

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

■ **Burnt River Irrigation District board of directors:** Executive session meeting, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oxford Suites motel meeting room at 2400 S.W. Court Place in Pendleton.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald November 18, 1971

More than 500 Oregon cattlemen are expected to hear NASA astronaut Charles Fullerton give the keynote address at the 58th annual convention of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, to be held in Portland Thursday through Saturday.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 18, 1996

Two members of the Baker High School track and field team have been selected to participate in an International Sports Exchange trip to China next summer.

Sarah Cotton and Jason Wright were asked to participate following their performance at last season's Class 3A meet in Eugene.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 18, 2011

A purple sign on the wall of the Baker City Pharmacy provides a comforting message to all who enter: "Stay Calm and Carry On."

Those running the Baker City Pharmacy are trying to do just that as they hook up machines and stack merchandise on the shelves.

The former home of the Baker City Pill Box will reopen under the new name — and local ownership — as early as Monday.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald November 19, 2020

The snow, nearly 2 feet deep, hid the reality only until Wes Morgan lowered the snowplow blade.

The metal scraped not only the newfallen snow near Morgan's Sumpter Valley home, but it also peeled off chunks of the desiccated ground beneath.

And the drought's effects were again revealed.

"That snow basically fell on dry ground," Morgan said on Tuesday, Nov. 17. "It darn near fell on dust."

Which is not to say that Morgan is complaining about the pair of storms last week that brought unusually copious quantities of snow for the first half of November.

He has a particular interest in snow.

Morgan manages the Burnt River Irrigation District in southern Baker County.

The meltwater that trickles from mountain snowdrifts each spring and summer fills Unity Reservoir — the lone impoundment in Morgan's district — and keeps irrigation ditches flowing and sprinklers spraying on alfalfa fields.

"We're off to a good start," he said. "It's nice to get some moisture in the ground. We could use a good winter."

The summer and fall have been anything but good.

Most of Baker County is in either severe or moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, Nov. 15**  
4 — 11 — 14 — 18 — 22 — 48  
Next jackpot: \$5.8 million

**POWERBALL, Nov. 15**  
5 — 31 — 34 — 51 — 53 PB 23  
Next jackpot: \$190 million

**MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 16**  
6 — 22 — 44 — 53 — 65 Mega 3  
Next jackpot: \$74 million

**WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 15**  
8 — 29 — 39 — 63  
**PICK 4, Nov. 16**  
• 1 p.m.: 4 — 9 — 1 — 5  
• 4 p.m.: 6 — 3 — 6 — 2  
• 7 p.m.: 6 — 6 — 5 — 0  
• 10 p.m.: 5 — 4 — 6 — 1  
**LUCKY LINES, Nov. 16**  
3-8-10-15-20-22-27-32  
Next jackpot: \$19,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Baked ziti, garlic bread, carrots, green salad, ice cream
- **MONDAY (Nov. 22):** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, biscuits, coleslaw, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Nov. 23):** Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, rolls, mixed vegetables, ambrosia, pudding
- **WEDNESDAY (Nov. 24):** Spaghetti, garlic breadsticks, broccoli, green salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY, FRIDAY (Nov. 25, 26):** Closed both days
- **MONDAY (Nov. 29):** Hot beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, carrot-raisin 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.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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# State to test water for toxic 'forever chemicals'

By ALEXWITWER

EO Media Group

The state of Oregon plans to test 150 drinking water systems across the state for the presence of PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances.

Of those 150 sites to be tested, 17 are in Northeastern Oregon, including 11 in Umatilla County, and two in Union County. Baker, Grant, Morrow and Wallowa counties each have just one testing site. The locations were chosen due to their proximity to known or suspected PFAS use or contamination sites.

Those testing sites include the cities of Irrigon, Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Elgin, John Day and Joseph. Other sites include the Ash Grove Cement manufacturing site in Durkee, the Amazon data center in Hermiston and the Sacajawea Mobile Home Park in La Grande.

