

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

**50 YEARS AGO**  
from the Democrat-Herald  
September 2, 1971

"They don't stop for the crosswalk. I almost got hit yesterday," Mrs. Vivian Asbridge said concerning the busy crossing at Tenth and C streets where she and other Baker mothers have been stopping traffic daily to allow kids going to and from North Baker elementary school to cross Tenth St.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
September 2, 1996

STARKEY — Like the fires he came to observe, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt swept across Northeastern Oregon rapidly on Wednesday, sparking new energy in the camps and headquarters of overworked firefighters.

And in the cooperative atmosphere of the camp and fire control centers, he found a role model for the way government should work.

"The epicenter of concern now nationally," he said at a stop in Ukiah, "is the fires in Idaho and Northeastern Oregon. The president asked me to evaluate the resources available to fight these fires, and the way we are working to control them."

**10 YEARS AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
September 2, 2011

The first week of school has not been without startup glitches as the Baker School District rolled out new bus routes, introduced new staff members and inaugurated a new four-day week when classes got under way Monday.

Some students arrived late for class the first day after the bus drove past them and had to return to pick them up. And another child was picked up 25 minutes earlier than scheduled, said Superintendent Walt Wegener.

"There are going to be some kinks — there are some," Wegener said. "We're going to solve some of these problems. There were no major glitches — just here and there."

**ONE YEAR AGO**  
from the Baker City Herald  
September 3, 2020

Utility boxes in Baker City are transforming into public works of art.

The project started four years ago with the Baker City Public Arts Commission. The initial idea was to wrap utility boxes along Main Street with vinyl portraying various types of art, including paintings and photographs.

Those boxes, though, are owned and maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Before the project gained approval from ODOT, the Commission ran a year-long trial to make sure the vinyl wouldn't affect the inner temperature of the box and interfere with the controls for traffic signals.

The test showed no ill effects, and the multiyear project became reality last week when Christy Witham of Oregon Sign Company in Baker City installed the first vinyl wrap on a signal box at the corner of Main Street and Washington Avenue.

The image is a historic photograph from the collection maintained by the Baker County Library.

This is a pilot project for the state.

"This is the first one they've allowed in the state of Oregon," said Kate Reid, owner of Royal Artisan and a member of the Public Arts Commission.

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, Aug. 30**  
2 — 7 — 8 — 18 — 20 — 26  
Next jackpot: \$2.5 million

**POWERBALL, Aug. 30**  
3 — 15 — 45 — 51 — 61 PB 8  
Next jackpot: \$345 million

**MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 31**  
8 — 14 — 31 — 58 — 68 Mega 15  
Next jackpot: \$323 million

**WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 30**  
13 — 64 — 66 — 77

**PICK 4, Aug. 31**  
• 1 p.m.: 9 — 0 — 0 — 3  
• 4 p.m.: 7 — 4 — 3 — 7  
• 7 p.m.: 3 — 0 — 9 — 8  
• 10 p.m.: 8 — 4 — 9 — 0  
**LUCKY LINES, Aug. 31**  
2-7-10-14-20-21-28-32  
Next jackpot: \$76,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Pork roast, red potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, ambrosia pudding
- **MONDAY:** CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- **TUESDAY:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, biscuits, cottage cheese and Jell-O salad, brownies
- **WEDNESDAY:** Lasagna, green beans, garlic rolls, ambrosia, ice cream
- **THURSDAY:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, fruit cup, tapioca

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

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# August bucks summer sizzle

■ After record heat in July and July, August was slightly cooler than average

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Did you feel a trifle chilly in the waning days of August?

The very question might sound farcical considering

the sizzling summer Baker County residents have endured.

But it turns out that the final two weeks of August offset the month's torrid first half.

Indeed it did a bit more than that.

August ended up cooler than average, a decided reversal from July and June.

July was the hottest month on record at the Baker

City Airport, with an average high of 92.3 degrees.

June also set a record for that month, with an average high of 84.3 degrees. That nipped the previous record of 84.1, set in June 1961.

