

CHILDREN

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Wallowa, Union and Baker counties are part of DHS District 13. Every Child Northeast Oregon, with Erin Taggart as program director, started serving this area in March 2020.

The goals of Every Child include foster family recruitment, and working in the communities to support volunteer projects.

One project is called "My Neighbor." Taggart said this provides a place for caseworkers, foster parents, children and CASAs to specify a need, such as bunk beds, clothing, shoes, or sports clothes.

Community members who

register with "My Neighbor" can log in and find needs to fulfill.

A recent project by Every Child updated DHS visitation rooms with new furniture.

"To make it a little more home-like," Taggart said.

Every Child, she said, offers community engagement either in a financial way by accepting donations, or with volunteer opportunities. Both ways offer education and insight on foster care.

"The idea is that everyone can do something. And with every engagement we hope they learn more about fostering," she said.

Every Child also provides a portal for those who are interested in learning more

about becoming a foster parent.

To learn more about Every Child, go to everychildneoregon.org. There is also a Facebook page.

CASA

CASA of Eastern Oregon covers Baker and Union counties. It is led by Mary Collard. Taggart is program director of Wallowa County's CASA program.

CASA stands for Court-Appointed Special Advocate. It is a nonprofit program mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Collard explains CASA like this: "to recruit, train and support citizens to advocate for the best interests of children who have been abused and neglected who are in the dependency court system and experiencing foster care."

When a judge appoints the CASA program to a child's case, a CASA volunteer is matched to that child (or children, in the case of siblings).

The advocate then researches the case information, gets to know the child, and makes connections with all people in the child's life, including teachers and doctors.

"Helping the judge having eyes and ears on the child," Collard said.

The monthly time commitment averages between two and 15 hours.

The CASA then "makes a recommendation to the judge regarding the best interests of the child," Collard said.

In simple terms, the CASA represents what the child needs. By contrast, Collard said, an attorney represents what the child wants.

CASA volunteers complete a 30-hour national curriculum. The next training, offered through Zoom, begins June 1 and is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for four weeks.

For more information, send an email to info@casaeo.org or apply for the training on casaeo.org.

District 13 — which includes Baker, Union and Wallowa counties — currently has a total of 42 CASAs.

Collard said more trained advocates are needed because there is always a list of children waiting for a CASA in Baker and Union counties.

"Our goal is to always have trained advocates ready and waiting," she said.

In small towns, it's sometimes hard to avoid conflicts of interest. This is why a larger pool of volunteers is needed.

"We want to match an advocate and child and make sure there is no conflict of interest," Taggart said. "We need a diverse pool of individuals."

"Just because a volunteer is available, they may not be a good fit," Collard said.

The goal, she said, is for a CASA to stay with that child's case for the duration — until the child returns home or is placed in a safe, permanent home.

Health guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges over the past year. To stay connected, advocates have visited children in an outside location, or connected through an online video platform to do activities or work on puzzles.

"It's not ideal, but it's still some connection," Collard said.

CASAs are required to see the child at least every 30 days.

"Everyone has had to be really flexible," Collard said.

Overall, she said, everyone involved in a child's case has a common goal:

"We're partners. Everyone wants the same thing for this child — a safe, permanent home," she said.

Grants

Grant funds assist these

nonprofit organizations in supporting foster children and foster families.

A grant from the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) is earmarked to support, recruit, and educate foster parents, especially with specialized training. It has also funded a part-time foster parent liaison who makes contact immediately when a foster child is placed in a home and can help arrange meals or gather needed supplies.

Grant funds also help with appreciation events to recognize foster families and advocates.

How to help

Monetary donations are always welcome to support the mission of Every Child and CASA of Eastern Oregon.

For information on how to donate to CASA, visit the website casaeo.org or send a donation to CASA of Eastern Oregon, 2024 Main St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To support Every Child NE Oregon, go to everychildneoregon.org or send a donation to Building Healthy Families, Attn: Every Child NE Oregon, 207 NE Park St., Enterprise, OR 97828.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
May 22, 1971

Winds gusting to 54 miles per hour yesterday damaged property in the Baker area. Trees went down, signs blew over, power and TV cables snapped and roofs were blown away.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
May 22, 1996

Democrat Truscott Irby won't know for at least another day which Republican will oppose him in November for the seat he holds as Baker County commissioner.

The race for the Republican nomination was too close to call this morning, pending absentee ballots.

The battle appears to be between Jarri McClarin, who had 532 votes, and Paul York, with 509 votes, according to unofficial results from the county clerk's office.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
May 23, 2011

NORTH POWDER — The Anthony Lakes Ski Area has announced the hiring of a new general manager, Peter Johnson, continuing the transition of the Northeastern Oregon ski area from a for-profit corporation to a nonprofit operation.

Johnson, currently living in Madras, reports for duty at the ski area June 1.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
May 23, 2020

When Jimm Mooney heard there might not be a ceremony in the veterans section at Mount Hope Cemetery on Memorial Day due to the pandemic, his reaction was immediate.

"Something has to happen," said Mooney, senior pastor and founder with Veterans Hope Ministries in Baker City.

And something has.

Or, rather, something will.

Mooney, whose organization is dedicated to helping Baker County veterans and their families, has put together a brief program starting at 11 a.m. Monday at the cemetery.

Army veteran Summer Curry will speak, and Mooney will offer a prayer.

