

Local

OBITUARIES

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOV. 9

■ **Baker County Economic Development Council:** 3 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17

■ **Baker City Planning Commission:** 6 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St., Public hearing on a requested variance to allow construction of a single-family dwelling on a parcel smaller than the minimum size in the residential-medium density zone at 804 Auburn Ave.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
November 4, 1971

In what is described as "rapid and uncontrolled development in Sumpter Valley," the Sumpter planning commission asked the county planning commission in a letter to adopt an emergency ordinance to hold the lid on expansion.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 4, 1996

The Oregon Department of Corrections and the vast majority of the 500 or so people who attended a public hearing Friday at Baker High School agreed on one important point: the state should not build a 1,500-bed medium-security prison in Baker County.

That was expected to be the opinion of most county residents in the audience Friday.

But the corrections department's opposition caused a mild tumult in the audience, a tumult that ended in sustained applause.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 4, 2011

In the midst of a persistent bad spell for whitebark pine populations in Northeastern Oregon, 2011 stands out as a pretty good year.

Whitebarks, which grow at higher elevations than other conifers in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains, are suffering from a two-pronged attack: white pine blister rust and mountain pine beetles.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 5, 2020

Newly elected councilors will occupy at least four, and likely five, of the seven seats on the Baker City Council when it convenes in early January.

Baker City voters could pick up to six candidates Tuesday and only one among the top six — Jason Spriet — is an incumbent councilor.

The two other incumbents on the ballot — Arvid Andersen and Doni Bruland — were not among the top six finishers out of the 13 candidates on the ballot.

The gap between Andersen, in seventh place, and Heather Sells at sixth was 29 votes, based on unofficial results from the Baker County Clerk's office. County Clerk Stefanie Kirby said it's not clear how many ballots could still be counted.

A total of 46 ballots from residents eligible to vote in the City Council race were not accepted because they hadn't been signed or otherwise were challenged, Kirby said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Nov. 1
10 — 11 — 29 — 37 — 46 — 47
Next jackpot: \$5.2 million

POWERBALL, Nov. 1
9 — 25 — 34 — 44 — 45 PB 8
Next jackpot: \$132 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 2
5 — 10 — 26 — 58 — 65 Mega 9
Next jackpot: \$36 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 1
57 — 58 — 60 — 64

PICK 4, Nov. 2

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 8 — 1 — 1

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 8 — 8 — 8

• 7 p.m.: 8 — 8 — 5 — 6

• 10 p.m.: 3 — 7 — 8 — 8

LUCKY LINES, Nov. 2
3-6-9-14-17-21-27-30
Next jackpot: \$30,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, green salad, cookies
- **MONDAY (Nov. 8):** Chicken with homestyle noodles in gravy, rolls, broccoli, three-bean salad, cheesecake
- **TUESDAY (Nov. 9):** Ground beef steak with onions, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, rolls, ambrosia
- **WEDNESDAY (Nov. 10):** Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, mixed vegetables, Jell-O with fruit, sherbet
- **THURSDAY (Nov. 11):** Sweet-and-sour chicken, rice, Oriental vegetables, rolls, Asian slaw 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.

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'Pat' Duffey

La Grande, 1944-2021

Patsy "Pat" Duffey, 77, of La Grande, happily passed away Oct. 15, 2021.

In her own words, she wants all of her acquaintances and dear friends to know that if you are reading this, she no longer poses a threat.

There will not be an after-life celebration because she wanted to attend her own party. She had that party on June 16, 2019, and invited over 400 friends and family. Many attended and she hopes you were one of them.

Pat was born in Baker City on June 17, 1944. After attending and graduating from Saint Francis De Sales Academy, Pat commuted daily to Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, where she completed a degree in Biology. She then attended Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, where she devoted herself to studying, conducting research, and earning a doctorate degree in Zoology with an emphasis in Genetics.

In 1972, Pat returned to La Grande and became a highly esteemed and respected professor and Dean of Sciences at Eastern Oregon State College. Pat conducted additional research on genetic influences on cataracts of the eyes with Oregon Health Sciences University. As a professor she had the unique ability to make complex things easily understood.

