

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald September 27, 1971

Scholarships were presented by the Baker Kiwanis Club Friday evening to two county seniors.

Don McLean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don McLean, Huntington, received a full tuition scholarship to Treasure Valley Community College. Burnt River High School's outstanding senior girl, JoDell Carroll, received a partial tuition scholarship to Eastern Oregon College.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 27, 1996

There will be no additional Oregon State Police officers hired with federal grant money unless the state can provide matching funds, according to Lt. Gerald Hays.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 28, 2011

Baker Middle School teacher Samantha Sullivan urged the nearly 40 students in her leadership class to work efficiently to make the best use of their time while helping sort food for the Backpack Nutrition Project last week at the First Presbyterian Church. The seventh- and eighth-graders joined church volunteers to fill more than 100 plastic grocery bags with ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, crackers and other food to help feed needy Baker School District students over the three-day weekend.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald September 29, 2020

Volunteers were busy buzzing around work benches Saturday morning in a work bay at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Baker City.

Almost literally buzzing.

Sanders were spinning and other tools whirring as about two dozen volunteers assembled bunk beds for the nonprofit philanthropic organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which provides beds to families.

The nonprofit was started in 2012 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Its nearest chapter is in John Day, said Susie V. Brown, who is the president of that chapter and organized Saturday's build day at OTEC.

"We cover Grant County, Malheur County, Baker County, and Harney County and provide beds for these kids," Brown said.

She said the organization, which started with seven chapters, received a major publicity boost in February when TV host Mike Rowe, responding to a request from a Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter, featured the project on his "Returning the Favor" program.

"After it started airing in the middle of February, they were getting applications to some chapters from across the country," Brown said.

At one point, the nonprofit had about 1,000 applications from people wanting to volunteer to help build beds.

Today, Sleep in Heavenly Peace has more than 200 chapters nationwide.

"We're more than happy to support a great project like this," said Brown, who started the John Day chapter with her husband.

For Saturday's bed-building event at OTEC, the cooperative donated the use of its equipment, and seven OTEC employees (including two children of employee Ron Rasmussen) were among the volunteers who assembled 14 beds.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Sept. 25
14 - 15 - 29 - 39 - 43 - 48
Next jackpot: \$3.6 million

POWERBALL, Sept. 25
22 - 23 - 37 - 62 - 63 PB 19
Next jackpot: \$545 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Sept. 24
17 - 21 - 27 - 43 - 56 Mega 15
Next jackpot: \$22 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Sept. 25
21 - 22 - 48 - 72

PICK 4, Sept. 26
• 1 p.m.: 9 - 1 - 7 - 0
• 4 p.m.: 1 - 3 - 3 - 6
• 7 p.m.: 0 - 0 - 2 - 4
• 10 p.m.: 5 - 3 - 1 - 1

LUCKY LINES, Sept. 26
3-8-10-14-18-22-25-31
Next jackpot: \$11,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, fruit cup, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY:** Pork tips over fettuccine noodles, peas, rolls, green salad, bread pudding
- **FRIDAY:** Chicken croissant sandwiches, chips, potato salad, fruit, brownies
- **MONDAY (Oct. 4):** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, cottage cheese with fruit, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Oct. 5):** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, mixed vegetables, pasta salad, pudding

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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OBITUARIES

John Bennett

Baker City, 1950-2021

John Alan Bennett, 70, died peacefully on Sept. 18, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise due to complications from COVID. His son, Ty, and daughter-in-law, Debbie, were by his side during his last moments on this earth. His daughter, Darcy, granddaughter, Shelby, and grandson, Morgan, were able to spend some final moments with him in the hospital on the day he passed.

A celebration of his life will take place Saturday, Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. at Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. in Baker City. A reception will follow at Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St.

John Alan Bennett was born on Nov. 5, 1950, in Volga, South Dakota, to Lyle Conrad Bennett and Arda Irene Bennett (Dixon). He was their second child, joining his older brother Larry.

