

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 17, 1971

Pending improvement in plywood prices, the Ellingson Timber Company's plywood operation will be closed down Friday afternoon, Sig Ellingson, general manager, announced this morning.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 17, 1996

The Baker County Budget Board approved a balanced \$5.3 million 1996-97 general fund budget and a \$1.8 million road fund budget following deliberations Monday at the Baker County Courthouse.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 18, 2011

George Hardy has watched better than three-quarters of a century's worth of spring runoffs in Baker County's Burnt River country, but he's rarely seen one as soggy as the current version.

Maybe never, come to that.

"It's really amazing," Hardy, 82, said on Monday in a telephone interview from his home along the Burnt River's middle fork northwest of Unity.

"The water's as high as I've seen it in a long time, maybe ever."

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 19, 2020

A brief but potent storm spawned a wind gust that snapped the trunk of a mature maple tree in Geiser-Pollman Park Sunday afternoon.

The tempest also cracked branches in some other trees in the city's biggest park, and toppled at least a few other trees, or large limbs, elsewhere in town.

Joyce Bornstedt, the technical administrative supervisor for the city's public works department, said she was surprised at the extent of damage to trees at the park.

The storm didn't last long, and Bornstedt said the winds didn't seem to her particularly powerful.

But at least one gust proved too much for the maple near the south edge of Geiser-Pollman Park, just north of Madison Street.

The tree's trunk snapped about 12 feet above the ground.

Bornstedt said the maple, though fully leafed out, showed signs of "considerable rot" in its heartwood.

When she got the phone call about wind damage in the park she initially hoped the storm might have given the city an assist.

Bornstedt said the city's Tree Board has authorized the removal of a box elder tree that is also rotting.

The box elder is inside the footprint of the new all-abilities playground the city is building.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, May 15

15 — 28 — 31 — 37 — 40 — 47

Next jackpot: \$2.8 million

POWERBALL, May 15

4 — 10 — 37 — 39 — 69 PB 24

Next jackpot: \$201 million

MEGA MILLIONS, May 14

3 — 18 — 41 — 44 — 68 Mega 3

Next jackpot: \$468 million

WIN FOR LIFE, May 15

33 — 47 — 62 — 65

PICK 4, May 16

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 3 — 9 — 8

• 4 p.m.: 1 — 8 — 5 — 3

• 7 p.m.: 5 — 7 — 7 — 3

• 10 p.m.: 7 — 4 — 0 — 9

LUCKY LINES, May 16

3-8-11-16-17-21-25-30

Next jackpot: \$33,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Baked ziti, zucchini, breadsticks, Italian pasta, cinnamon rolls
- **THURSDAY:** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, broccoli, rolls, potato salad, ice cream
- **FRIDAY:** Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, biscuits, capri vegetables, beet-and-onion salad, peach crisp
- **MONDAY (May 24):** Chicken breasts stuffed with cheddar broccoli, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, sorbet
- **TUESDAY (May 25):** Barbecued chicken legs and thighs, baked beans, rolls, corn, coleslaw, brownies

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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BLM's Vale District has new manager

VALE — The Bureau of Land Management has named Wayne Monger as the new manager of the agency's Vale District replacing Don Gonzalez, who retired in December 2020 after 14 years in the role. "Wayne is committed to cross-program collaboration with external and internal customers and has managed several challenging resource issues for the BLM," said Barry Bushue, BLM Oregon-Washington state director.

The Vale District includes tens of thousands of acres of public land in Baker County.

Most recently, Monger worked as deputy district manager of the BLM Roseburg District in Western Oregon, where he managed district operations, resources, and administration. Monger also has extensive experience working in high desert environments, due to his previous work at the St. George Field Office in the Color Country District in Utah and his work in the Arizona Strip District in Arizona.



Monger

"I am humbled to serve and committed to maintaining the successful team that exists at the Vale District," Monger said. "I look forward to working with my team on the challenges ahead and exploring innovative solutions to accomplish our mission."

In addition to eight years with the military, Monger's public service career includes law enforcement, wilderness, recreation, timber, fire suppression, fuels reduction, rangeland management, safety, and monument management for the BLM and the National Park Service.

FAMILIES

Continued from Page 1A

In March, there were 40 children in certified foster homes across Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

"Baker County has a high rate of abuse and neglect, per capita, compared to other places," Blessing said.

In Oregon, the DHS Child Welfare Director Rebecca Jones Gaston has released a "Vision for Transformation."

The document is about 25 pages and can be found online at www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CWTransformation/Pages/index.aspx.

Blessing points to the highlights of the transformation document, which include the goal of preserving families and keeping children in their home as long as it is safe.

When children can't remain at home, the first step is to seek placement with other relatives.

In District 13, Blessing said "the majority of children in foster care are placed with family."

If blood-related family can't be located, the next step is to find extended close friends who already have a relationship with the child or children.

"It's really important that we do everything we can to maintain a child's connection to their family, culture and community," she said. "That's why we're really trying to place children with people they know and have relationships with."

It's not always possible to place children with family or

friends. In those cases, DHS relies on general application resource families.

Oregon DHS hired employees this year to work on recruitment and retention of foster families.

"We still have a need for those times when we can't find family or friends who are able to be a resource for the child and their family," Blessing said.

