

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

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

A plan to set up a winter range zone on the east slope of the Elkhorn Mountains in the Antelope-Bulger Hill district received favorable reception by the Baker County Livestock Association Tuesday. The Game Commission presented the plan to the Association after experiencing earlier opposition to the elk winter range plans in Union County around Shaw Mountain.

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

WEATHERBY — Two Union Pacific Railroad trains collided Friday afternoon on the banks of the Burnt River near Weatherby, breaching the fuel tank of one locomotive and causing an estimated 2,600 gallons of diesel to spill.

An unknown amount of the diesel entered an irrigation ditch and the river.

Two railroad employees suffered minor injuries. One, Robert Miller, 43, of La Grande, was treated and released Friday at St. Elizabeth Health Services.

A fish biologist from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported seeing fish downstream that were "stressed, but not dead."

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald July 22, 2011

Bob Reedy puts on an archery contest at a ski area, but he figured the fourth weekend of July was safe enough, snow-wise.

He was right.

Until this July.

For the first time in the event's 10-year history, Reedy had to call in a backhoe to break up lingering snowdrifts in time for the Elkhorn Archers' Eastern Oregon Super Shoot this Saturday and Sunday at Anthony Lakes.

And even with heavy equipment it took 9 1/2 hours one day last week to clear the 25-foot-high snow berm blocking the service road that leads from the ski area's resort to the top of the chairlift, said Reedy, who's president of the Elkhorn Archers.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald July 18, 2020

Baker County didn't report any new cases of COVID-19 on Friday, the third straight day with no positive tests.

The county's total remains at 13, of which 12 have been reported since June 30.

The county's initial case was announced on May 6.

No one has died in the county from the virus, and no one is hospitalized, Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said on Friday afternoon.

The Oregon Health Authority added Baker County to a "watch list" on Wednesday that includes eight other counties. Bennett said that designation, which doesn't impose any additional restrictions, is based not only on the number of cases in the county, but rather their sporadic nature, which means it wasn't clear where they were infected.

The exceptions to that are the five cases reported earlier this month, all being Forest Service employees.

Bennett said he spoke recently, not in person, to two county residents who were interviewed by contract tracers from the Baker County Health Department because they might have been in contact with a person who was infected.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, July 19

8 — 15 — 16 — 18 — 29 — 36

Next jackpot: \$5.6 million

POWERBALL, July 17

15 — 22 — 38 — 54 — 66 PB 3

Next jackpot: \$161 million

MEGA MILLIONS, July 20

10 — 26 — 30 — 52 — 57 Mega 10

Next jackpot: \$138 million

WIN FOR LIFE, July 19

9 — 24 — 41 — 62

PICK 4, July 20

• 1 p.m.: 9 — 0 — 9 — 3

• 4 p.m.: 0 — 6 — 0 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 9 — 1 — 2 — 6

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 2 — 7 — 2

LUCKY LINES, July 20

1-8-9-15-18-24-27-29

Next jackpot: \$34,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, peas, cottage cheese-Jell-O salad, lemon squares
- **MONDAY (July 26):** Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, biscuits, corn, coleslaw, pudding
- **TUESDAY (July 27):** Lasagna, garlic breadsticks, Italian vegetables, three-bean salad, pineapple sherbet
- **WEDNESDAY (July 28):** Beef burgundy over fettuccine with mushrooms, mixed vegetables, rolls, pea-and-onion salad
- **THURSDAY (July 29):** Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, ambrosia, bread pudding

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

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OTEC partners with Baker Technical Institute on utility training center

By Joanna Mann
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Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) is partnering with the Baker Technical Institute (BTI) to start a utility training center in Baker City. The site will offer training for those looking to enter the industry as well as ongoing training for current

utility workers.

"We're thrilled to support BTI in this process as industry experts; we believe the partnership is mutually beneficial for BTI and OTEC's membership," said Les Penning, OTEC's CEO.

Phase one of the training center, which will begin later this year, will include

utility-specific safety training courses, including pole top rescue, hazard identification, forklift operations, traffic control, emergency medical response certification and fall protection. BTI trainers and OTEC professionals will provide the instruction.