John grew up in Arlington, South Dakota. John lost his mother at the very young age of 2. He attended school in Arlington. The summer before his senior year (1968), John hitchhiked and hopped box cars to travel from Arlington to Estes Park, Colorado, where he landed a job helping with a chuckwagon for a horse wrangling outfit.

It was there that John caught the eye of a young, beautiful horse wrangler who was also working there. The crew was all sitting around the campfire when Bonnie Kay Buri heard John mention South Dakota. Bonnie approached this young cowboy and they got to talking. This conversation revealed that they only lived about 30 miles from each other in South Dakota. John shared with Bonnie that he was an extra in a John Wayne movie, "Hellfighters," and had met some big stars. They continued at the same camp for the next week, after which John traveled by hitchhiking and box car hopping to California where his brother Larry was.

John ended up back in Arlington before he was to start his senior year of high school. When Bonnie returned to South Dakota from her job in Colorado, she informed her parents that she had met a movie star. In October of 1968 she reached out to track down John in Arlington. The couple dated for a month, got engaged in November and were married on Dec. 28, 1968, in Watertown, South Dakota.

John quit high school to provide for his family. Bonnie and John traveled to Oregon from South Dakota in the winter of 1969 looking for ranch work. Shortly thereafter they learned that they were expecting a child. Due to lack of work, the couple made their way back to South Dakota where Darcy was born on Nov. 30, 1969. Their son, Ty, joined the family on Nov. 20, 1971.

Seven years after returning to South Dakota and two kids later, the family packed up their belongings in a horse trailer and moved to Oregon in the fall of 1975 when Darcy was 6 and Ty was 4. They settled in Baker, and in the spring of 1977 they rented an 80-acre spread.



John Bennett

A year later, they purchased 60 acres of the bare pastureland. The couple spent a year building corrals and putting up fencing before they moved to the ranch and started raising longhorn cattle. Their first three buffalo came to the ranch in February of 1981. John and Bonnie parted ways in 1985.

In his younger days John was a brand inspector, but his passion was raising cattle, buffalo, Texas longhorns and trading livestock. John and Bonnie were the owner-operators of Bennett's Texas Longhorn & Buffalo Ranch. They also owned and operated Bennett's Saddle Shop which was located on Broadway Street in town.

John was a very handsome man and enjoyed the company of beautiful women. He had a draw and charisma about him that attracted a great deal of lovely ladies. John married a few more times, attempting to find someone to share the rest of his days with.

Not only was John a "movie star," but five of his longhorn cows starred in a Marlboro commercial in July of 1993 bringing in \$1,500 for a three-day stint. John and his livestock were frequently featured in the local newspaper. John was also known to play guitar and sing a bit in his younger days.

John loved sharing his passion for horses and livestock with children of all ages. He lit up when a child took interest in his buffalo, horses, cattle, etc. He took great joy in mentoring these young people, teaching them to ride, rope and wrangle.

In 1998 John swept a bank teller off her feet when he passed a yellow rose through her drive through drawer at the bank. John later married this bank teller, June Woodcock, on May 24, 2004. The two enjoyed the company of John's grandsons, Trevor and Morgan, on a regular basis during their time together. John taught the boys many things, including how to spit spitwads in restaurants ... and not get caught. He loved taking them to Pizza Hut and the Truck Corral where he excelled in teaching them how to harass waitresses. John also loved a good buffet!

John and June divorced in March of 2013. John expressed in these past few months that he sincerely missed the companionship he and June shared, stating their time together was one of the best periods of his life.

John was a creature of habit and his life consisted of sale days every Tuesday and Thursday. This was his social life as well as his livelihood. He had several business partners in his life, most notably Sweeney Gillette and more recently, Hannah Jones. We are quite certain these two, and many others, have some pretty good stories about John, his family said.

John's pride and joy were his children and grandchildren. He was especially delighted with the birth of his first great-grandchild. His second love was his ranch and everything that came with it. He loved sitting in a chair looking at the mountains, the sunrises, and sunsets. He took great pride in the natural beauty that surrounded his property. John's home remained on his ranch for the rest of his days.

