m.: 3 — 1 — 7 — 1

• 4 p.m.: 2 — 7 — 0 — 3

• 7 p.m.: 6 — 7 — 3 — 3

• 10 p.m.: 6 — 8 — 8 — 4

### LUCKY LINES, May 11

1-7-11-13-20-21-25-30

Next jackpot: \$28,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Barbecued pork ribs, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, green salad, cherry cheesecake
- **MONDAY (May 17):** Pork roast, red potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit, cookies
- **TUESDAY (May 18):** Chicken ala king over a biscuit, carrots, broccoli-bacon salad, lemon squares
- **WEDNESDAY (May 19):** Baked ziti, zucchini, breadsticks, Italian pasta, cinnamon rolls
- **THURSDAY (May 20):** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, broccoli, rolls, potato salad, ice cream

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

1668 Resort St.

Open Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673  
Fax: 541-833-6414

### Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419  
Serving Baker County since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 1668 Resort St. (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are \$10.75 for print only. Digital-only rates are \$8.25.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Copyright © 2021

# County vaccination rate falls short of new threshold governor announced

By Jayson Jacoby  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday, May 11 that counties can qualify to ease COVID-19 restrictions on businesses starting next week if they vaccinate enough residents, but Baker County is far short of the threshold.

Brown said counties that have vaccinated at least 65% of their residents 16 and older can move to the lowest of the four risk levels May 21.

But as of Wednesday, May 12, just 40.9% of Baker County residents in that age range had been fully or partially vaccinated.

To reach the 65% level, another 3,425 Baker County residents would need to be vaccinated.

During the past week, however, the county has averaged just 63 doses administered per day, and some of those were second doses (those people, who have already had their first dose, have already been counted toward the 65% threshold).

Brown also said she would lift nearly all COVID-19 restrictions statewide when more than 70% of residents aged 16 and older have received at least a first dose of vaccine. As of Wednesday the

statewide vaccination rate among those 16 and older was 56.6%.

Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said the department has ample vaccine doses available — 1,200 first doses and 500 second doses of the Moderna vaccine as of Wednesday.

What the department doesn't have is much demand for those doses, Staten said.

"If we need to do large vaccine clinics again, we'll do that," she said.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said that although the vaccina-

tion rate doesn't appear to offer the county a path to the lowest risk level, the county can also move to that level if its case totals dip. The county will remain at the current high risk level for at least one more week, through May 20.

Staten said she's "cautiously optimistic" about the county's trend. During the first 11 days of May the county had 30 new cases, compared with 60 cases for the final 11 days of April.

If that trend continues for the next several days, the county could potentially drop to the moderate or lowest risk level on May 21.

## VACCINE

Continued from Page 1A

She had her first shot on April 23.

But it wasn't quite the simple process Sarah had expected.

It turned out that Idaho wasn't inoculating people from out of state.

Sarah said officials at the vaccination site allowed her to use a relative's Idaho address on her form.

She'll return to Meridian this Saturday, May 15, for her second dose.

Sarah said it will be a "huge relief" to be fully vaccinated.

"It is nice that I have much less chance of getting (COVID-19)," she said.

Oregon approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine for 16- and 17-year-olds starting April 19.

But because the vaccine must be stored at much colder temperatures than the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, Pfizer doses aren't as readily available in Baker County and much of rural Oregon, where health departments generally lack freezers that can reach the required temperature.

Of the 10,242 vaccine doses administered in Baker City, less than 1% — 902 — were Pfizer, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Sarah said she started reading about COVID-19 vaccines long before she became eligible.

She said she quickly became convinced that the vaccines, though they were developed more rapidly than previous types, were "well-researched" and were both safe and effective.

"I was sure I was going to get (the vaccine)," Sarah said. "It wasn't something I was afraid to do."

She said her arm was a bit sore after her first dose, and she was slightly fatigued, but she had no other side effects.

Although under Oregon law minors as young as 15 can have certain medical procedures — including vaccinations — without parental approval, Sarah discussed the COVID-19 vaccine with her parents.

"Sarah took it upon herself," Faith Plummer said. "We really support her decision. It's important."

In common with her BHS classmates, Sarah had online classes for the spring 2020 semester and for the early part of the current school year.

BHS students returned to classes for one day per week on Nov. 9, 2020, and for two days per week starting Jan. 25, 2020. High schoolers have had the op-



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Sarah Plummer, a junior at Baker High School, is a varsity tennis player. She's playing here against a La Grande opponent on April 19.

tion of in-person classes on their regular four-day weekly schedule since April 12.

