

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald August 9, 1971

Approximately 500 acres of sagebrush and grazing land were blackened by a fast-moving fire on the Coffee lands in Haines Saturday afternoon.

Breaking out at 2 p.m., almost simultaneously with fires in North Powder, Medical Springs, Sumpter and Halfway, the fire was fought by BLM staffers, the Haines volunteer fire department and landowners.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 9, 1996

The Sloans Ridge fire blossomed from a slow-moving 40-acre blaze Thursday morning into a 1,460-acre inferno Thursday night.

It is no longer a prescribed natural fire — one the U.S. Forest Service monitors rather than fights.

Instead, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has ordered about 400 firefighters, three bulldozers, two retardant-dropping airplanes and two water-dropping helicopters to try to prevent the blaze from spreading any farther south and east.

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

Bret Ruby usually tries to douse wildfires but occasionally he just watches the smoke and flames.

Ruby, who is the fire staff officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, is playing the role of spectator rather than firefighter with regard to a blaze burning in the Eagle Cap Wilderness about 11 air miles east of Cove.

Lightning started the fire on Aug. 3.

It's burning near the spine of Jim White Ridge. That's about a mile and a half west of the Minam River. So far the fire has spread over just half an acre.

But Ruby said Monday that he won't be surprised if the blaze, aided by a couple more weeks of relatively warm, dry weather, creeps into a nearby thicket of mature subalpine firs.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald August 11, 2020

Kassaundra Meng has three children starting school in less than a month, along with one computer and an overstressed internet connection.

This will not be a normal fall in her household.

But last spring's school term wasn't exactly tranquil, either.

Meng is among hundreds of local parents preparing for a second stint of helping their children adjust to taking their lessons from teachers not in a classroom but via a video screen.

Baker schools will open Sept. 8 with all online classes for its 1,700 students, the same basic system the district employed during the spring after the coronavirus pandemic closed schools nationwide.

District officials said the \$600,000 spent on new computer software and other equipment will make it easier for teachers and for their students.

Although school registration was available online for Baker students, schools opened Monday morning to assist parents with the process and to answer the inevitable questions.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Aug. 7
20 — 28 — 30 — 34 — 35 — 41
Next jackpot: \$1.5 million

POWERBALL, Aug. 7
7 — 24 — 36 — 54 — 60 PB 23
Next jackpot: \$241 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 6
9 — 18 — 40 — 46 — 69 Mega 9
Next jackpot: \$208 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 7
4 — 6 — 37 — 69

PICK 4, Aug. 8
• 1 p.m.: 5 — 1 — 8 — 7
• 4 p.m.: 1 — 2 — 8 — 1
• 7 p.m.: 9 — 4 — 3 — 9

LUCKY LINES, Aug. 8
4-7-12-14-17-23-26-30
Next jackpot: \$53,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **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
- **MONDAY (Aug. 16):** Orange glazed chicken, rice, peas, rolls, ambrosia, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Aug. 17):** Ground beef with grilled onions and gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls, sauerkraut, apple 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 101
Open Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Publisher
Karine Brogoitti
kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email
circ@bakercityherald.com

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Public Works begins chip sealing

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Beginning Monday, Aug. 16, the Baker City Public Works Department will be chip sealing a number of city streets.

Day one:

Quail Ridge Lane — Indiana Avenue to Eagle Crest Way
19th — Broadway to Baker
21st — Baker to Campbell
21st — Broadway to north side of Baker

Resort — south side of A Street to B Street

Resort — Campbell to A Street
Plum — J Street to L Street

Day two:

Wabash — 4th to 2nd
Baker — 9th to 4th
Baker — 10th to 9th
12th — Campbell to D Street

Baker — 21st to 19th
Broadway — 18th to 17th

Day three:

1st — Campbell to B Street
5th — G Street to H Street
5th — E Street to north

side of G Street
11th — Campbell to D Street

Ohio — 4th to David Eccles Road

Virginia — 5th to 2nd (-int)

According to a press release, the work will last up to four days.

The chip seal process extends the life of a street by restoring vital asphalt pavement components that are lost through the aging and oxidation process. By sealing

the street, moisture is unable to penetrate below the asphalt surface.

A minimum of 48-hours notice will be provided to residents affected by the street improvement projects. According to the press release, expect traffic delays and possible rerouting of traffic during this project.

For further information, contact Baker City Public Works at 541-524-2047 or 541-524-2046.

OBITUARIES

Robert Thomas

Robert "Bob" Thomas

Halfway, 1950-2021

Robert "Bob" Thomas passed away Wednesday Aug. 4, 2021, at his home in Halfway, Oregon, at the age of 70.

At Robert's request there will be no memorial service.

Robert was born in Baker, Oregon,

on Oct. 29, 1950, to Robert William Thomas and Marie Christene Bennett Thomas. He was educated at Halfway Elementary and Halfway High School. After graduating high school in 1969 he went on to obtain his teaching degree from Eastern Oregon University.

Bob spent the majority of his life as a rancher in Pine Valley. Some of his fondest memories were of running cattle on Snake River.

Robert did get the chance to see the United States and some parts of Canada by spending 17 years as a long-haul truck driver. But his heart was always at home in Halfway.

He was an avid outdoorsman and never passed up a chance to go hunting and fishing. His favorite place to be was in the mountains on a good sure-footed stout horse.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Marie, along with three of his four siblings.