John touched the lives of many. He was a kind man with a huge heart. He would frequently check on others and do things for people out of the blue. He was thoughtful, and people knew he was thinking of them by the cards, calls and as technology developed, texts they would receive from him.

John is survived by a brother, Larry Bennett and his wife, Mary; his daughter, Darcy Colton and her husband, Eric; his son, Ty Bennett and his wife, Debbie; grandsons Talon Colton, Trevor Bennett and Morgan Bennett; granddaughter Shelby Preston; great-grandson Paycen Preston; a niece, Jennifer Teafattler; and a nephew, Nicklas Bennett; and his beloved dog, Sadie.

John was preceded in death by his father, Lyle; his mother, Arda; an infant sister, Lenae Rose Bennett; and a brother, Donald Bennett; and many companion animals, to include his dog Sammi.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Eastern Oregon Chapter of FFA or to the Baker County 4-H Club in care of Gray's West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle for John or to offer online condolences to his family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

'Bill' Clark

Baker City, 1944-2021

William J. "Bill" Clark 77, of Baker City, died Sept. 19, 2021, at his home.

At his request, cremation was held and there will be no service. Coles Tribute Center is in charge of arrangements.

Bill Clark was born on June 12, 1944, in Portland to Harry and Nina (Lewis) Clark. The youngest of five children, he attended school in Hubbard, Oregon. Bill served in the US Army for three years, stationed in Germany. His daughter, Marilyn Johnson, was born from his first marriage.

Bill met Jo Ann Gard in Baker City and they were married for 38 years until Jo Ann's death in 2010. Among his many employments he worked for Baker Cab, Chuck Rohner, Bill Emery, Eldon Baker, Johnson Homes, Harold Staten and Chet Smith Motors.

Bill was a member of Eagles Club No. 3456, a lifetime member of VFW Post No. 3048, American Legion Post No. 41 and Baker City Elks Lodge No. 338.

He enjoyed deer and elk hunting and camping with friends and family. Jo Ann and Bill loved to travel with their trailer to many places.

He is survived by his sisters, Virginia Boblink and Harriet Bryant of Wilsonville; his brother, Ed Clark of Madras; his daughter, Marilyn Johnson of Seattle; his grandsons, Cody and Noah; great-grandchild, Lauren; many nieces and nephews; longtime friends, Paul Dolan and Rosie Logsdon; and caregiver Marshall Schosser.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jo Ann; his parents, Harry and Nina; and a sister, Janet Phelps.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions in memory of Bill can direct them to a charity of one's choice through the Coles Tribute Center 1950 Place St. Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Bill, go to www.coletributecenter.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Wade Dahlen: 82, of Baker City, died Sept. 23, 2021, at his home. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St. To light a candle in memory of Wade, go to www.coletributecenter.com.

David Romine: 87, died on Sept. 26, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Elmer Merle Hill: 63, of Baker City, died Sept. 24, 2021, in Boise. His funeral will be Thursday, Sept. 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane, with Pastor Lennie Spooner officiating. Interment will directly follow the church service, at Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, by mailing a check to Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Elmer's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Ronald 'Ron' Robinson: Graveside service, Friday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. at 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.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
CONTEMPT OF COURT
(Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Leon Emil Brandt, 36, Baker City, 1:24 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27 in the 2100 block of Seventh Street; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Matthew James Harshman, 30, Baker City, 6:07 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 in the 2100 block of Second Street; cited and released.
RECKLESS DRIVING, RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING ANOTHER, VIOLATION OF RESTRAIN-

ING ORDER: Sean Dean Taylor, 30, Baker City, 1:57 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 in the 1600 block of Oak Street; cited and released.
POINTING A FIREARM AT ANOTHER PERSON, MENACING: Whitney Michelle Collins, 34, Baker City, 10:54 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25 in the 1100 block of E Street; cited and released.

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