"There is a real need in the utility industry for quality

comprehensive training," said Doug Dalton, BTI president. "This industry, like many of the other skilled trades, needs more people entering the field to meet the future workforce demand. The industry also needs access to high-quality training that supports employee growth and expertise."

OBITUARIES

Donald Baggerly

Baker City, 1931-2021

Donald F. Baggerly, 84, of Baker City, died July 17, 2021, at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Don was born on Sept. 27, 1934, at Meridian, Idaho, to Dean and Frances (Bamford) Baggerly. He was raised in the Keating Valley area and went to school in that district until transferring to Baker High School, graduating in 1954. After school, he joined the Army and served for two and a half years.

On April 13, 1962, at Winnemucca, Nevada, Don married the love of his life, Barbara Allen Rush. Together they had one child, David Allen Baggerly. Don was proud of his family and was always there when they needed him.

Don decided he wanted to drive truck, so he started his own trucking business, contracting with Marvin Wood Products to haul lumber. Don also helped his wife with her clothing store, BJS Apparel, repairing items that needed attention, doing books, and giving her the support she needed to run her business.

He enjoyed working with his scroll saw, doing yard work, and was very proud of his garden. He and Barb would travel in their motor home to Arizona most winters, but he would start working on his yard as soon as they returned to Baker City in the spring.

Don was a member of the First Christian Church.

Don is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara Baggerly of Baker City; his son, David Allen Baggerly of Baker City; his brother, Richard (Bonnie) Baggerly of Echo; 10 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dean and Frances Baggerly; a sister, Evelyn Stewart, his brother, Gaylord; and his two step-sons, Ronald and Donald Rush.

The family suggests donations in Don's memory be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, through Gray's West & Company, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave online condolences for Don's family, go to www.graywestco.com.

Ken McPheron

Baker City, 1939-2021

Kenton (Ken) James McPheron, 82, of Baker City died peacefully with his daughter by his side on July 20, 2021.

At his request, an informal memorial gathering will take place at his home at 990 Park St. in Baker City on Saturday, July 24 at 2 p.m.

Ken was born on Feb. 10, 1939, at Greeley, Colorado, to Lewis and Charlotte Ann McPheron. He spent his childhood with his five siblings living a rural lifestyle on a small family ranch. Ken's father was a cattle buyer, which led to



Donald Baggerly



Ken McPheron

Ken spending many days working in the Denver Stockyards. The family later moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he began participating in rodeo as a teenager. He graduated from Colorado Springs High School in 1957 and became a rodeo athlete at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lana Wright, on Feb. 27, 1960. Shortly after his marriage his college career was cut short by the draft. He entered the Army and served in Vietnam as a sharpshooter and completed his service at Fort Riley, Kansas. Upon discharge from service, he had two daughters, Kimm and Rayne. During this time Ken was pursuing his rodeo career and managed The Broadmoor Hotel and Resort stables and later The Penrose Equestrian Center in Colorado Springs.

His next move was to the vast open spaces of Jackson, Wyoming, where he worked and made some of his most lasting friendships. The friendships and the family time he was able to include in his work there, always kept The White Grass and Red Rock guest ranches close to his heart as well as providing the backdrop for some of his best storytelling. During this time, he met The Marlboro Man, Darrell Winfield. This meeting would eventually lead to him being recruited by the Leo Burnett Ad agency as a wrangler for the Marlboro brand and traveling with them on photo shoots. During the late '70s his horsemanship skills led him to managing The Garrison Ranch in Thousand Oaks, California, working with celebrities like Dean Martin, Lee Meriwether, Mel Tillis and Jonathan Winters. As the manager of this facility, he was instrumental in importing the first Andalusian horses into the country and running the breeding program for this unique breed.

The year 1987 held one of his proudest accomplishments. He purchased a gelding that had a deformed nose at birth that no one else wanted. He sent the horse, named Guthrie Bert, to Danny Mendez and together they won the Dan Menconi Memorial Perpetual World Championship Trophy including six buckles at the Snaffle Bit Futurity.

