



In SPORTS, A7
Baker's
season
ends

Baker City Herald

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QUICK HITS

NO PAPER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The Baker City Herald will not publish on Thursday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, because there is no postal delivery on that federal holiday. Breaking news will be posted on the Herald's website at www.bakercityherald.com.

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscribers Dave and Joyce Hunsaker of Baker City.

BRIEFING

Baker County Garden Club to meet Wednesday

The Baker County Garden Club will meet Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St. Helen Loennig will help members with Medicare updates, so please bring information. Janice Cowan will present the program. Lunch is \$5 per person. New members are always welcome.

Veterans Day ceremony set for Thursday

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion will have a ceremony for Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. in front of the veterans memorial on the east side of the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

WEATHER

Today

47 / 26
Rain or snow



Wednesday

44 / 33
Mostly cloudy

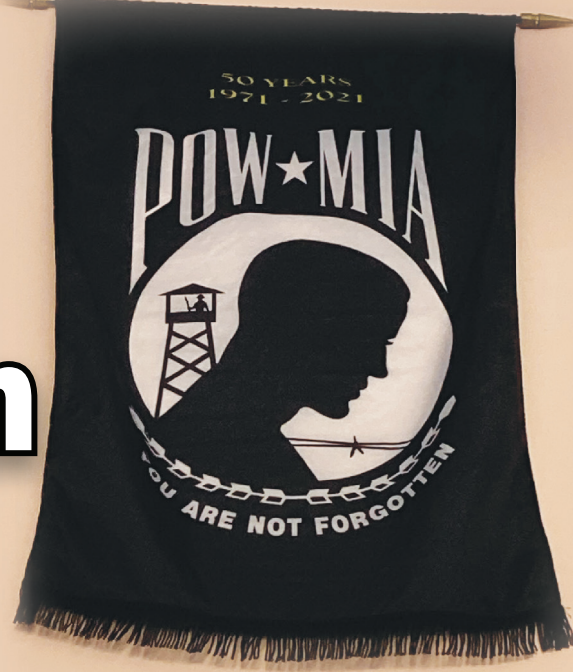


Full forecast on the back of the B section.

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

The POW-MIA flag's Baker connection

■ After Michael Hoff, a 1954 BHS grad, was shot down over Laos in 1970, his wife, Mary, sought a symbol for families waiting for word from their loved ones



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

A 50th anniversary version of the POW-MIA banner hangs inside Baker City Hall.

By JAYSON JACOBY
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The black-and-white flag that honors America's military members who are prisoners of war or are missing in action has a direct connection to Baker City.

The connection is Michael George Hoff.

Hoff, who was born in Baker City on Sept. 11, 1936, was flying an A-7 Corsair over Laos, a country bordering Vietnam, on Jan. 7, 1970.

Hoff's jet was shot down.

Hoff, a 33-year-old commander in the U.S. Navy, was listed as missing in action.

He was never found, alive or dead.

His wife, Mary Helen Hoff, waited in her Florida home with the couple's five children, the oldest just seven, the youngest not yet two.

The second-youngest of Michael Hoff's children, and the only daughter, is Suzanne Hoff Ogawa. She was just two when her father's plane was shot down.

"I have no memories of my father at all," Ogawa, who lives in Bowling Green, Kentucky, said in a phone interview on Nov. 4.

But as she grew up, Ogawa learned not only about her dad, but about



Contributed Photo

US Navy Commander Michael Hoff was listed as missing in action after his A-7 Corsair jet was shot down over Laos on Jan. 7, 1970. Hoff graduated from Baker High School in 1954.

her mom's diligent efforts to ensure that the families of other missing aviators, soldiers, sailors and Marines had a way to publicly display their plight.

"My mother was really an amazing lady," Ogawa said.

(Mary Hoff died Nov. 10, 2015.)

Mary Hoff had seen the Blue Star and Gold

but no answers, that Mary Hoff was thinking about.

"She really felt like they didn't have a symbol," Ogawa said. "She wanted something she could put in her window, to let people know what we're going through."