And the summer has set a record for the number of 90-degree-plus days, with 44 so far — 11 in June, 22 in July, 11 in August.

The previous record was 42 such days, set in 2017. The

average per year is 26 days.

But the most recent 90-degree-plus day was more than two weeks ago, on Aug. 16.

The cool conclusion to August pushed the average daily high temperature for the month down to 84.1 degrees. The long-term average is 84.4 degrees.

This was the coolest August since 2010, when the average high was 81.8.

## Adrian superintendent fired for obeying mask mandate

By **LILIANA FRANKEL**  
Malheur Enterprise

**ADRIAN** — Kevin Purnell was fired Monday, Aug. 30 as superintendent of the Adrian School District just one week after students returned to school.

The Adrian School Board, convening in a special meeting, voted 4-1 to terminate Purnell Monday night after meeting in executive, or closed door, session for less than half an hour to consider the matter. The board provided no public explanation for its surprise decision to oust a superintendent who has been on the job for three years and in the district for 14 years. Board Chair Eddie Kincade said after the meeting that the decision was because of Purnell's failure to follow board directives. He declined to elaborate. Kincade and board members Bobby Davis, Ryan Martin, and Quinten Shenk voted for



Austin Johnson/The (Malheur) Enterprise

Kevin Purnell gives an emotional farewell to the Adrian community after the Adrian School Board fired him after meeting in executive, or closed, session for about 10 minutes on Monday, Aug. 30.

the motion to terminate Purnell while Eric White opposed it. They took the vote without comment. After the board emerged from executive session and had its vote, Purnell gave an emotional

speech to an emotional crowd. He said that he had at times failed to communicate well, and that board members had at times failed to communicate in a civil manner. "Ultimately, I feel that I have lost my way, and it began to consume me," Purnell said. "I have become tired. Tired of disappointing myself, my family, my friends, my colleagues." The conflicts Kincade and Purnell alluded to emerged amid rising COVID cases in Malheur County and continued opposition to government-mandated mask-wearing in Adrian. Purnell has said he is not in favor of Gov. Kate Brown's mandates, but he was described in comments by Adrian residents as a "rule follower" who would enforce them anyway.

No one has yet been named interim superintendent.

See, **Adrian** / Page A5

## OBITUARIES

### Nancy Stephens

Formerly of Sumpter

Nancy (Howe) Stephens, 80, formerly of Sumpter, died peacefully at her home in Springfield on Aug. 26, 2021, after valiantly battling vascular dementia.

No services are planned.

The daughter of Robert and Gladys Howe, Nancy was the youngest of six children. Born in Akron, Ohio, she moved to Santa Barbara, California, at age 12. After graduating from Santa Barbara High School, she met and married Ronald Stephens with whom she had three children, before they later divorced.

Although she loved Santa Barbara, she also appreciated the rugged beauty of the high desert in Eastern Oregon, where her father had built a cabin before he passed away, so Nancy chose to raise her children in both locations: Santa Barbara and Sumpter. Nancy was fiercely independent and worked full-time as a single parent while attending Santa Barbara Business College where she completed an accounting certificate. She worked as a food server, bank teller, office manager, and purchasing assistant. She cared about making her community a better place and volunteered at Transition House in Santa Barbara and served on the Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration Project.

Nancy enjoyed writing and had two stories published in "Venus Rising," a small independent journal based in Santa Barbara. Nancy enjoyed playing cards, especially pinochle, with her siblings. She

also enjoyed playing mahjong, reading, Sudoku, taking long walks, and working on her rose bushes.

Nancy is lovingly remembered by her children, her sons, Ron Stephens and his wife, Melissa, of Greer, South Carolina, and Rick Stephens of Springfield and his former wife, Valerie Webb; and her daughter, Caryn Stephens of Springfield. Nancy was blessed to have a large extended family and is survived by her sisters, Carolyn Castagnola and Jessie Holguin; her brother, Warren Howe, and his wife, Jan Karon; her grandchildren, Stormy, Philip, Sara and Cassandra; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-granddaughters; and many nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her beloved granddaughter, Melanie Beth Stephens; and her brothers, Frank Howe and Norman Howe.

