

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
August 7, 1971

The Rev. Roger Bierwagen, pastor of the Richland and Baker Seventh-day Adventist churches will move to Idaho Falls, Idaho, in August and be in charge of the Blackfoot and Idaho Falls churches.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
August 7, 1996

Reactions from Baker County Republicans to Rep. Wes Cooley's decision to not seek re-election range from relief to disappointment.

Everyone seems to agree, however, that there's still time to find a candidate who can keep the traditionally Republican Second Congressional District in GOP control.

The likely candidates to replace Cooley as the Republican nominee are his predecessor, Bob Smith; third-party candidate and Republican State Sen. Greg Walden of Hood River; and Perry Atkinson of Medford.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
August 8, 2011

Baker City Councilors will consider a resolution changing parking restrictions around Brooklyn Primary School during their regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 1655 First St.

Officials at Brooklyn want to move the bus loading zone from its current location on Oak Street to the north side of Washington Avenue, in front of the playground.

This proposal is known as Resolution No. 3667. Making this happen would require the city to restrict parking on that side of Washington from Ash toward Clark streets from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on school days.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
August 8, 2020

A species of moth that, in caterpillar form, likes to munch on the needles of fir trees is having one of its periodic population surges on parts of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

But the forest's entomologist says the outbreak of Douglas-fir tussock moths is of moderate severity, and she expects it will diminish next year without the bugs having killed large numbers of trees.

The insect, despite its name, doesn't satiate its appetite solely on Douglas-fir trees, said entomologist Lia Spiegel, who works on the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur national forests as well as federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in eastern Oregon.

Tussock moth caterpillars also feed on the needles of "true" fir trees including grand fir and subalpine fir.

(Douglas-fir has a hyphen in its name because, scientifically speaking, it isn't actually a fir.)

"Caterpillars are like kids — as they get bigger they eat more," Spiegel said.

Unlike some insects and parasites that also can harm trees — the larch casebearer and the white pine blister rust, to name two — tussock moths are native to the Blue Mountains, Spiegel said.

A research paper from the Umatilla National Forest noted that studies of tree core samples on that forest's Walla Walla Ranger District, in southeast Washington, suggested that tussock moth populations had periodic surges as early as 1843-45.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Aug. 4

1 — 9 — 15 — 19 — 31 — 43
Next jackpot: \$2.4 million

POWERBALL, Aug. 4

5 — 21 — 32 — 36 — 58 PB 14
Next jackpot: \$226 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 3

1 — 9 — 17 — 27 — 34 Mega 24
Next jackpot: \$191 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 4

18 — 51 — 57 — 72

PICK 4, Aug. 5

• 1 p.m.: 2 — 1 — 6 — 1

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 6 — 7 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 3 — 7 — 1 — 2

• 10 p.m.: 8 — 5 — 3 — 2

LUCKY LINES, Aug. 5

2-8-9-14-18-23-25-30

Next jackpot: \$50,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, rolls, carrot-raisin salad, cherry cheesecake
- **TUESDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, pea-and-onion salad, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY:** Chili cheese dogs with onions, carrots, Jell-O with fruit, ice cream
- **THURSDAY:** Old fashioned steak, red potatoes with gravy, peas, rolls, green salad, cake
- **FRIDAY:** Chicken ala king, rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, macaroni salad, peach crisp

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.

CONTACT THE HERALD

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 105

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

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

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Publisher
Karine Brogoitti
kbrogoitti@lagrandeobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email
circ@bakercityherald.com

County hopes to award visitor services contract by Oct. 6

Process has been delayed several times since early 2020

By Jayson Jacoby and Samantha O'Conner
Baker City Herald

Baker County's effort to award a new contract for operating a visitors center in Baker City, a process that dates to the fall of 2019, has a new timeframe.

The county has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) that sets a deadline of Sept. 17 for prospective contractors to submit a proposal.

The RFP includes a schedule that calls for the county to issue a notice of intent to award the contract on Sept. 30, and for the Baker County Board of Commissioners to potentially sign the contract on Oct. 6.

That's more than a month later than county officials anticipated awarding the contract when commissioners, along with the Baker City Council, created a six-member work group in March 2021.

On March 3, commissioners extended the current visitor services contract with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce — for the third time since it was slated to expire in early 2020 — to Aug. 31, 2021.

The county's representatives on the work group were commission chairman Bill Harvey, Martin Arritola, chairman of the county's Economic Development Committee, and Tyler Brown, chairman of the county's Transient Lodging Tax Committee.

The city's representatives were city manager Jon Cannon, mayor Kerry McQuisten and councilor Joanna Dixon.

The group had multiple meetings during the spring and created a draft RFP that is similar to the RFP the county has posted on its website, www.bakercounty.org.

The current contract, for about \$77,000 per year, is with the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which operates the visitor center at 490 Campbell St., near Interstate 84. The money comes from the local tax that guests pay at motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rental homes and other types

of lodging.

The county put out an RFP in the fall of 2019, and in December 2019 it received two proposals, from the Chamber of Commerce and from the nonprofit that owns Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

Both the county Economic Development Committee and the committee that oversees the lodging tax, which advise county commissioners, endorsed the Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort proposal.

But in February 2020 commissioners postponed awarding the contract. In November 2020 commissioners decided to restart the process, after the county's attorney determined there were potential conflicts of interest.

Both the Chamber and Anthony Lakes — the latter now operating as the Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association — plan to submit proposals.

"I would say that we're excited to bring this process to a close and we are looking forward to submitting our proposal and we hope that our 30 years of service and what we have to offer plays a role in making the deci-

ision," said Shelly Cutler, the Chamber's executive director. "All we have right now is a draft RFP, we don't have the final version. They are still making edits to that. And so I may be able to speak to it better when the final is released here in a week or so but regardless, whatever the content is, whatever the ask is, we're excited to continue our service to Baker County and look forward to finally bringing this whole process to a close."