"School has been very difficult this year," Sarah said.

Although Baker County Health Department officials have said there's no evidence that COVID-19 has spread in any schools, more than 50 students and staff across the district have tested positive, requiring that they quarantine at home for around two weeks. Some other students, who didn't test positive but were close contacts with a classmate who did, also have had to take online classes from home temporarily.

Sarah said it has been "stressful" to wonder whether she would have to quarantine due to being a close contact.

She worried about losing not only time in classrooms, but also varsity tennis matches she's enjoyed this spring.

Once Sarah has had her second shot and is fully vaccinated, she wouldn't have to quarantine even if contact tracing identifies her as a close contact with someone who tested positive.

Although people 60 and older are vastly more likely to have severe symptoms

if they're infected, Sarah said she knows local teenagers who have had "serious complications" after testing positive.

"I know there is a risk," she said.

Sarah said she was eager to be vaccinated both to protect herself and to potentially prevent herself from unknowingly spreading the virus if, as is common with younger people, she was infected but didn't have any symptoms.

Sarah said she knows just a handful of classmates who have been vaccinated.

"I think I'm kind of in a minority of people in my age group who got it early," she said.

Sarah said she's talked with other teenagers who do plan to be vaccinated.

But many others said they definitely won't be inoculated.

"That's frustrating to me," Sarah said.

The Baker County Health Department administered first doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 27 BHS students at the school-based health clinic last week.

As of Wednesday, a total of 88 Baker County residents, ages 16 to 19, had been partially or fully vaccinated.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Dick Harrington:** 80, formerly of Halfway, died May 12, 2021, at St. Charles Regional Medical Center in Bend. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Odett L. Patterson:** 73, of Baker City, died May 6, at Settler's Park. At her request, cremation took place with internment at Mount Hope Cemetery. Coles Tribute was in charge of arrangements. To leave an online condolence for Odett's family, go to [www.colestributecenter.com](http://www.colestributecenter.com).

### FUNERALS PENDING

**John Randall:** Celebration of his life will take place on Sunday, May 30 at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Grange Park in Richland, with food and beverages following. Those who would like to make a donation in John's memory may do so to the Hilary Bonn Benevolence Fund, or the charity of one's choice, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Johnnie Marvin Horn:** Celebration of his life will take place Friday, May 14 at 2 p.m. at

the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. A committal service will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery with military honors provided by the U.S. Air Force Funeral Honors Team. A potluck-style reception will follow at the Harvest Church. Memorial contributions in Johnnie's honor can be made to Disabled American Veterans, the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
CONTEMPT OF COURT, POSSESSION OF VIOLATION AMOUNT OF METHAMPHETAMINE: Justin Michael Shelton, 31, Baker City, 1:47 p.m. Monday, May 10 at Valley Avenue and Resort Street; jailed.  
SECOND-DEGREE ASSAULT: Shawna Lynn Mathis, 38, Baker City, 9:20 a.m. Monday, May 10 at the 2100 block of Fifth Street; jailed.

### Baker County Sheriff

**FAILURE TO APPEAR** (Two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Jonathon Dwayne Hughes, 32, Baker City, 4:05 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.

**PAROLE VIOLATION:** Logan Gardner Nielson, 37, Baker City,

2:21 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 in the 2300 block of Fifth Street; jailed.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT** (Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Juan Pablo Burgos, 59, Baker City, 10:54 a.m. Monday, May 10 at the Baker County Jail, where he was already incarcerated on other charges.

## Rachel Pregnancy Center

2192 Court Avenue, Baker City • 541-523-5357

### Services Provided:

Free Pregnancy Tests  
Referrals for Free Ultrasounds  
Pregnancy Options Counseling  
Adoption Referrals  
Prenatal, Infant Care & Parenting Classes  
Maternity & Baby Clothing  
Post Abortion Recovery

Helping women & men in an unplanned pregnancy.

All services free & confidential.

A resource center for families

Open Tues - Thurs  
10 AM - 5 PM  
(closed for lunch)

**GRUMPY'S Repair Trucks Inc.** "You'll love the work we do. I guarantee it." - JR

REPAIR TRUCKS  
541-523-3200

ASE CERTIFIED

225 H Street • East of I-84 • 541-523-3200 • grumpysrepair.com