

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, OCT. 7

■ **Baker County Transient Lodging Tax Committee:** 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St., special meeting to review the two proposals for operating a visitors center in Baker City.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald September 30, 1971

Lady Luck, in the form of weather, seems to point in favor of the deer hunters as the 1971 season-starting week approaches.

Snow blankets the mountains surrounding Baker with a foot of snow reported around the 7,000-foot level near Halfway.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 30, 1996

KEATING — There were more than 50 people in the basement of the tiny school here Saturday night, students and former students, teachers and former teachers, parents and principals.

They came to talk, and to laugh, and to sample the desserts that filled a table and a linoleum counter.

But all that was secondary. Their real purpose — the only purpose for the gathering — was to thank Kitty Brettelle, and to watch her play the piano.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 30, 2011

Even with the deadline to file as a candidate four months away, and the primary election more than six months distant, the Baker County ballot is starting to fill.

One of the three seats on the Baker County Commission, the one held by Tim L. Kerns, is in play.

Kerns' four-year term ends Dec. 31, 2012.

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

Parents of Baker School District students will have a chance to ask Superintendent Mark Witty during a Zoom meeting Wednesday evening about plans to possibly resume in-person classes for younger students on Oct. 12.

Witty also encourages parents to outline their problems regarding the online classes that started Sept. 8.

"I want to hear concerns or questions parents may have about how things are going and the decisions we are making as we work our way back to in-person learning," Witty said.

A link to the Zoom meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m., is available on the Baker City Herald's Facebook page and at [www.bakercityherald.com](http://www.bakercityherald.com)

During a Baker School Board meeting Sept. 23, Witty said the District's goal is to welcome students from preschool to sixth-grade back to classrooms on Oct. 12.

That proposal, Witty emphasized, depends on Baker County continuing its recent trend of having few new COVID-19 cases. The county has had seven new cases in the past 3 weeks. The state threshold for in-person classes is 30 or fewer new cases over the most recent 3-week period.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Sept. 27

4 — 8 — 11 — 13 — 26 — 34

Next jackpot: \$3.7 million

### POWERBALL, Sept. 27

21 — 22 — 39 — 44 — 60 PB 12

Next jackpot: \$570 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, Sept. 28

18 — 30 — 43 — 68 — 69 Mega 22

Next jackpot: \$34 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Sept. 27

34 — 39 — 44 — 52

### PICK 4, Sept. 28

• 1 p.m.: 3 — 3 — 8 — 9

• 4 p.m.: 6 — 2 — 0 — 3

• 7 p.m.: 4 — 6 — 2 — 5

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 8 — 2 — 0

### LUCKY LINES, Sept. 28

1-6-10-16-19-21-26-30

Next jackpot: \$13,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **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
- **WEDNESDAY (Oct. 6):** Roast beef sandwiches, vegetable beef soup, chips, broccoli and bacon salad, apple crisp
- **THURSDAY (Oct. 7):** Chicken a la king, rice, rolls, carrots, macaroni salad, 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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## HEART TO HEART

### Thanks to everyone who helped me after my ATV accident

On Aug. 28, while riding ATVs along Phillips Ditch in the West Eagle mountain range, I was injured after rolling my ATV approximately 40 feet down a steep and rocky embankment. My riding partners, Darin Helman and Kay Burritt, made their way down the steep embankment to assess my injuries and to try to make me as comfortable as possible as I had landed face down on sharp rocks (and unknown at the time, had broken/cracked eight ribs.) Darin went to find cell service to call 911 and to then direct the first responders to our location, Kay stayed with me to keep me awake and to keep me from going into shock.

Search and Rescue volunteers, using a technical rope system, pulled me up the bank and transported me to an ambulance approximately three miles away. Medics assisted me at the site and on the trip to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in town. I was later flown to Saint Alphonsus in Boise but am now home and on the mend.

I would like to praise and express my sincere gratitude to the following first responders from the Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Baker County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Volunteers, the U.S. Forest Service, the medical team from Eagle Valley Ambulance, Life Flight, and the medical providers at Saint Alphonsus Medical Centers in Baker City and in Boise.

Also, I would like to thank Levi Mor-

ison and his crew, for taking the time and effort to retrieve my ATV from the bottom of the embankment and bringing it back to town.