Peter Johnson, general manager of the Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association, wrote in a July 20 email to county commissioners that he hoped the county would release an RFP by Aug. 1 and set a deadline of no later than Aug. 22 for proposals to be submitted, with a goal of awarding the new contract by Aug. 31, the date through which the county extended the current contract with the Chamber.

Johnson said on Thursday, Aug. 5 that although he still encourages the county to "do what they said they were going to do," he plans to submit a proposal by the deadline of Sept. 17.

OBITUARIES

Melissa Wilkinson

Baker City, 1973-2021

Melissa Ruth Wilkinson, 47, of Baker City, died peacefully at home surrounded by her loved ones on Aug. 1, 2021.

There will be a celebration of her life service on Saturday, Aug. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane, with Pastor Troy Teeter officiating.

Melissa was born on Aug. 4, 1973, at Tacoma, Washington, to Ed Ager and Carolyn Parker. Melissa graduated from Foss High School in 1991. After high school, she attended Pierce Community College and graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1997 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She would later earn a Master's Degree in Education from Heritage University. Melissa and her future husband, Rob, met in college in 1994 and became friends very quickly. He proposed to Melissa on Feb. 12, 1995, because he said, he couldn't wait until Valentine's Day. Her beauty, kindness, loving personality, and infectious smile captured my heart instantly. We were married on June 23, 1997, in Las Vegas.

After college, Melissa and I made our home in Kennewick, Washington. Melissa

taught for several years at Southgate Elementary, and then Desert Hills Middle School making many friends along the way. In 2008, we moved to Plainview, Texas. After staying home for four years to raise our children, she returned to teaching at Plainview Christian Academy and then Estacado Middle School, making more friends. In 2019, after completing the school year, Melissa and the family joined me in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Melissa was hired to teach at Pinon Elementary. Unfortunately, in October of 2019, Melissa was diagnosed with a grade 4 glioblastoma brain tumor. After surgery and recovering, Melissa went back to teaching part-time until COVID closed schools. I'll never forget the reaction of Melissa's kids when she returned to school in January 2020. All her students ran up to Melissa and waited patiently for a hug. Even in that short time, Melissa made a huge impact on her students. In August of 2020, we decided to move back to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to family and relocated to Baker City.

In addition to being a wonderful loving mother to our five children, Melissa impacted hundreds, if not thousands, of youth through teaching. She absolutely loved sharing her gift of reading and writing with her students. Melissa was a beloved teacher by both students and

co-workers. Melissa passed on her gift of curiosity and being a lifelong learner to our children.

Melissa was an incredibly talented individual who had many hobbies. She loved spending time with family and friends. She had a green thumb and designed all kinds of different flower beds over the years. She loved to read and would spend hours on her favorite swing with a good book. She was also a very good artist who would paint murals on the kids' walls when they were younger. Melissa loved animals, and we had many pets over the years who were also part of our family. To many, she was known as the pet whisperer and saved many wounded animals over the years. Throughout the years, there were many times we would receive calls from people who found a wounded bird, dog, cat, etc. Melissa would nurse these animals back to health, more times than not.

Melissa faced many health challenges over the years, but she always remained a positive light in the lives of others and never asked, why me. She truly was an inspiration to me, our children, her loved ones, and all she came into touch with. Melissa had a rare gift of taking care of other's needs before her own, even while fighting cancer. She was my best friend, wife, mother of our children and leaves a huge hole in our hearts, as well as anyone she

touched. However, I know she would want all of us to keep on living, go on adventures, create memories, and make a difference in lives of others, just as she did.

Melissa is survived by her husband, Rob; her children, Drew, Erin, Tatiana, Zack and Jordan; her parents, Ed (Debra), Carolyn (Bill); her siblings, Betty (Gary), Teresa (Jeff), Darwin, Dewayne, Brian (Crystal) and Jack. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family would like to thank Melissa's medical team at the Christus Cancer Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, her St. Luke's Medical team in both Baker City and Boise, and Heart N Home Hospice for excellent and tender care.

We would be honored for memorials to be made to the following organizations: In Kennewick, Washington: Benton Franklin Humane Society or the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Cities. In Plainview, Texas: PAWS Pet Adoption or YMCA of Plainview. In Los Alamos, New Mexico: Los Alamos Schools Foundation or The Family YMCA. In Baker City, Baker County YMCA. You may make your donation through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Melissa or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

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.

Virginia Kostol: Interment will be Saturday, Aug. 14, and a Celebration of Life service will be held Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Fourth and Washington, in Baker City. Donations may be made

to either The Salvation Army or Baker County Historical Society, through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Virginia's name, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

Stan Grove: Celebration of his life, Aug. 20 at 3 p.m. at Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave. There will be a no host bar and some of Stan's favorite foods.

Keitha Kay (Luster) Howard: Potluck and memorial, Aug. 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Missouri Flat Grange Hall, 1050

Hughes Lane. Please bring fried chicken, potato salad or rolls. Beverage will be provided.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
— CONTEMPT OF COURT
(Two Baker County warrants): John Marsik Guthrie, 49, Baker City, 10:26 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5 in the 1100 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT
(Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Kadin Patrick Bailey, 20,

Baker City, 1:08 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5 at the Courthouse; cited and released.

FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Michael Myers-Gabiola, 30, Baker City, 6:58 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 5 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Ada County, Idaho, warrant, two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Stacey Lee Bork, 32, Baker City, 11:12 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4 in the 1100 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

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