

Local

OBITUARIES

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

■ **Baker City Planning Commission:** 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. Public hearing to consider an application from Bruce Smith for a conditional use permit to convert the New Beginnings Fellowship Pentecostal Church of God, at 1820 Estes St., into a dwelling.

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

■ **Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee:** 3 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald October 18, 1971

Keeping their offense in check through the reserves route, the Pine-Eagle Spartans kept their grip on the Wapiti League lead by downing Joseph Saturday, 28-0.

The marshmallow outing gave the Spartans a 3-0 loop mark, just ahead of Enterprise, a team Pine-Eagle has already beaten 7-0.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 18, 1996

The Baker City Council on Thursday took no official position on siting a 1,500-bed medium-security prison 1 1/2 miles southeast of the city, but councilors approved a long list of conditions they want state officials to agree to.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 19, 2011

Occasional emotional moments punctuated the Baker School Board's discussion Tuesday about the school district's proposed weapons policy.

It was the topic of a work session preceding the board's regular meeting, but the matter came back again to dominate the rest of the meeting, which lasted about three hours.

Board members have opted for a temporary compromise that prohibits employees and contractors from carrying concealed weapons, even if they have a permit.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald October 20, 2020

Wingville has never been a town in the official sense, but so long as Howard Payton was living there the community in the heart of Baker Valley had its own mayor.

Payton's title was ceremonial but his position was pretty prominent just the same.

"If you needed to know something, you went to Howard," said Sean Lee, who has lived in Wingville for about 15 years and considers Payton, a longtime rancher, one of his mentors. "He was a huge historian for the area, and he could answer any question. Everyone called him the mayor."

Payton, whose family's roots in Baker County extend as far back as the county's founding in 1862, died Sunday in a Boise hospital. He was 83.

Payton spent almost the whole of his life on the family ranch at the intersection of Wingville Lane and Old Wingville Road, about 7 miles northwest of Baker City. He and his wife, Sandra, were away for two years while Howard attended college.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Oct. 16

2 - 8 - 12 - 18 - 20 - 26
Next jackpot: \$4.5 million

POWERBALL, Oct. 16

30 - 31 - 41 - 42 - 48 PB 3
Next jackpot: \$65 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Oct. 15

3 - 20 - 31 - 34 - 65 Mega 18
Next jackpot: \$95 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Oct. 16

1 - 4 - 5 - 77

PICK 4, Oct. 17

• 1 p.m.: 3 - 4 - 5 - 8
• 4 p.m.: 7 - 3 - 9 - 0
• 7 p.m.: 9 - 0 - 0 - 0

LUCKY LINES, Oct. 17

• 10 p.m.: 5 - 4 - 2 - 4
2-5-10-16-17-22-26-29
Next jackpot: \$14,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Lasagna, garlic bread, vegetables, broccoli-and-bacon salad, pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Chili cheeseburgers, potato wedges, peas, coleslaw, cheesecake
- **FRIDAY:** Roasted turkey, stuffing and gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, applesauce, bread pudding
- **MONDAY (Oct. 25):** Chicken broccoli fettuccini, garlic breadsticks, zucchini and tomatoes, cookies, ambrosia
- **TUESDAY (Oct. 26):** Herb baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, biscuits, beet-and-onion salad, cinnamon rolls

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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Mary Thompson

La Grande, 1931-2021

Mary Alice Thompson, 89, of La Grande, died Oct. 13, 2021, at her residence at the Grande Ronde Retirement Residence, surrounded by her loving family.



Mary Thompson

Her graveside service took place Monday, Oct. 18 at the Sumpter Cemetery. A celebration of Mary's life is also planned for Memorial Day 2022.

Mary was born on Nov. 26, 1931, in Baker City to Green Hudspeth and Rachel Hanby Hudspeth. Mary's early years were spent on the ranch owned by her father and uncles. The ranch is now known as the "Red Horse Ranch." She enjoyed riding horses with her siblings and living in the mountains. Mary always had a cheerful greeting for the guests coming to stay at the ranch or to go on a guided hunt.

In 1935, Mary lost her father to a hunting accident. It was at this time her mother moved the family to Sumpter, where Mary's uncles, Wallace "Spud" Hudspeth and Earnest Hudspeth and their families lived. Mary loved riding her horse to the McEwen School and feeding the cows on the hay wagon in the pasture that is now Phillips Reservoir.

Mary met Sam Valentine and they were married in Baker City. They had three children together: Terry, Sammy and Jody. After this union dissolved, Mary met the love of her life, Samuel Thompson. Two more daughters were added to the family, Pam and Cindy. After living in various areas of Oregon, Mary and Samuel settled in Pendleton.

Mary loved to dance, read and ride horses. Her children loved to listen to the stories she would tell of her childhood days. Because Mary was an avid believer that first impressions were the lasting ones, she always looked her best and taught her children the same. Once you met Mary, it was like you had known her forever.

Mary made many friends while working as a bartender. She was also a certified flagger. Mary continued working until the age of 80.

Mary was always looking for an adventure. She enjoyed camping, going to flea markets with family and attending the Pendleton Round-Up festivities. And if you were up for the challenge, Mary was always ready for that next card game.

Mary suffered many broken hearts with the loss of her son Sammy (1989), her husband Samuel (1995), her mother Rachel (2000), her daughter Jody (2017), her brother William and three grandsons, Brian, Cody and Hank.