Bugler Duncan Pierce will play taps.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, May 19

1 — 6 — 33 — 36 — 38 — 39

Next jackpot: \$3 million

POWERBALL, May 19

11 — 13 — 55 — 56 — 69 PB 4

Next jackpot: \$218 million

MEGA MILLIONS, May 18

3 — 5 — 56 — 61 — 66 Mega 4

Next jackpot: \$515 million

WIN FOR LIFE, May 19

12 — 23 — 36 — 61

PICK 4, May 20

• 1 p.m.: 7 — 1 — 5 — 5

• 4 p.m.: 0 — 3 — 1 — 9

• 7 p.m.: 9 — 0 — 0 — 0

• 10 p.m.: 9 — 5 — 2 — 1

LUCKY LINES, May 20

4-6-11-15-20-22-25-32

Next jackpot: \$37,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **MONDAY:** Chicken breasts stuffed with cheddar broccoli, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, sorbet

■ **TUESDAY:** Barbecued chicken legs and thighs, baked beans, rolls, corn, coleslaw, brownies

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Chicken with homestyle noodles, peas and carrots, biscuits, Jell-O with fruit, birthday cake

■ **THURSDAY:** Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas, coleslaw, bread pudding

■ **FRIDAY:** Beef pot roast, red potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, broccoli and bacon salad, cheesecake

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.

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Clyde Conklin

Formerly of Baker City, 1924-2021

Clyde Warren "Pop"

Conklin, 96, of Kennewick, Washington, and formerly of Baker City, died peacefully on May 14, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his family.

His funeral service will be Thursday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Parish of The Holy Spirit, 7409 W. Clearwater Ave., in Kennewick, Washington. Interment, with military honors, will be at Desert Lawn Memorial Park in Kennewick.

Clyde was born on Oct. 29, 1924, at Baker. He was the oldest of five children born to Arthur E. and Helen Conklin.

Clyde graduated from Baker

High School in 1942 and

enlisted in the United States Army on Feb. 29, 1944. He served in the

17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in England, France, Belgium, Holland

and Germany as a light tank crewman. He was honorably

discharged as PFC May 14, 1946.

After his military service, Clyde returned to Baker

where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Mae Devlin.

They were married on April 6, 1948. Clyde and Dorothy had

five children: Cathy, Clyde E., Craig, John and Carol. They were married 69 years before

Dorothy's death May 2, 2017.

Clyde was hired by First National Bank which took

the family to Pendleton. They lived in Pendleton for about

four years before moving back to Baker, where they

purchased a ranch in the Missouri Flats area. He worked

various jobs and ranched on the side running a cow-calf

operation with his wife and kids. They sold the ranch in

1972 and moved to Medford, where he went to work for the

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. He accepted a

new position with the Department in Roseburg and retired

from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1990. Shortly

after retirement Clyde and Dorothy sold their Roseburg

home and began full-time RV-



Clyde Conklin

ing. They would travel south for the winter and made trips around the United States and made many lifelong friends.

Clyde would say it was some of the best times of their lives and encouraged his children to do the same.

Over the years Clyde became a grandfather to 16 grandchildren: Jerrod Cul-

ley, Jill Culley, Jake Culley, Chad Conklin, Cliff Conklin,

Cory Conklin, Kevin Conklin, Kyle Conklin, Cary Con-

klin, Sean Conklin, Cortney Conklin, Shannon Conklin,

Haley Conklin, Kayla Nelson, Kaitlyn Breazeale and Kaycee

Breazeale; and 24 great-grandchildren, the latest great-grand-

son being born 10 days prior to his passing.

Clyde is also survived by his children and their spouses:

Cathy and Dan Culley, Clyde and Karen Conklin, Craig and

Sue Conklin, John and Linda Conklin, and Carol and Brian

Breazeale; his sisters, Barbara Sackos and Mildred Hester;

and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made in Clyde's memory to the charity of your choice.

The family invites you to sign their online guest book at

www.muellersfuneralhomes.com.

com.

Gorden Atkins

Unity, 1946-2021

Gorden Lee Atkins, 74, of

Unity, died May 15, 2021, with his family by his side.

His memorial service took place Saturday, May 22 at the

Unity Community Hall.

Gorden was born on Oct. 22, 1946, at The Dalles to Sher-

man and Ora Atkins. He graduated from Sweet Home High

School in 1964. He married Elizabeth Atkins on March 25,

1977, at Reno, Nevada. They made their home in Canby.

Gorden worked 29 years for Convoy Company in Portland,

retiring in 1999. After retirement they moved to Unity,

where he enjoyed many years hunting, fishing, riding ATVs

and snowmobiling with friends and family.

Gorden is survived by his wife of 44 years, Beth; and

many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother,

Harold; and his sister, Lorene.

The family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this

difficult time. Arrangements are under the direction of the

Nampa Funeral Home Yraguen Chapel where an

online guest book is available at www.nampafuneralhome.com.

com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

James Roger Kennedy:

80, of Baker City, died on March 29, 2021, at his home. To honor Roger's wishes, a service will not take place. A short, informal celebration of life picnic will be

Friday, June 11 at noon at Geiser-Pollman Park. It will be a no-host, bring your own picnic due to

COVID-19 issues. To join, please pack a lunch and bring a picnic blanket or camp chair. To leave an

online condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

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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.

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