In 1971 Mary Hoff got in touch with Annin & Company, an Ohio firm that has been making flags and banners since 1847.

The result was the black-and-white banner, with the phrase "You Are Not Forgotten," that has become a common sight across the country.

"Now we have this national flag," said Ogawa, who emphasized that the original design was in fact a banner, designed to be placed in a window, rather than a flag. "It's a pretty neat thing."

Earlier in 2021, a Kentucky nonprofit, Charging Forward For America Inc., contacted Annin Flagmakers with the goal of recreating the original banner with an inscription, which Ogawa designed, recognizing the 50th anniversary.

Charging Forward For America has been traveling the U.S., donating the commemorative banners.

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Judge: County can survey Pine Cr. land

By JAYSON JACOBY
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A judge has ruled that Baker County can survey a section of property owned by the man who sued the county this spring over the status of the Pine Creek Road in the Elkhorn Mountains northwest of Baker City.

David McCarty filed the civil suit in Baker County Circuit Court on April 30.

He is asking for either a declaration that the disputed section of the Pine Creek Road crossing his property is not a public right-of-way, or, if a jury concludes there is legal public access, that the limits of that access be defined and that the county pay him \$730,000 to compensate for the lost value of the land based on the legal public access and for other costs he has incurred as a result of the county's actions.

The Pine Creek Road, which accesses public land in the Elkhorns, runs for about 2½ miles through the 1,560-acre property that McCarty bought in September 2020.

On June 16, Baker County commissioners started a process intended to declare the disputed section of road as a public right-of-way.

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Baker County commissioners to discuss change in selecting chair

By SAMANTHA O'CONNER
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Baker County Commissioner Bruce Nichols wants to discuss with his two fellow commissioners the possibility of changing how the chairman, who works full time as the county's chief administrator, is chosen.

Now, voters elect the chairman, which is a specific position on the ballot.

Bill Harvey is the current chairman, serving his second four-year term after being reelected in 2018.

Nichols and Commissioner Mark Bennett work part-time.

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Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Greenhorn, at the far western edge of Baker County, doesn't have any year-round residents or a property tax base. But the historic gold mining town does have a network of gravel streets, marked with signs.

Tiny town, big bucks

By JAYSON JACOBY
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Greenhorn has no year-round residents but it does have almost \$86,000 to fix its streets.

Although those streets — about one mile in total — are buried under feet of snow about half the year.

Gravel streets, specifically — the nearest stretch of pavement to Greenhorn is Highway 7, several miles to the east.

Wintry impediments aside, the sudden influx of dollars for this unique incorporated city in Baker County is welcome, said Dennis Koellermeier, one of Greenhorn's five appointed city councilors and, he says with a rueful chuckle, its mayor pro tem.

"No one else will volunteer," said Koellermeier, who has owned property in Greenhorn for about 20 years.

Koellermeier, who also has a home in West Linn, said he and his wife are retired and spend six to eight months per year in Greenhorn.

He said they're considering moving full-time into the cabin they've been working on for the past 15 years.

Koellermeier said a couple who had been living most of the year in Greenhorn, despite its being accessible by snowmobile during the winter and well into spring most years, has decided not to winter in the remote spot this year.

Although \$85,900 wouldn't make a massive difference in the street budget for even a city of modest size such as Baker City, for Greenhorn it's an unprecedented sum, Koellermeier said.

"We're kind of excited about it," he said in a phone interview

on Thursday, Nov. 4. "This is a big thing for us."

Greenhorn collects no money from property taxes, although Baker County does get a share of the taxes its 30 or so property owners pay.

The city's main revenue source is the yearly dues assessed to property owners, said Dale McLouth, a longtime Greenhorn property owner whose eight-year tenure as the city's mayor ended Dec. 31, 2020.

Owners who have a cabin or other structure on their property pay \$100 per year, and those without pay \$50, McLouth said.

The dues — which were just \$20 per year for all property owners as recently as 2008 or so — bring in about \$2,500 per year.

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