If you didn't know Pat Duffey, it is certainly too bad for you and those around you. Generous to a fault, always sharing with others, organizing "orphan dinners" for college students during holidays, delivering meals to remote senior citizens, organizing benefit "soup suppers" and concerts with local artists, are just some of the ways Pat gave back to the community.

Pat will be very much missed by family, friends, and the countless number of folks she has helped and positively affected during her lifetime.

Survivors are many and they know exactly who they are.

Pat wanted you to know that at least you got a hopefully interesting story about her by taking the time to read this.

If you're inclined to donate on her behalf, there are a couple of organizations that were always worthy of Pat's attention: The Humane Association, 3212 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR 97850, and Shelter From the Storm, 10901 Island Avenue, Island City, OR 97850.

Online condolences can be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Ritha Wilcox

Baker City

Ritha Mae Wilcox, 66, died Oct. 28, 2021, of COVID-related complications.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date.

Ritha, a longtime resident of Baker City and alumnus of Baker High School, was known and loved by many. Ritha's life was not about her work, but she did have a passion for helping victims and survivors of domestic violence and helped contribute to the success of MayDay in the 1990s. Her greatest love and passion though were for her friends and family.

Ritha met and married the love of her life, Carl Wilcox, in high school. She and Carl enjoyed life and adventure with their daughter Sasha, living in Texas, California, and the Willamette Valley before returning to Baker City.

Following Carl's death, Ritha met her longtime partner, Tom Eaton. The birth of her granddaughter, Morgan, was one of the greatest joys of Ritha's life, and Morgan

shared that love for her grandmother, remaining by her side to the end.

Ritha was a central factor in her birth family of five sisters and a brother, as well as their children. She and her sisters were known for being close, for their laughter, and their love. They were bound inextricably, and as an older sister, Ritha was a beautiful, fun, important part of their childhood and adulthood, and her presence will be greatly missed every day.

Ritha is survived by her daughter, Sasha Gazley, and her son-in-law, Leonard Gazley; her granddaughters, Morgan Gazley and Ashlyn Reynolds, and Ashlyn's four children, Wyatt, Olivia, Damien and Darrell; her mother, Irene Estabrooks; her sisters, Winnie Dodge, Stella Estabrooks, Elizabeth Estabrooks, Theresa Johnson and Kelly Finch; her brother, Michael Estabrooks; as well as 22 nieces and nephews and 43 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Ritha was preceded in death by her father, Paul Estabrooks; her husband, Carl Wilcox; her longtime partner, Tom Eaton; and her nephew, Richard Finch.

Memorial contributions can be made to Susan G. Komen through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Ritha's memory or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Sherri Steljes

Sherri Lynn Hardy Steljes, 65, formerly of Unity, left this earth peacefully to be with her Lord on Oct. 23, 2021, with family by her side.

A funeral Mass will take place Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. PDT at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Fruitland, Idaho. A rosary with meditations will be prayed at 9 a.m. in preparation for the funeral. Family and friends are invited to a luncheon in the parish hall following the Mass. Interment will take place at a later date in Unity.

Sherri was born on Nov. 18, 1955, the first of six children born to George and JoAnne Hardy. Sherri loved being a big sister and growing up in the small ranching community of Unity. Life in Unity was filled with closeknit families, working hard and supporting one another. Throughout her teen years, Sherri was a natural born leader. She never wanted the spotlight, but her natural kindness, genuine friendship, and willingness to help found her forever leading and serving in her school and commu-

nity. After graduating from Burnt River High School in 1974, she attended Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, earning her associate's degree in Secretarial Science.

Sherri moved to Spokane, Washington, where she met the love of her life, John Steljes. John and Sherri were married on June 4, 1978, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Unity.

