

Local

OBITUARIES

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald September 16, 1971

When mayor H.B. (Bard) Johnson looked around at last night's city council meeting, he saw Dr. Charles Simpson. The remainder of the chairs reserved for councilmen were empty. He then said, "Apparently we lack a quorum."

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 16, 1996

Larry Griffith, Baker City mayor and executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, recently returned from a whirlwind trip to Washington, D.C.

Griffith appeared before a Senate subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine. The group met to consider alternative funding programs to continuing passenger service on the Amtrak Pioneer train through Eastern Oregon.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 16, 2011

A male wolf from Oregon's largest pack, the Imnaha pack in Wallowa County, migrated south into Baker County earlier this week.

The 2 1/2-year-old wolf was on Little Lookout Mountain, about nine miles southwest of Richland and 27 miles east of Baker City, Thursday morning, said Nick Myatt of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

This wolf should be easier to keep track of than wolves that came to Baker County in past years because this animal is wearing a collar equipped with a GPS transmitter, Myatt said.

Twice each day the transmitter records its location. ODFW officials can get the information through the Internet.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald September 17, 2020

Ted White strolls the sidewalk on the north side of Auburn Avenue on a morning that more resembles London cloaked in its famous autumn fog than Baker City on the final week of summer.

But the gray cloud that draped itself over Baker City Wednesday morning carried not the salty tang of the sea but rather the acrid scent of scorched wood.

For the fifth straight day, smoke from the massive and destructive fires on the other side of Oregon and from Northern California, propelled by upper level winds, sullied the sky in Baker County and most of the rest of the state.

The smoke dirtied the air to potentially dangerous levels, blocked views of the nearby Elkhorn and Wallowa Mountains, and deflected some of the sun's power on what would otherwise have been an unseasonably hot and possibly record-setting day.

But the smoke didn't discourage White, of Baker City, from taking his daily walk.

He planned to put in about 3 miles on Wednesday. White said the smoke is a "nuisance."

But only once during the current spate of smoky days has the air been so foul as to drive White indoors.

For much of last week Baker County was largely spared the onslaught of smoke from record-setting wildfires in the western and southern parts of Oregon that have burned more than 1 million acres.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Sept. 13
2 — 3 — 31 — 37 — 41 — 45
Next jackpot: \$3.1 million

POWERBALL, Sept. 13
37 — 40 — 50 — 61 — 63 PB 21
Next jackpot: \$432 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Sept. 14
4 — 13 — 19 — 63 — 64 Mega 16
Next jackpot: \$405 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Sept. 13
15 — 56 — 62 — 63

PICK 4, Sept. 14
• 1 p.m.: 7 — 8 — 9 — 8
• 4 p.m.: 6 — 4 — 0 — 3
• 7 p.m.: 1 — 9 — 5 — 2
• 10 p.m.: 6 — 7 — 3 — 2

LUCKY LINES, Sept. 14
1-5-12-15-19-21-28-32
Next jackpot: \$21,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, broccoli rolls, pasta salad, lemon squares
- **MONDAY:** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, cottage cheese with Jell-O salad, sherbet
- **TUESDAY:** Herb-baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, rolls, macaroni salad, cinnamon rolls
- **WEDNESDAY:** Turkey sandwich, turkey noodle soup, green salad, tapioca
- **THURSDAY:** Chilli cheese dog, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, Jell-O with fruit, ice cream

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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Viola Perkins

Muddy Creek, Haines, 1926-2021

Viola Gertrude Perkins, 95, a longtime resident of Muddy Creek and Haines, died Sept. 7, 2021, at Settler's Park in Baker City.

A graveside service will take place Friday, Sept. 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Haines Cemetery with Cliff Cole presiding. Family and friends are invited to the Haines Baptist Church for a luncheon following the service.

Viola was born on July 6, 1926, at Baker to Herbert and Esther Green. Viola spent her early years in Cove, and after her parents divorced, she moved with her Daddy (as she always lovingly referred to him) to Muddy Creek.

Viola graduated from Muddy Creek School and went to work for Nena Perkins to help cook for the haying crews. Room and board were part of her pay, and it was there she met and fell in love with a handsome, tall drink of water, Dwight Perkins. They were married on June 17, 1944. Viola dearly loved Nena and they had a wonderful mother-daughter relationship.

In a short biography, Viola wrote that they had no idea where they were going to live after they married (such a trivial thing to consider when young and in love), but Dwight's folks moved from the homeplace on Muddy Creek to Haines while they were on their honeymoon.

"So, when we came back from Portland, we moved into their ranch house — we lived there for four years," Viola said. It was during that time they had their first son, Ron, and later, Bill.

They moved from there to the ranch on the corner of the Anthony Lakes Highway and Mansfield Lane, and after a few years built a bigger home. It was there that son Lynn and daughter Debbie were born. They sawed lumber from family property on Bulger Flat, with the house being built in 1958.

Viola wrote, "We hit hardpan and had to blast a lot of the basement. The boys helped with the digging. It didn't work very well so our basement wasn't very deep! We lived there until the spring of 1979 — then we moved to the big city of Haines."

This was the same home Nena and Loring Perkins lived in for so many years on the corner of Third and Amy. Viola and Dwight lived there for nearly two decades and she continued to do so after Dwight's passing in July of 1997, until she went to live with her daughter, Debbie, and son-in-law, Mel, on their ranch in Nevada. After she needed more assistance, she moved back to Baker City into Settler's Park.