### Roger Kirkland

North Powder, 1944-2021

Roger Kirkland, 77, of North Powder, died Aug. 25, 2021, at Providence St. Mary's Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

A celebration of Roger's life will take place Saturday, Sept. 4 at 11 a.m. at his home in North Powder.

George Roger Kirkland was born on Feb. 20, 1944, at La Grande to George and Maxine Kirkland. Roger attended school in North Powder and graduated from North Powder High School. He joined the Army and served from 1966 to 1968. Roger married Karen Lee



Roger Kirkland

Montgomery on April 4, 1968, in La Grande.

They moved to Cascade Locks in 1968 where he worked at Cascade Locks Lumber Company until they closed in 1980. They moved back home the day Mount St. Helens blew up — May 18, 1980. Roger worked for Brookshire Logging for a few years then went to work at the North Powder sawmill where he was the head sawyer until they closed. He then went to work for Jeff Hines at HNS until his retirement.

Roger enjoyed riding 4-wheelers, picking mushrooms, and hunting. In his younger days he enjoyed riding snowmobiles. Roger loved spending time with his grandkids and great-grandkids.

Survivors include his wife and best friend of 53 years, Karen Kirkland of North Powder; his puppy, Hunter; his daughters, Stephanie and Frank of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Shawna and Brian of Union; his son, Shane and Melissa of Enterprise; nine grandkids and 11 great-grandkids; his sister, Marilyn Weatherbie of Bend; one adopted brother, Jeff and Michelle Hines of Union; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Faye Carlson, Dee Harn and Iola Irvin; his brother, Dave Kirkland; and his son, George Wesley Kirkland.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Roger, the family suggests any veterans group 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](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

#### Alexandra 'Sandy' Boyd Palmer

91, of Baker City, died Aug. 26, 2021, at Memory Lane residential care in Baker City. A memorial service in her honor will take place Saturday, Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2177 First St. The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake will conduct the ceremony. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception following the service. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Alban's Episcopal Church Columbarium Fund through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To offer online condolences to Sandy's family or to light a candle in her memory, go to [www.gray-swestco.com](http://www.gray-swestco.com).

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Tharrell Tilgner:** Graveside service with military honors will take place Thursday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**David Coughlin:** Celebration of life, Sunday, Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave. in Baker City.

**Donna Weir:** Graveside service will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine

Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
SECOND-DEGREE THEFT, GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO A POLICE OFFICER: Alexie Richard Staggie, 30, Boise, 10:10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31 in the 2200 block of Resort Street; cited and released.  
FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Tattiana Gabriel McKenzie, 28, Baker City, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30 in the 2600 block of 17th Street; cited and released.  
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Umatilla County warrant): Paul Adam Heller, 50, Baker City, 4:13 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30 at Fifth and Campbell streets; cited and released.  
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Joseph Allen Charbonneau, 41, Baker City, 1:36 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30 at Madison and Clark streets; cited and released.  
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Chad Michael Cox, 40, transient; 5:48 a.m. Monday, Aug. 30 in the 2500 block of Ninth Street; cited and released.

### Appreciation for Naomi's Village and Friends

We continue to be humbled by the overwhelming support of our neighbors and friends in the fight against Naomi Jane's leukemia.

The recent benefit for our one-and-a-half-year-old in Baker was attended and celebrated beyond any reasonable expectation.

There have been an extraordinary number of donations to her fund including donations to the benefit auction -- and purchases therefrom. Alongside the tireless efforts of the event organizers, their assistants, and the many, many kind folks who showed up just because a small and happy child has cancer, we are grateful beyond measure but also left without words to adequately express our gratefulness to the so very many kind people in our various communities and counties.

Naomi's struggle will continue and, God willing, succeed, but as a family we will never succeed in appropriately thanking the friends who love our Naomi just because she's Naomi, and just because she's ours.

We understand now that your hearts go out to us, but please believe also that ours are with you.

Please keep praying.

Thank you so very, very much.

The Becktold Family

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