They began their married life in Elk, Washington. In 1982, with a daughter and son in tow, John and Sherri moved to Idaho to begin the adventure of starting a small dairy farm, which they appropriately named Udder Chaos Dairy. They settled in the small farming community known as "Nu Acres," located between Parma and Fruitland, Idaho. There they leased some dairy cows and slowly started acquiring their own registered Jersey cows. Dairy farming was a hard, seven days a week, 365 days a year job. However, the two made a perfect team and hard work is what they did best. They continued to grow their dairy herd to a manageable size of around 70 cows, and their family grew by two more sons.

The demands of a dairy farm and caring for a family did not stop Sherri from jumping in and helping anywhere she could. She often visited elderly neighbors and held the hands of friends and neighbors during their dying days. She considered it a great honor to help with church funeral dinners, celebrating the lives of others. If there was a fundraiser for Fruitland Schools, 4-H, church, Catholic Women's League or any worthy cause, Sherri was always there in the midst of the event. Her beautiful sewing skills were often put to work creating quilts for raffle fundraisers, fashioning vests for the very first elementary school honor choir, altering band uniforms, making drill team flags, or altering bridesmaid dresses.

She especially had a heart for teaching and helping children. She became a 4-H leader, a Cub Scout leader, helped facilitate Vacation Bible School, and taught weekly catechism classes at her parish of St. Aloysius in New Plymouth, even serving as the director of Religious Education for a short while.

When her own children were grown, she continued to help with the children's liturgy of the word at her parish of Corpus Christi in Fruitland. She loved teaching anyone who wanted to learn — it didn't matter if it was cooking, canning, sewing, gardening, or truths of the faith.

From time to time, when the opportunity would arise, Sherri would take a part-time job to supplement the

farm income. Over the years she made many friends working at Anderson's Corner Store, Limbaugh's Farm Market, the Fruitland Middle School kitchen, and for the last 14 years in the office at Parma Company. Every election season you could also find her volunteering at the polls of her local voting precinct. Sherri was very civically minded, and never took for granted the privilege and duty to vote, no matter how big or small the election.

Sherri was a woman of deep faith who loved the simple things in life. Besides baking and sewing, she took great delight in growing plants of all kinds and sharing starts of plants with family and friends. She prayed unceasingly for others and saw God in the little moments of everyday life. She never sought wealth or acknowledgement. She was content living and working in the country with her beloved husband. Even after the kids were grown and the cows were gone, the two of them were forever working on projects together. Sherri was always elated when John would build something for her, especially her chicken house and cherished greenhouse.

Those who knew her will always remember her as a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. To Sherri, every life was precious whether expected or unexpected. She was overjoyed to tears with the birth of each grandchild and all her great-nieces and great-nephews. She had a warm heart full of love and kindness, and a mind firm in what was right and wrong, never afraid to speak up against the wrong. Sherri Lynn — a strong, bold, and brave woman who also knew the power of silence, prayer, and a simple, supportive hug.

She leaves behind John Steljes, her husband of 43 years; her four children, Erika (Jeff) Cowman, David (Angie) Steljes, Karl (Cassie) Steljes, and Michael (Erin) Steljes; five granddaughters and four grandsons; her sisters Theresa (Ed) Schumacher and Alicia Menaj; her brothers Rob (Kelly) Hardy, Bryan (Jeanette) Hardy and Dan (Kristen) Hardy; and many nieces and nephews.

Sherri was preceded in death by her parents, George and JoAnne Hardy.

Donations may be made in Sherri's memory to Corpus Christi Catholic Church, or to Treasure Valley Teens 4 Life, in care of Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, P.O. Box 730, Payette, ID 83661. Services are under the direction of Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel. Condolences can be made to Sherri's family at www.shafferjensen.com.

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★ November 5-11 ★

ETERNALS	(PG-13)
Friday	4:10, 7:20
Sat & Sun	1:00, 4:10, 7:20
Mon-Thurs	6:45
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FRENCH DISPATCH	(R)
Friday	4:20, 7:30
Sat & Sun	1:10, 4:20, 7:30
Mon-Thurs	7:00
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DUNE	(PG-13)
Friday	4:20, 7:30
Sat & Sun	1:10, 4:20, 7:30
Mon-Thurs	6:50

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