When a child is placed with a general resource family, Blessing said the caseworker continues to search for a potential placement with family or friends.

Children are kept in their home community when possible.

"So their school remains the same and their social connections remain the same so that they can keep their connections to their culture and community," Blessing said.

However, different school districts are a challenge. To help, she said more general application families are needed in all three counties.

Other aspects of the Vision for Transformation are to limit time children spend in the foster care system, provide support to families, and ensure children are placed in "culturally appropriate homes."

Pandemic problems

A challenge to resource families is finding child care for foster children when both parents are working. Blessing said Baker, Union and Wallowa counties are considered "child care deserts," which means there are too few child

care spots available for the number of kids who need them.

The COVID-19 pandemic added to the challenge. In addition to the lack of child care, parents also faced education moving to an online platform.

"That's been a real hardship," Blessing said.

The pandemic necessitated special guidelines for children in foster care. For example, if a resource family traveled out of state, their foster child could not go with them and instead went to respite care. After returning, the family had to quarantine before the child returned.

Visitations with birth parents changed, too — some were virtual, and some were in-person with face coverings.

"It's posed another layer of challenges," Blessing said of the pandemic. "It has undoubtedly been an extra stressor on foster families."

Recruitment

Although the goal is to place children with family or close friends when possible, general application families are still necessary.

Blessing said homes are especially needed for teenagers with high needs.

"Certifiers spend a lot of time to figure out who is going to be a good match to support a child and their individual needs," Blessing said.

She said DHS is also recruiting families who would welcome older children.

"We have recruitment needs around older children," she said. "A lot of families who come forward want to support

younger children and that's great. But we also need people to step up to provide a loving and supportive environment to older children and teenagers."

Teenagers, she said, need a caring home, especially one that helps prepare them for adulthood.

Another need is to have certified families for children who identify as LGBTQIA+.

"Sometimes a child's sexual orientation or gender identity are the very thing that brings them into care," she said. "It's really important that we're able to find resource families that will accept and support LGBTQIA+ children in our community."

Families interested in learning more about foster care can go to everychildoregon.org. Inquiries through that site also alert DHS staff.

"You can learn more about foster care, and get your questions answered," Blessing said.

Those not quite ready to foster children can volunteer in other capacities.

"What we're finding is people who start in the exploring stage, many of those families eventually become certified."

DHS "champions" like Blessing are working to recruit and retain foster families.

The goal, she said, is to have enough families for "good placement matching."

"So it's a good fit for everyone," she said.

Next in the series: Meet families who foster children in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

OBITUARY

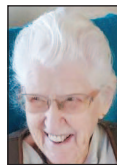
Reva Calhoun

Baker City, 1934-2021

Reva Joy Calhoun, 87, of Baker City, died April 9, 2021, at her home.

A wake in memory of Reva will take place Saturday, May 29 at 1 p.m. at her home, 3525 Kirkway Drive. Please bring your favorite dish and memories to share.

Reva was born on Jan. 16, 1934, at North Powder to Henry and Tressie (Smith) McClure. She attended North Powder High School and graduated in 1951. Reva married Drexel "Rex" Calhoun at Vancouver,



Reva Calhoun

Washington, on Sept. 27, 1952. They were married for 63 years before Rex passed away in 2015.

She worked for Ma Bell in Seattle, and at the Jantzen swimsuit factory. Reva and Rex owned ACE Nursery for 27 years after moving to Baker.

Gardening, learning, taking care of animals and children were all things Reva enjoyed. Reva studied religion, and this resulted in her becoming an ordained minister. She held a deep faith in what she believed.

Reva is survived by her sister, Maizie Marquez of Savanna, Illinois; her brother, Arnold (Sheila) McClure of Boardman; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces

and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by several stepgrandchildren and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Drexel Calhoun; her parents, Henry and Tressie McClure; her brother, Delmer McClure; her sister, Phyllis Hansen; and her beloved son, Jo Calhoun.

Memorial contributions in honor of Reva can be made to Heart 'N Home Hospice through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family and close friends of Reva, go to www.grayswestco.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Gorden Lee Atkins: 74, of Unity, died May 15, 2021. Arrangements are under the direction of the Nampa Funeral Home, Yraguen Chapel.

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.

Coy Riggs: Graveside service with military honors will be Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Coy, the family suggests Heart 'N Home Hospice 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.

Patricia 'Patty' Moore: Graveside service Saturday, May 22 at 2 p.m. at the Canyon City Cemetery in John Day. A

potluck reception will follow at the Holiday Park. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Patty, the family suggests "Hope For Paws" 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.

Marie Yvonne Marks: Celebration of life barbecue will take place Saturday, May 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the home of Joanne and Kody Hufford, 47862 Anthony Lakes Highway, North Powder. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations in her memory be made to the North Powder Charter School through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrants): Alex Cooper Horn, 25, 3:09 p.m. Saturday, May 15 at 1 Sunridge

Lane; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): John Marsik Guthrie Jr., 49, 2:38 p.m. Saturday, May 15 in the 1100 block of Washington Avenue; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR, CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Chuck

Wayne Briney, 28, 1:34 p.m. Saturday, May 15 at Campbell Street and Interstate 84; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Alexandra Joyce Potter, 26, Baker City, 2:43 a.m. Saturday, May 15 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

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