This is not the first time that Oregon has tested its water systems for the presence of the chemicals. Between 2013 and 2015, a study from the OHA tested all major public drinking water systems in Oregon cities with more than 10,000 residents found no detections of PFAS. So far, Oregonians do not seem to be exposed

to these chemicals in harmful amounts through their water, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, will be conducting the testing. The 150 sites to be tested is up from the 65 tested between 2013 and 2015, and now includes smaller rural communities and cities. The test will now include up to 25 PFAS chemicals, up from the six tested in the 2013-2015 study. The cooperative between the DEQ and OHA seeks to crack down on PFAS contamination that could end up in drinking water, a primary concern to both agencies.

PFAS is a family of chemicals that do not break down in the environment or in human bodies. Health risks from long-term exposure to PFAS chemicals can affect growth, learning and behavior of infants and children, reduce a woman's chance of getting pregnant, interfere with the body's hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system and increase the risk of cancer. The chemicals have been used since the 1940s and are found in thousands of household and commercial items, such as nonstick pots and pans, waterproof

clothing and firefighting foam agents.

Some plants, such as grasses, can absorb contamination when they are fertilized with PFAS-containing biosolids from wastewater treatment plants. This has resulted in cows producing contaminated milk in some dairy farms in the U.S. There is also evidence that when surface water is contaminated, certain PFAS compounds can bioaccumulate in fish.

The analysis is being paid for through an EPA grant and will be done at no cost to the water systems of local cities. The DEQ's laboratory will analyze drinking water samples from selected public water systems for 25 PFAS compounds.

While there are no enforceable regulations regarding PFAS usage, the EPA has set a chronic lifetime health advisory for drinking water of 70 parts per trillion. The OHA has developed its own health advisory levels for PFAS in drinking water that are lower than EPA's, with the OHA's advisory set at 30 parts per trillion.

If tested, most people in the U.S. would have PFAS measured in their blood, according to the OHA. However, testing for PFAS exposure is expensive, and not likely to be covered by insurance.

## OBITUARIES

### Linda Patton

Baker City, 1948-2021

Linda Ruth (Dennis) Patton 73, of Baker City, died Oct. 9, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Linda was born on April 30, 1948, in Roseburg. Linda was the oldest child of Kelsey D. and Patricia R. Dennis. Later in 1948 the family moved back to Baker where the family still resides. In 1952 the family moved to Juneau in the territory of Alaska. In 1954 the family moved back to Baker. Linda's father built a family home on 17th Street in Baker and they lived there until 1962 when they moved to Dry Creek Road where her father built another beautiful home.

She attended school in Baker and was a very good student. In 1966 Linda married Ray Balderston and in 1969 they had their daughter, Sheila. In 1970 Linda and Ray divorced.

Later Linda met and married Roger Patton to whom she was married for many years. Linda and Roger had a daughter, Thaya Patton. Linda and Roger lived in Baker and then moved to Irrigon, and later to the Portland area.

Linda moved back to Baker in 2017. Linda was a very talented person and excelled in all that she did. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. She was an amazing homemaker, an accomplished watercolor and oil painter, a seamstress and she loved to grow flowers and garden. She also collected antiques and loved to bake. Her home was always decorated with fascinating collectibles and artwork. Linda was a very

kind, honest and generous person who loved to give gifts, she especially loved Christmas and always gave the best gifts. Linda was very much loved and will be dearly missed.

Linda is survived by her two daughters, Sheila Balderston Young of Dundee, Oregon, and Thaya Patton of Portland; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; her sister, Valerie Russell of Medical Springs; her brothers, Stephen Dennis of Durkee, and Kelsey E. Dennis of Yuma, Arizona.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Linda, the family suggest St. Jude's Children's Hospital through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

### Larry Morris

Baker City, 1944-2021

Larry Wayne Morris, 77, a longtime Baker City resident, died Nov. 13, 2021, doing exactly what he loved, preparing for an elk hunt with family.