Viola loved the little community of Haines and volunteered countless hours to the Eastern Oregon Museum and Friends of Haines Fourth of July Celebration; she was an active member of the Haines Baptist Church and Mutual Improvement Club, of which she served as president more than once. She helped with 4-H activities and taught Sunday School when the kids were young, and was active in the Baker County Cowbells (now called the Baker County Cattlewomen), also serving as president.

Viola was a quiet force along with Dwight during the early formation of Anthony Lakes, and she cooked in the lodge with her dear friend, Betty Vanderwall. She worked as a postal clerk



Viola Perkins

in Haines, as well.

She loved to sew, quilting in particular! She also liked to crochet, bake, pick huckleberries, and took the kids camping often. Her chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies were the best!

Viola was a dedicated rancher's wife, mother, grandmother, a good neighbor, and friend to many. And by golly, she could get cows — anybody's cows — to gather and come running to the gate when it was time to move them, with a hearty "suuuuboss."

Viola is survived by her children, including William (Cherie) of Roseburg, Lynn (Gina) of Baker City, and Debbie (Mel) of Winnemucca, Nevada. Her oldest son, Ron, died in 2008 and his wife, Shelly in 2019. Viola is also survived by her grandchildren, including Andy (Wendy), Erich (Sarah), Brittany, Kelli (Chris), Evan, Arden (Michelle), Hayden (Hope), and Matt. She has 10 great-grandchildren.

Those wishing to donate in honor of Viola may do so to the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines, Haines Baptist Church, the Rock Creek-Muddy Creek Mutual Improvement Club, or a charity of one's choosing. Donations should be sent in care of: Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

Laura Watson

Baker City, 1948-2021

Laura Mae Watson, 72, of Baker City, died Sept. 11, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise after a long battle with health issues.

Laura was born on Sept. 12, 1948, at Klamath Falls to William Francis "Frank" Watson and Alpha Watson. Laura grew up in a large, loving family. She had six siblings and had a strong bond with each of them. As a young child, her family, children included, would travel to work in cotton orchards.

As she grew older, she became well versed with her customer service skills. She was proud of her hotel manager title at the Hotel Bentley and the Red Lion Hotel in Louisiana. Later, she became the manager for local Baker City restaurants such as the Haines Steak House, The Sunridge, and during the opening of the Geiser Grand Hotel.

She had many, many friends whom she met throughout her life, mostly

work colleagues that she held dear. She held on to written notes through the years from these friends that she treasured and beamed with pride when she would talk of her memories. Laura was an honest woman who always had an enormous amount of learned advice.

Laura was wonderful at remembering fond memories, that came across as stories, because they were exciting. Her favorite story to tell was when she was on her ex-husband's ship in the ocean, and pirates came and took over control of their ship and they had to take off in the boat they had been towing with the ship.

She was a wonderful gardener of plants inside and out. Her granddaughter, Ashleigh, would call her the "plant doctor," as she could bring any plant back to life. Laura had a love for music such as opera, country, '80s genre and, of course, her "Hope Floats" soundtrack.

Laura was a hippie at heart, and she will be remembered wearing her capris and ankle bracelets. She had a love for everyone, regardless of their background, color of their skin, or religion. She had a deep connection with her dog, Dutchy B, and all other pets that she was around. Her memory will be treasured for all the days of our lives (which was also her favorite soap opera!)

Laura is survived by her children, John Beatty and Colleen Klassen; her granddaughter, Ashleigh King-Price, and grandson-in-law, Taylor Price; her great-grandchildren, McKynzie, Olivia and Lincoln; her sisters, Cindy Shuckle and Vicky Watson-Worsham; her nieces and nephews include Rick Watson, Rhonda

Watson-Yanez, Justin Watson, Michelle Watson, Tracy Fass, Todd Beatty, Chris Beatty, Holly Hardesty, Little Rhonda Yanez, Erica Watson, Vorzheva Yanez, Damien Yanez, Devin Yanez, Alexis Watson, Kasey Watson, Enola Watson, Tessa Banister, Gabriel Banister, and Eli Banister.

Laura was preceded in death by her mother and father, Frank and Alpha Watson; her brothers, William "Skip" Watson, Jerry Watson and Rodger Watson; her sister, Judy Bingham; her niece, Kimberly Bingham; and her nephews, Joshua Hardesty and William "Will" Watson.

In her later days, her biggest desire was to dance again, and she worried that she would never get the chance to do so. We know she is dancing in heaven to God's beautiful choir, without pain and a great, big smile on her face, her family said.

She loved her family and friends, and we loved her back — as she would say, "love you long time."

A note from the family of Laura Mae Watson:

On September 11, 2021, we lost our loving mother. Our hearts are heavy, and we now have to say goodbye. In her time on Earth, she was full of life and has seen and done many things, from her travels to Louisiana, Germany, and everywhere in between, before settling in Oregon. To all our family and friends, we want to say thank you for loving her and receiving the love she gave; never will we meet another like her. Until we meet again!

To leave an online condolence Laura's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.



Laura Watson

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MAYTAG
WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS

Memorial Service for

Evelyne Fisher

September 18 at 10:30 am • Haines Baptist Church
Interment to follow at the Haines Cemetery
Zoom Link below:
Meeting ID: 846 3290 5984 • Passcode: funeral
or phone #: 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 846 3290 5984 • Passcode: 5621543
Due to an overabundance of caution, use mask indoors.

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Saturday, Sept 18th
and Sunday, Sept 19th
from 12pm-3pm.

A charming ranch-style home on a 7500 sqft lot. 2 bed 1 bath. 1 car garage attached. A large fenced backyard and mature tree provide a secluded and shady spot to entertain.

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