

COVID

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On Saturday, Sept. 11 and Sunday, Sept. 12, there were 25 total cases. For the following Monday and Tuesday the total was 55.

On Saturday, Aug. 28 and Sunday, Aug. 29 the total was nine, followed by 25 cases for the next two days.

Staten said the weekly total of 139 cases from Sept. 12-18 was the highest for the county during the pandemic.

On Friday the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported that a 72-year-old Baker County woman who tested positive for COVID-19 had died on Sept. 7.

It was the county's 20th COVID-related death, and the first since Aug. 17. OHA has reported three COVID-19 related deaths in the county since July 29, when the daily case rate began to rise rapidly.

Monthly totals have risen from 51 in May, to 70 in June, to 91 in July and to 300 in August.

Vaccination rate

Staten said she's cautiously optimistic about a slight rise

recently in the county's vaccination rate.

A total of 357 doses were administered in the county from Sept. 1-16, according to the OHA, a daily average of 22.3 doses. A total of 52 doses were given on Sept. 10, the county's highest one-day total since June 11, when 90 doses were administered.

The August daily average was 20.4 doses. July's average was 12.8 doses per day.

Staten said some of the people who are visiting the Health Department for inoculations are required, by their employer, to be vaccinated.

She said Health Department workers have also talked to some people who worried that they had been exposed to COVID-19 and sought a vaccination as a result.

Staten noted that the vaccines can't prevent infection if they're given after the fact.

Baker County has the sixth-lowest vaccination rate among Oregon's 36 counties, with 50.5% of residents 18 and older vaccinated as of Friday, Sept. 17.

Statewide, 74.1% of residents 18 and older are vaccinated, according to OHA.

Staten said the Health

Department is working with school districts to prevent virus spread in schools and allow in-person classes to continue.

"We're doing everything we can to isolate and quarantine so we can keep our schools open," Staten said. "Hopefully people are staying home if they're sick. It's a challenge, and it's tough on parents."

The Health Department last week adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's reduced quarantine period for most people who are close contacts with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. The period has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days. Close contacts who don't have symptoms after 10 days of quarantining can return to school on the 11th day.

The shorter period is also recommended for adults, except residents of long-term care facilities.

"The change to quarantine time is based on research that shows the likelihood of a close contact contracting or spreading COVID-19 after day 10 is very low," according to a press release from the Health Department.

Other aspects of the new quarantine protocol include:

- The shortened quarantine is for those without symptoms. Testing is recommended for close contacts that develop symptoms.

- All close contacts will still monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

- Fully vaccinated individuals (those who are two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or single dose of Johnson & Johnson) do not need to quarantine unless they have symptoms.

Breakthrough cases

The OHA on Thursday, Sept. 16 released its weekly report of breakthrough cases — infections in people who are fully vaccinated.

In Baker County, breakthrough cases accounted for 12.5% of cases from Sept. 6-12 — 14 of 112 cases.

From Aug. 1 through Sept. 12, the county's breakthrough case rate was 9.5% — 45 of 474 cases.

Breakthrough cases have been less common in Baker County than in Oregon as a whole.

According to OHA, the rate of breakthrough cases statewide has been 18.9% since Aug. 1.

WOLVES

Continued from A1

"Whenever wolves are put on the chopping block, it is a tragedy," said Sristi Kamal, senior northwest representative for Defenders of Wildlife. "Lethal control is never a long-term solution and any pups that will be killed under these permits did not even participate in the hunts. There are better solutions than just killing wolves to cultivate social acceptance. Investments in proactive non-lethal efforts can do much more for promoting coexistence."

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash sent a letter to ODFW Director Curt Melcher on Sept. 13 asking the state to kill the entire Lookout Mountain pack and relieve the burden on ranchers in the area.

"The financial burden, physical strain and exhaustion they are going through in what has become a fruitless effort to keep the Lookout Mountain Pack from killing their animals is extreme," Ash wrote. "I believe the most humane way of dealing with this problem wolf pack is to remove the adult breeding pair that are teaching the negative learned behavior

of targeting cattle to their offspring."

Roblyn Brown, ODFW's state wolf coordinator, agreed with Ash that the Lookout Mountain wolves have shown a preference for cattle over elk and deer.

"This pack has made a shift in their behavior," Brown said in a press release. "Instead of the occasional opportunistic killing of a vulnerable calf, now they are targeting livestock despite the high numbers of elk and deer in the area where the depredations have occurred and extensive human presence to haze wolves."



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo

A trail cam photo from May 30, 2021, of one of the two yearling wolves in the Lookout Mountain pack.

FRAUD

Continued from A1

The purported owner also told SBA investigators that the company's supposed address in San Diego was that individual's personal residence and not a com-

mercial property with 350 employees.

In early September 2020, investigators from the SBA and the U.S. Secret Service learned about Clawson's arrest near Baker City while driving the Dodge Challenger.

Clawson later told authorities that he had received

a large inheritance from his father, including \$30,000 in cash he had on his person during a subsequent arrest.

On Sept. 11, investigators interviewed Clawson at the Baker County Jail. Clawson claimed to have received the \$145,200 from a woman with whom he had an online dating

relationship. He said he didn't know what to do with the money and, after he stopped communicating with the woman, he started spending the money. Clawson admitted to using the SBA money to purchase the Dodge Challenger and several other vehicles, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

OBITUARIES

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Ed was also a steel craftsman and artist, a humbly expert welder — a fixer of many a broken hitch and builder of dozens and dozens of custom dinner triangles. This pursuit and expertise allowed him to make many meaningful connections with people, another calling about which he was incredibly passionate.