A celebration of his life will take place Saturday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. A potluck reception will immediately follow the service at the church's Family Life Center. Please share your memories and stories of Larry as we celebrate a life well lived.

Larry was born on Oct. 24, 1944, to Wayne and Anna Morris of Malheur City. Larry and his family moved to Bridgeport when he was a year old. They moved to Lindley Lane in Baker City in 1958. Larry graduated from Baker High

School in 1963, playing basketball and being active in his FFA chapter.

After high school he attended Blue Mountain Community College for two years. During his college days, he worked nights at the railroad. After college, he moved home to help run the family ranch and worked at John Deere as the parts man.

Larry married Elaine Corning and had three children, Dan, Jeff and Lori. They established their home on Lindley Lane, raising their children until they divorced in 1976. Larry continued to work on the ranch and raise cattle.

He later met and fell in love with Rochelle (Rocky) Jones, and they married in 1980. He loved to play basketball and played in many tournaments. He also loved to bowl back in the day and could be found at many bowling tournaments.

He loved to hunt and fish with family and friends. He loved taking the kids and grandkids on his pontoon boat every chance he got.

You could always find a mean dog sitting in the front seat of his pickup or lying in the middle of the road in front of his house. He would choose a hot dog over a T-bone steak and you could always find a can of Vienna sausages in his truck.

Larry "retired" in 2020, but could still be found in a swather or on a rake from time to time. Larry never missed an opportunity to stop for a quick chat with a friend in the middle of the road.

Larry's devotion to family

and the ranch was seen every day of his life through his integrity and hard work. He instilled these qualities in his children and grandchildren. This can be seen as the fourth generation of Morrises are operating the ranch.

His most recent pride and joy was his John Deere side-by-side that he patiently waited for 10 months to get. If you ventured out to Missouri Flats, you would have seen him "patrolling" the neighborhood with a huge smile on his face.

His last greatest accomplishment was a 5-point bull elk he harvested six days before he passed away.

Larry is survived by his wife of 41 years, Rocky Morris; his three children, Dan Morris of Baker City, Jeff Morris of Baker City, and Lori Hamilton of Sheridan; his grandchildren, Drew Morris and his wife, Jessica, Morgan Sherman and her husband, Danny, Jake Morris, Justin Morris, Marissa Voigt and her husband, Jordan; and four great-grandchildren, Louise and Landon Voigt and Kaitlyn and Michael Wilson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Anna Morris; and his sister and brother-in-law, Darrell and Bertha Bales.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Larry the family suggests Hunt of a Lifetime through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

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## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Ruthella Crim:** 87, of Baker City, died Nov. 14, 2021, at Meadowbrook Place. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. Memorial contributions can be made to Shriners Children's Hospital through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR, 97814.

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Brian Anthony Heredia, 32, Baker City, 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16 in the 1700 block of Valley Avenue; cited and released.  
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Timothy Kelly Slaney, 32, Baker City, 2:09 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 13th and K streets; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Melissa Jean Lattymyer, 36, Baker City, 1:49 p.m. Tuesday at 10th and Broadway streets; cited and released.

**Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations**  
THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Pearl Naomi Adair, 41, Baker City, 6:48 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 at Baker County Jail, where

she was in custody on other charges.

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★ November 19-24 ★

**GHOSTBUSTERS AFTERLIFE (PG-13)**  
Friday 4:10, 7:10  
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:10  
Mon & Tues 7:10  
Wed & Thurs 4:10, 7:10

**CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG (PG)**  
Friday 4:20, 7:20  
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:20, 7:20  
Mon & Tues 7:20

**ETERNALS (PG-13)**  
Friday 3:45, 7:00  
Sat & Sun 12:30, 3:45, 7:00  
Mon & Tues 7:00

OPENS WEDNESDAY, 11/24:  
**ENCANTO (PG)**  
**HOUSE OF GUCCI (R)**

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