She is survived by her son, Terry (Kathy) Valentine of Union; her daughters, Pam (Lynn) Wiley of Pendleton, and Cindy (Mark) Mecham of Watford City, North Dakota; her sisters, Jean Marrs, Joyce Pierson and Sharon Soleseng; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews.

Contributions in honor of Mary can be made to the Pendleton Fraternal Order of the Eagles No. 28 through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To offer online condolences to Mary's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Linda Koplein

Baker City, 1931-2021

Linda Rae Koplein, 72, of Baker City, died Sept. 14,

2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

A private memorial service will take place at a date to be determined.

Linda was born on Jan. 20, 1949, in Huntington Beach, California, to Norman Frederick Wells and Thelma Lorraine Crouch. Linda graduated from Huntington Beach High School in 1967.

Her greatest passion was working with the clients at Step Forward Activities. Linda did this for nearly 39 years. She earned many smiles and hugs and undying loyalty from so many of Step Forward's clients; Linda gave them her full attention when they needed it most. She was a safe harbor for them to come to, where they could sit when they were upset, without judgment or commentary. In 2000, Linda received the "Manager of the Year" award from the Oregon Resource Association. Ask anyone at Step Forward and they will tell you she earned that reward and deserved many more. Linda was a friend and mentor, confidante, advisor and guide to many of her co-workers. Linda was the foundation of Step Forward and a strong advocate for Step Forward's Mission. Her wit and laughter, knowledge, and heart will be missed dearly by all.

Linda married Michael Koplein on Dec. 10, 2004, in Baker City. She enjoyed traveling with Michael to "destinations unknown." In addition to traveling, Linda enjoyed tending to her indoor plants; she had an amazing green thumb.

Linda is survived by her husband, Michael Koplein of Baker City; her son, Joshua Bryant of DuPont, Washington; her sister, Norma Arnold of Boise; her brother, Norman Wells of Burbank, Washington; and six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to Step Forward Clients Christmas/ Party Fund through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

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

DebbraAnn Langley

2001-2021

DebbraAnn Mildred Langley, 20, died Aug. 10, 2021, due to complications with her heart while hospitalized in Portland.

A celebration of her life will take place Saturday, Oct. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Baker City Seventh Day Adventist Church, 42171

Chico Road. There will be a potluck to follow. This service will include her great-grandparents, Karlee E.E. Langley and Ivan Langley. The family understands the concerns of COVID, and if you do not feel comfortable or are not able to attend, the family appreciates your thoughts and prayers. Services will be available online at www.bakercityor.adventistchurch.org.

If you have an experience or something you would like to share about the life of DebbraAnn please feel free to send an email to nmlangley1974@gmail.com and the family will share it at the celebration of life.

DebbraAnn was born on July 24, 2001, to Novalee Langley and Kent Hampton. She was a bundle of joy to watch grow up into a wonderful person. During soccer games she was always helping the person without a shoe, who was hurt, or whatever happened. Her concern for how people felt was important to her and followed her through her whole life.

In early 2010 her mom was diagnosed with cancer. They moved to Henderson, Nevada, for her mom to receive treatments and to help take care of DebbraAnn. While in Henderson, she found a connection with the Paradise Seventh Day Adventist Church and their Pathfinders group. They took her in and made sure she was involved in as much as she could. She really enjoyed feeding the homeless every Saturday afternoon. It amazed her that they looked normal and yet so many were hungry. She learned the sign language honor and was able to sign to a man that was on the streets in a wheelchair and deaf. She also talked with another person who was deaf in a shopping mall. These were very interesting experiences. The man was shy but lit up like a Christmas tree when she signed to him. Her dad came down for a week to see her each Christmas that she was away.

DebbraAnn loved attending the Hampton family Christmas parties and dinners held at the La Grande

Mavericks as well as at Willow School, where the kids received gifts and made gingerbread houses, sugar cookies and crafts. She also loved to attend the Hampton family reunions held at the ranch every second Saturday in July. Talking with family she hadn't seen throughout the year.

When her dad had his leg amputated, Novalee would bring DebbraAnn to the hospital in the Tri-Cities and they would stay with him during his recoveries. She was always a very caring and loving daughter.

She continued with her care for others in many ways, the best being her hugs. Those who knew her best can attest to her hugs and always telling you "Hi, how are you?" multiple times in one visit.

DebbraAnn loved animals dearly. She left behind her dog of 13 years, Little Heart.

Little Heart slept with her every night. She had two therapy cats as well. Her family had never seen two cats allow her to do so much with them. They brought her great joy, peace, and comfort. The kids she went to school with knew she would stand up for those in need and they will deeply miss her.

She graduated from Union High School in June of 2021. While attending Union High School she was crowned Homecoming Queen in the fall of 2019. Even though she did not participate in sports it was voted to award this title because of her support of school sports and sportsmanship behavior. She participated in Drama class.

She was enrolled through an online college to start forensic courses in Florida and was accepted into St. Leo University in Forensic Science. Her plans were set, and she was working with VR and BTI to establish a work history.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to an animal shelter of your choice.



DebbraAnn Langley

GRAY'S WEST & CO. PIONEER CHAPEL

Our family would like to express our sincere gratitude for the love, support, and comfort provided during this tremendous loss. Our thanks to Gray's West & Co. for all of your support as well.

The family of

Elmer Merle Hill

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