Bob is survived by his son, Lucas Thomas (Halfway); daughter, Michelle Thomas (Halfway); sister, Francis Bennett; four grandchildren, Katelynn and Maximus Thomas and Robert and Kayie Hack; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bob, the family suggests making them to the Horse Stable at the Pine Valley Fairgrounds

or the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834.

Larry Wampler

Halfway, 1946-2021

Larry Wampler of Halfway, Oregon, died on July 18, 2021, peacefully at home from prolonged health issues at the age of 74.

He was born Nov. 16, 1946, in Hutchinson, Kansas, where he developed a hard work ethic and love for sports.

As an early teen, his father moved his mother and his sister to Denver, Colorado, where Larry graduated his senior year in 1965 at Ranum High School. In Denver as a running back he helped his football team to an undefeated season.

The following year, he joined the National Guard and attended Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colorado, on a football scholarship.

After college, Larry moved to California and worked various jobs. Throughout the remainder of his life, he worked for Todd's Shipyard at San Pedro Bay and in general construction as a framer, roofer, floor installer and low-voltage communications technician.

He was an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast and spent much of his adulthood coaching football and Little League.

After moving back to Colorado later in life, he coached his Little League team to a win at the Colorado state championship. He was a strong patriot for his country and community.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, George and Bea Wampler, and his dogs, Attitude, Maggie and Dixie (which he spoke of often).

He is survived by his children, David and Lisa; former wife, Cheryl; and recent dogs, Toby, Bear and Tonya.

There will be a small private memorial for close

friends. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Balazs "Bill" Nagy

1939-2021

Balazs "Bill" Nagy passed away peacefully at St. Luke's Regional Hospital in Boise, Idaho, on July 20, 2021, with his children at his side.

Per Bill's request there will not be a service.

Bill was born on March 17, 1939, in Bakonszeg, Hungary, to Balazs and Ester (Uhas) Nagy. Bill was the only son and the second of three children.

He was raised in various towns and villages throughout Hungary as his father was a four-star general in the Hungarian military.

Bill excelled in both sports and school alike and learned electronics at a very early age. He even learned how to obstruct or "jam" German communications during the Nazi Regime.

He had an insatiable desire to learn as much as he could, which would prove evident throughout his life.

At age 17, Bill became a "Freedom Fighter" during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, fighting for his freedom and those of his fellow countrymen. He escaped to Austria where he petitioned the USA to come to this country. He was accepted and flown to Philadelphia, PA.

He settled into a Hungarian-speaking community, but immediately learned English to adapt into his new "home country."

He was then hired by the U.S. military making listening devices that were being used in Guam.

Bill continued westward and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he was hired by a recording studio. It was there he would meet his future wife, Mary Ada Dillow, as Mary's sister was part owner of the recording studio.

In Hollywood, he built the recording consoles for the likes of the "Rat Pack" —

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. He also became acquainted with other recording artists such as Ray Charles, Paul Anka, The Lennon Sisters, Elvis and others.

Bill married Mary in 1960 and had three children: Steven, Kathleen and Stacy. By the mid-1960s they moved to San Mateo, California, in the Bay area, where they lived for five years.

In 1972, looking for better schools, cleaner air and a smaller city, the family moved to Pendleton, Oregon, where Mary had a sister.

Bill had some time before his job was to start, so they decided to visit the ghost town of Cornucopia, Oregon, and upon first sight of Halfway, he said, "We're moving here!"

He immediately got a job repairing TVs, appliances, etc., and eventually started his own TV repair shop.

In 1974, his son James was born. Throughout his life in Halfway, Bill's knowledge and passion for learning new things led him to beekeeping with Paul Springer, gold mining in Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and Arizona.

He started his own orchard and vineyard at Homestead, Oregon, on the Snake River. He was constantly inventing things that were well before their time. He even attended CALPOLY University in San Luis Obispo in 1976. He was always willing to share his knowledge and help with others. But his main passion and love was for his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bill is survived by his ex-wife, Mary Nagy of Baker City; children, Steve Nagy and his wife, Ronda, of Boise, Idaho, Kathleen Nagy of Halfway, Oregon, Stacy Nagy of Baker City, Oregon, and James and his wife, Ana Marie, of Elko, Nevada; and three grandchildren.

For those who would like to make a memorial contribution in memory of Bill, the family suggests a charity of one's choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Donna Hack: 80, of North Powder, died Sunday, Aug. 8, with her family by her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

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 the family of Kent, visit www.grayswestco.com.

Alberta Carolyn Bailey: 90, of Baker City, died Saturday, Aug. 7, in Baker City. A visitation will be held on Thursday, Aug. 12, from noon to 4 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. A funeral service will be held on Friday, Aug. 13, beginning at 1 p.m.

at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, with Pastor Ron Kratzer and Pastor Troy Teeter officiating. A private vault interment will follow the service at Mt. Hope Cemetery, and a reception for family and friends will be held at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene. Memorial contributions may be made to the Rachael Pregnancy Center through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for the family of Alberta, visit www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR: James Dewayne Reedy, 55, Baker City, 4:24 p.m. at Valley Street; jailed.
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Michael Myers-Gabiola, 30, Baker City, 9:45 p.m. Sunday Aug. 8 in the 500 Block of Campbell Street: cited and released.

"So much of who we are is where we have been."

Baker Valley Travel (541) 523-9353

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