In March of 1962, Ed married his beloved, Nancy Anderson. Shortly thereafter, they settled in Modesto on a dairy farm, beginning his career in cattle husbandry and management that later extended to a successful business breeding and showing purebred beef cattle. Together they built a brood, six children in all, and all of whom inherited Ed's deep love of hiking, hunting, and fishing in the mountains of California's Sierra Nevada. Ed's love for tromping around the starkly beautiful alpine wilderness, and climbing its high peaks, appealed to his deep desire for constant communion with God, whom he found especially present there.

From a young age, Ed adored sacred choral music. He had a resonant, remarkable bass voice and finely tuned ear for harmony; this was developed in childhood during many hours of praising God in a cappella song in the Old German Baptist Church, in which he was raised and came to know his savior, Jesus Christ. One of Ed's fondest memories was performing "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn, with the Modesto Masterworks Chorus.

In 2005, Ed and Nancy moved to the small town of Richland. He was truly in his element, offering his services as an AI technician and helping neighbors with shop repair work. He faithfully served for a number of years on the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District board of directors, an extension of his many years as a volunteer firefighter for Salida Fire Department in California. In California, Ed and Nancy had also enjoyed raising many rescued marsh hawks and owlets, releasing them back into the wild. In Richland, bird and wildlife watching remained a hobby and delight for both Ed and Nancy throughout their time together.

Ed's love for people was his greatest gift. A mentor always, he was never afraid to speak of his faith and love for Jesus. Out of that love flowed much of his life's work and involvement with people. Ed's deep love showed through most when he was with younger children, giving many grandchildren tractor rides, building incredible tree houses, and taking great pride in sharing all that he had learned about life and faith. He was always encouraging to others and maintained that until the very end.

Ed is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy; his sons, George Bowman (Sharon), Jason Bowman (Sarah), Cody Bowman (Misty), Vince Bowman (Pamela), and Emmet Bowman (Errica); his daughter, Deanna Bowman, and son-in-law Brian Pennock; his brother, Charles Bowman (Judy); many cousins, and much extended family. Ed was "Poppy" to 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Ruby Bowman; his brother, Eugene Bowman; his daughter, Celia Bowman; and granddaughters, Abigail Bowman and Beatrix Pennock.

If desired, donations can be made in Ed's honor to the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District or Gideons International through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.taminspinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Wayne Burnside: 82, of Baker City, died Sept. 15, 2021. To leave an online condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Maxine Hathaway: 90, of Baker City, died Sept. 16, 2021, at her residence. To leave an online condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Laura Watson: Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m. at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. All family and friends are welcome.

Viola Perkins: Graveside memorial service Friday, Sept. 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Haines Cemetery. Donations in Viola's memory can be made to the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines, Haines First Baptist Church, or the Rock Creek-Muddy Creek Mutual Improvement Club through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Viola's memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
OFFENSIVE LITTERING:

Roy Edward Bell, 70, Baker City, 12:20 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 in the 2500 block of Broadway Avenue; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations
SECOND-DEGREE THEFT, COMPUTER CRIME: Mary Elizabeth Reynaga, 54, Durkee, 12:11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 at 34721 Express Road No. 31; cited and released.

HARASSMENT: Jennifer Lynn Dayhoff, 36, Haines, 11:42 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 on Front Street in Haines; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: James Donald Griffin, 64, La Grande, 1:51 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 at the east boat ramp at Phillips Reservoir; cited and released.

PAROLE VIOLATION: Alexander Prentice Griffin, 30, Baker City, 8:29 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 at the sheriff's office; jailed.

Oregon State Police Arrests, citations
HUNTING WITHOUT AN ARCHERY TAG: Robert Leonard Sletager Coop, 39, Springfield, Oregon, 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 on the Greenhorn Road; cited and released after shooting at a deer decoy set up by OSP.

Forest supervisor starts work in October

Baker City Herald

PORTLAND — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will soon have a new leader.

Shaun McKinney will become the supervisor for the 2.4-million-acre Wallowa-Whitman, which is based in Baker City.

Glenn Casamassa, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, announced Monday, Sept. 20 that McKinney will start his new job in late October.

McKinney will replace Thomas Montoya, who retired June 1, 2021.

McKinney joins the Forest Service from the West National Technology Support Center, where he leads a team providing direct



Shaun McKinney

assistance, training and innovative natural resources technological solutions to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff throughout the western United States.

"Shaun has worked in both public and private land conservation, drawing on his background as a fisheries biologist to inform his strategic direction and oversight of a large team

tasked with developing and implementing innovative technical solutions for field science staff working on a variety of complex natural resource issues," Casamassa said in a press release. "His considerable experience in organizational leadership, science-based decision-making, and innovative problem-solving will serve him well as he serves the residents and communities of Eastern Oregon as Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest."

McKinney has a masters of fisheries science and statistics from Oregon State University and a bachelor of science from Michigan State University.

"I'm looking forward to returning to the Blue Mountains, where I began my career, to work together with the staff, communities and partners on healthy ecosystems and economies. It will be an exciting next chapter filled with challenges and opportunities," McKinney said.

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