While on a Marlboro photo shoot location in Baker City, he met Shirley Pierce. They were married Dec. 6, 1992, at Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ken's marriage to Shirley blended two families and gave him three additional grown children, Lisa, Wayne and Shane. In Baker his work as a contractor included the renovation of the historic Geiser Grand Hotel. In 1994 he took his lifetime of experiences and went to work convincing his new friends and neighbors that Baker City needed a bull riding competition. The answer from most he approached was "It's been tried, and it can't be done." This phrase — "They said it couldn't be done" — is in the McPheron home on a framed picture of the event's first winner. It was presented to him by his fellow volunteer Elks after the event became a successful reality. The saddle bronc riding was added, and

the two-day rough stock event continues to this day. This accomplishment led both he and the love of his life, Shirley, to be awarded Baker County Legacy Man and Woman of the Year. The rodeo became his legacy in his final home and a way to successfully get his extended family to make the pilgrimage to visit him and stay connected with one another each year.

He will be remembered as a cowboy, a BIG personality, a committed husband to Shirley, a bigger than life father figure, a lesson-giving grandfather and patriarch to the extended family. He was very loved and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Charlotte McPheron; his siblings, Margaret Condello, Maxine Roberts, Betty Buckridge, JR McPheron and Jane Caldwell; and his stepson, Wayne Pierce.

Ken is survived by his wife, Shirley McPheron; his daughters, Kimm Wilcoxson (Brian), Rayne Christen, Lisa Xeros-VandenBos (Todd); his son, Shane Pierce (Tammy); his grandchildren, Alex and Nick Xeros, Aspen and Aimee Christen, Marley and Hollis Robb, Kailyse Fuss and Sydnee Pierce; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you give to a local, Baker County charitable organization in his memory.

To leave an online condolence for the Ken's family, go to www.coletributecenter.com.

Maryrose Cheatham

Formerly of Baker City, 1939-2021

Maryrose "Rosie" Cheatham, 81, of Ontario, and formerly of Baker City, died July 16, 2021, after a long battle with dementia.

Maryrose was born on Nov. 3, 1939, at Baker to J.R. and Alta Austin. She was the youngest of three children and was preceded in death by her brothers, Jerry R. and Edmond Austin. Maryrose grew up in Baker and married Earl Cheatham in 1958 after high school and moved to Ontario in 1966.

Rosie was an amazing woman. She was kind, loving, fun and funny. She loved to sing, dance, decorate, and spoil her children and grandchildren. She was an amazing speller and loved to play Scrabble — and was really good at it! She loved a good pun and had a great sense of humor. She was good to everyone and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Maryrose is survived by her husband, Earl, and their three children, Kathy Alvarado and her husband, Robert, of Beaverton, Suzie Allen and her husband, Wil, of Altadena, California, and Joe and his wife, Margarita, of Ontario; eight grandchildren, David Alvarado and his wife, Alexis, of Denton, Texas, Renee Alvarado of New York, New York, Nicholas Cheatham of Corvallis, Monique Cheatham, Justine Cheatham and Sophie Cheatham, all of Ontario, and Sam Allen and Haley Allen, both of Altadena.



Maryrose and Earl Cheatham

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Allen Dean Stevenson Jr.: 68, of Baker City, died July 17, 2021, at his home. To leave an online condolence for the Allen's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Andrea Cloudt Patacini: Interment service will be Saturday, July 24 at 10 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery with Father Suresh Kumar Telagani of St. Francis de Sales Cathedral officiating.

Denny and Charlie Oliver: Memorial service and celebration of their lives, Saturday, July 31 at noon at the Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception immediately following at the Halfway Lions Hall.

Laurie Gulick: Memorial service Sunday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. at the Gulick Ranch on Pine Town Lane in Halfway. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Robert Kent Nelson: Memorial service, Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane. A reception will follow the service at the Nazarene Church's Family Life Center. Memorial contributions can be made to the Burnt River Community Church or the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Kent's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Sharon Lee Beck, 35, Baker City,

9:51 p.m. Monday, July 19 on Campbell Street at Geiser-Pollman Park; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff
HARASSMENT: Brandon Cole Cook, 46, Richland, 7:35 a.m.

Tuesday, July 20 in Richland; cited and released.
SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Jessica M. Gonzales, 31, Halfway, 3:33 p.m. Monday, July 19 in Halfway; cited and released.

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