Thank you, too, to all of my friends, family and community members for the outpouring of care, support, and well wishes.

Finally, I want to express special gratitude to my great friends Darin Helman and Kay Burritt, both of whom showed composure, strength and selflessness to ensure my safe and successful rescue and for all their care and support while I have been on the mend. Can't wait to ride again soon!

**Verl Cote**  
Baker City

## OBITUARIES

### Ronald Robinson

Formerly of Richland, 1941-2021

Ronald Clarke "Ron" Robinson, 80, of Springfield, and a former Richland resident, died Sept. 23, 2021, at 12:25 p.m. at his home in the company of his close family.

He had been in hospice for one month, which allowed Ron to pass at home with a minimum of pain or discomfort.

Per his wishes, he will be buried without a formal ceremony in his favorite place — Eagle Valley — where he so looked forward to being in the midst of other members of his family and community. He will be buried Friday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Friends and family are welcome to stop by and say hello and pay their respects.

Ron was born on Feb. 5, 1941, in Baker City to Bethel Mae (Frasier) Robinson and Sidney Arthur "Hez" Robinson. They lived in a small place at Bobcat Bar on Big Creek before moving to Pondosa, where they remained until the closure of the sawmill in 1959.

Ron had an idyllic childhood in the region; his family spending much time with their Randall, Johnson and Duncan relations. He considered the Eagle Cap Wilderness area his "playground" and worked for the US Forest Service, on trail, for five summers. After graduating from Union High School in 1959, Ron went on to college and earned his BA degree in History from Portland State University.

He served in the US Army from 1965-1967 and was stationed at Jacksonville, Florida. It was there he met nursing school graduate Mary Lou Thrift, from southern Georgia. They were married in 1967. After his discharge, Ron began working for State Farm Insurance company as a systems analyst. He and Mary Lou remained in the Jacksonville area and had two daughters, Leslie Lee (1968) and Cassandra Bethany (1970). Ron transferred to the company's home office in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1973; and the family built their home in a new housing development located outside the small town of Towanda the following year.

Ron very much enjoyed the community that he lived in. He was an active leader in the Boy Scout Troop and a friend to many. He took full advantage of the natural landscape of the area, loving to hike, camp and fish. Ron and Mary Lou had a large backyard garden in the sum-



'Ron' Robinson

mer. He split logs year-round to stoke his wood-burning stove in the winter, and he spent those cold Illinois months making many beautiful items by hand.

Over the 25 years spent in central Illinois, Ron loved to go to farm auctions, festivals and historical reenactment events. Another part-time pursuit was selling books and antiques at local shops and flea markets. He was also an early retailer on a new platform, called eBay.

After a realization that life was too short to miss, Ron decided to take an early retirement. He and Mary sold their house and moved to Richland in the summer of 1999.

They then built and moved into their current home in Springfield, where they lived down the road from Cassie and son-in-law Tom Stockton. Ron settled easily into his new lifestyle, and his particular joy was sharing time with his grandson, Walker James Stockton (2004). The two of them spent many hours in the state's woods and rivers, and more recently at the Oregon Air and Space Museum, where they were both involved as volunteers.

In Springfield, Ron continued to sell books and antiques locally and grew his business on eBay. He eventually included both of his daughters in the book and collectible business and they spent the past several years working as a family team. Ron loved working with his daughters in this way, and he made many widespread and lasting connections through his love of books and historical ephemera.

Over the years Ron and Mary Lou enjoyed traveling together. Ron made many trips back to Eastern Oregon to visit his friends and family, and he enjoyed nothing more than an elk hunt or pack trip with his Randall cousins. He also enjoyed the many visits to Springfield made by his mother and aunt Cleo, relatives and anyone else who "knew-him-when."

In 2004 Ron found a way to combine his love of hiking with a spirit of service towards his local community, when he founded the Scorpions Trail Crew — a part of a larger web of trail stewardship working closely with the US Forest Service. He was passionate about this endeavor; just two days before he passed away he was presented with an award for Lasting Impact by the US Forest Service. This

honor was conferred to him bedside by uniformed representatives, and all those in attendance witnessed his great gratitude and appreciation.

Ron had several health challenges over the years, and he finally succumbed to multiple myeloma after his diagnosis seven years earlier. His sheer strength and pragmatic attitude were astonishing to many. Until the final leg of his cancer journey he was active and literally unstoppable. He was known to "shred" his walking aids and remained working with the trail crew for as long as he possibly could.

Ron is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary Lou; his daughter, Cassie; Carl, the much-loved family dog; his grandson, Walker James; his son-in-law, Thomas Stockton; his daughter, Leslie Robinson and her partner, David Klawans, who reside in Los Angeles.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, James Stanton Robinson; and his niece, Patience Robinson-Campos.

For those who would like to make a donation in Ron's memory, the family suggests the Eagle Valley Cemetery Beautification Fund (future kiosk) 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).

### Elmer Hill

Baker City, 1958-2021

Elmer Merle Hill, 63, of Baker City, went to be with the Lord on Sept. 24, 2021, with his wife, Sheila, and his daughters, Shelby and Kristen, by his side.

Elmer's celebration of life took place Sept. 30 at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, with Pastor Lennie Spooner officiating. Interment followed at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Elmer was born on July 30, 1958, in Baker City to Don and Martha Hill. He grew up on the family farm on Old Wingville Road. Growing up on the farm taught Elmer from a young age what hard work really is. One of Elmer's first jobs was milking cows for Rohner's Dairy. He later went to work for Ellingson Lumber Company, which led him to the woods as a timber faller for various logging companies. Logging was one of the first loves of his life, which only made his love for the mountains grow stronger.

Elmer met the true love of his life, Sheila Treanor, on New Year's Eve of 1990. The

two quickly realized they never wanted to be apart and tied the knot on Aug. 2, 1991. They wanted to start their family right away, and on Sept. 9, 1992, they welcomed their first daughter, Shelby, into the world. A short two years later, on Sept. 2, 1994, Kristen was welcomed to the family. Elmer's world and priorities were forever changed. His little girls had him wrapped around their fingers. In 1997 Elmer ended his career in logging to join Ash Grove Cement Company so that he could spend more time with his family. He worked there for the past 24 years.

Elmer loved the outdoors. His favorite things were hunting and fishing. He never missed a chance to take his girls with him. Archery hunting became a passion of his. He loved the challenge and the rush of calling in a big bull elk. He passed his love for hunting and fishing onto his girls, and countless memories were made.

Elmer and Sheila entered a new phase in their lives when they were blessed with grandchildren. A whole new love was found. His grandkids quickly became the center of his universe. From playing race cars with his grandsons to dress up with his granddaughters, he never could tell them no.

Elmer also had a strong love for the Lord. On April 26, 1995, he asked Jesus into his heart and learned the importance of teaching his children to know and love the Lord.

Elmer was a genuine, kind, reliable, and hard-working man who always put his family first. It is going to be very difficult for Sheila, Shelby, and Kristen to face their tomorrows without him.

Elmer is survived by his wife of 30 years, Sheila; his daughters, Shelby (Shane) Page of Norfolk, Virginia, and Kristen (Tommy) Lein of Baker City; his grandsons, Connor and Austin Page, and his granddaughters, Jacquelyn and Danika Lein; his brother, Larry (Lorrie) Hill, and his sister, Donna (Tom) Bunch, all of Baker City; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his two infant daughters, Emily and Katie; and his parents, Don and Martha Hill.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, by mailing your check to 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence Elmer's family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).

## NEWS OF RECORD

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police

#### Arrests, citations

#### PROBATION VIOLATION

(Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Colvin William Cutshall III, 31, transient, 8:26 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27 in the 700 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

PAROLE VIOLATION: Eric Lee Cavyell, 30, Baker City, 7:04 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25 in the 1900 block of Main Street; jailed.

#### PROBATION VIOLATION:

Wendy Rose Bonneville, 48, Baker City, 1:31 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25 at Main and Campbell Streets; cited and released.

#### Baker County Sheriff's Office

#### Arrests, citations

FELON IN POSSESSION OF A WEAPON, CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON: Riky Lee Carter, 37, Haines, 7:52 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 at Stices Gulch; cited and released.

**APPLIANCES & MORE**

Jay & Kristin Wilson, Owners  
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MAYTAG

WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS