

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

■ **Baker Valley Vector Control District board of directors:** Meeting Friday, Dec. 17 at 1 p.m. at 1933 First St. in Baker City.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 16, 1971

In spite of the large number of packages set out yesterday by the local post office, superintendent of mails Vernon H. O'Neil says the number of parcels and postcards mailed has dropped considerably during the past two years.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 16, 1996

LA GRANDE — Baker earned one tournament championship, two second place finishes, and a consolation title Saturday at the annual Muilenburg Invitational wrestling tournament at La Grande High School.

Ryan Brewster defeated Gabe Hoyt of La Grande 9-4 to win the title at 119 pounds. Brewster was 4-0 during the two-day tournament, with one pin.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 16, 2011

Baker County's first wind farm opened last month, and two other companies are curious about whether local gusts can prove profitable.

The Bureau of Land Management's Baker Resource Area has issued permits to the firms allowing them to put up, on public land near Huntington, towers studded with wind gauges.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 17, 2020

The familiar notes of Christmas carols echoed at South Baker Intermediate School this week.

At least until the instrument froze in the December chill.

The potential for a weather delay wasn't the only unconventional thing about the concerts at the school that teaches fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders.

South Baker students were treated to classic carols not in the normal venue of the gymnasium/cafeteria, space where it's more likely to be stifling than frigid.

Instead they listened to the tunes outside as they filed into the school each morning this week.

The performer was their music teacher, Duncan Titus.

But Titus, in his first year of teaching, wasn't strumming a guitar or drawing a bow across a violin or playing any other instrument commonly associated with these seasonal songs.

He performed the beloved melodies with the distinctive deep rumble of the tuba, which usually adds a bit of background to an orchestra but is not often employed as a solo instrument.

But even something as formidable as the tuba can be silenced by a Baker City winter.

"I'll play until the instrument freezes up," Titus said Wednesday morning as he lubricated the tuba's valves, gathered his book of Christmas carols arranged for solo tuba, and prepared to leave the warmth of the school for a seat outside the front door.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 13
4 - 7 - 16 - 18 - 27 - 33
Next jackpot: \$7 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 13
10 - 30 - 37 - 53 - 59 PB 4
Next jackpot: \$333 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 14
33 - 35 - 44 - 55 - 69 Mega 20
Next jackpot: \$160 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 13
5 - 15 - 31 - 72

PICK 4, Dec. 14
• 1 p.m.: 8 - 8 - 2 - 1
• 4 p.m.: 3 - 6 - 2 - 3
• 7 p.m.: 9 - 9 - 5 - 5
• 10 p.m.: 9 - 2 - 0 - 4

LUCKY LINES, Dec. 14
3-8-10-14-19-22-26-32
Next jackpot: \$47,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Herb-baked chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, rolls, coleslaw, cheesecake
- **MONDAY (Dec. 20):** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, beet-and-onion salad, pudding
- **TUESDAY (Dec. 21):** Spaghetti, garlic bread, broccoli, green salad, apple crisp
- **WEDNESDAY (Dec. 22):** Ham and beans, mixed vegetables, cornbread, cottage cheese and Jell-O salad, ice cream
- **THURSDAY (Dec. 23):** Sweet and sour chicken, rice, rolls, carrots, green salad, brownies

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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Alleged racist remarks from La Grande football team still under review

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**

The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — Allegations of racism from the La Grande football team remain under review.

Following a 34-12 playoff victory over Gladstone on Friday, Nov. 5, at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande's players were accused of using racial slurs during the game in an article published by The Oregonian. The ensuing investigation by the Oregon School Activities Association, La Grande School District and Gladstone School District is still ongoing.

A player and parent from the Gladstone football team spoke to The Oregonian on Nov. 11 regarding what they claimed was a persistent use of racial slurs from the La Grande team throughout the entirety of the first-round playoff game. Near the conclusion of the game, a verbal dispute ensued between the Gladstone sideline and players on the field.

Following the accusations, a full-blown investigation began led by an independent investigator working along-

side OSAA. The investigation included review of game film, interviews with those involved and amends between the two school districts.

According to La Grande Superintendent George Mendoza, the interviews and investigative section of the review is nearing completion and OSAA is working toward a final decision on the allegations. The La Grande School District has cooperated in the investigation and provided due diligence in getting to the bottom of the accusations, Mendoza said.

OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber said that the independent investigator is nearing the tail end of conducting interviews and research.

"I spoke with the investigator and he is hoping to wrap that up pretty soon here," he said.

Weber noted that the Thanksgiving holiday caused a slight delay, but that the investigator has been collecting information for the past couple weeks.

The allegations drew concern from leading Democrats in the Oregon House

of Representatives, who emphasized that House Bill 3409 was passed in 2019 to advocate for fair play and equality in high school athletics. According to The Oregonian, House Speaker Tina Kotek, House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner and Rep. Janelle Bynum were a part of the statement. House Bill 3409 instructs OSAA to investigate complaints regarding racism and iron out the issue within 30 days.

The La Grande and Gladstone school districts worked together with OSAA to gather information from players, chain crews and officials. A statement from the three entities on Nov. 16 detailed ways that the districts are looking to mend the relationship between the two schools. A big emphasis from the school districts has been promoting clarity on both sides during the investigation process.

The La Grande and Gladstone boys basketball teams are scheduled to compete against each other at the Gladstone Holiday Tournament at Gladstone High School on Dec. 20.

OBITUARIES

Sandy Watson

Boise, 1949-2021

Helen Sandra Watson, 72, of Boise, died Dec. 4, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center with her daughter, Michelle, and her granddaughter, Alexis, by her side.

A celebration of life with family and friends whom she was loved and missed by will take place at a later date in Baker City.

Sandy was born on Sept. 23, 1949, in Lakeview to William and Lois Strong. Growing up, life began with love for her family; her father whom she adored, her mother and younger brother, Doug. She enjoyed sharing fond memories of riding motorcycles with Doug as adolescents and baking with her mom. Although her father died when she was just a child, her memories of him clung on for a lifetime.

After graduation from high school, she attended Bible college. While in her first marriage, she had her eldest child, Tracy, and while married to Rodger Watson, she had Michelle. A Christian upbringing for their girls was important to Sandy and Rodger, so for years Sandy taught computer classes at the private school they attended to pay for the tuition. Her knowledge of computers was vast and she enjoyed teaching students how to write programming codes.

When Tracy and Michelle were older, Sandy worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield. One of her main jobs was to assist customers over the phone and although there was a quota to meet, she felt it was more important to hear the customer, empathize and truly try to as-

sist them. She felt great joy in helping them and it earned her many accolades.

Sandy had a huge love for painting, crafting and gardening. She learned oil painting from watching Bob Ross on TV, and she would create beautiful nature scenes for years. Arts and crafts were her world, scrapbooking to cross-stitch and everything in between; she created her last Thanksgiving wreath from scratch only weeks prior to her passing. In gardening, she found peace. It was a place to teach her daughters how things grow or a quiet place to tend and pray.

Sandy's family continued to be her first priority; always being the "best mommy" and advocate for Tracy in her struggles with multiple sclerosis, talking on the phone every day to Michelle about everything under the sun and hearing about how her grandkitties and doggie were doing, and loving her granddaughter, Alexis, more than she will ever know. It was important to not just be a mom, but to be a friend, a support and a prayer partner. Her greatest joys were to celebrate the achievements of "three girls" and her son in love, Kody, whether big or small, she was always so proud of them.

When Sandy was just a young girl, she began attending church and created her bond with God. Over the years, she grew stronger in her faith and loved attending church, the last being Life Church. She taught her three girls how important it was to keep Jesus first and she remained strong in her faith until her last breath, telling Michelle and Alexis "she was in Jesus' arms."

Survivors include her daughters, Tracy Fass of Boise, and Michelle Watson and Kody Robinson of Waldport; her granddaughter, Alexis Watson of Waldport; her nieces and nephew, Dawn Strong, Shawn Strong, Heather Coliten and William "Billy" Strong; several great-nieces and nephews and multiple nieces and nephews from her former marriage to Rodger.

Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, William and Lois Strong; her brother, Douglas Strong; and her former husband, Rodger Watson.

Memorial contributions can be made to PXE International through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. Pseudoxanthoma Elasticum (PXE) is a disease which Sandy battled her whole life. In her last moments, she expressed how much is yet unknown; please help fund research in honor of her. To light a candle in Sandy's memory, go to www.colestrIBUTEcenter.com.

Janyce Foersterling

Baker City, 1951-2021

Janyce Foersterling, 70, of Baker City, died Dec. 8, 2021, at her home, surrounded by family.

Janyce was born on Oct. 23, 1951, in Prairie City. She was raised and educated in John Day until she was 17. She then moved to Baker where she graduated from Baker High School in 1970.

She married Terry L. Foersterling on Aug. 2, 1974. She then became a stay-at-home mother who poured her heart into her family.

She was a member of The Ladies of the Grand Army Republic and for a time presided as their State President.

Janyce enjoyed gardening with her husband. She adored lilies and could grow some of the biggest you'd ever seen. She also loved to travel, play bingo, slot machines, and watch hummingbirds. Janyce liked to

sew rag quilts and give them away, including to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in order to make their stay more comfortable. She loved all of her animals and grand-animals and referred to herself as the "cat whisperer."

Memorable dates in her life included celebrating both hers and Terry's birthday every year at the coast where they would play bingo and slots at the various casinos throughout Oregon. Another highlight in her life was when she received a certificate stating that she was cancer-free. Her smile was beaming on that day and she was so happy and proud of her achievement.

Most of all, Janyce loved spending time with her family, attending all their sports games and never missing important times with her grandchildren. She will be remembered for her large heart of gold, sassy attitude, laughter and her love for her family.

Janyce is survived by her husband of 47 years, Terry L. Foersterling of Baker City; her daughter, Kim (Justin) Plumbtree of Baker City; her brothers, Delo (Lisa) Simmons, and Jeron (Charlene) Simmons, both of Baker City; her sister, Evelyn (Tony) Johns of Prairie City; and her grandchildren, Austin (Makayla) Plumbtree and Morgan Plumbtree.

Janyce was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Colleen Simmons.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Janyce, the family suggests Best Friends of Baker (pet rescue) through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



Sandy Watson



Janyce Foersterling

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Adriene Oster: 51, of Baker City, died Dec. 13, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Baker City, surrounded in love. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Stavlin William Smith, 29, Baker City, 12:55 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 at H and 13th streets; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Dale Rex Taylor, 80, Baker City, 3:20 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 in the 2200 block of Washington Avenue; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (out-of-county warrant): Randy Alvin Townsen, 62, Baker City, 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 in the 200 block of Bridge Street; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (5 Baker County warrants): John M. Guthrie, 50, Baker City, 12:38 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office
Arrests, citations
FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (Baker County Circuit Court war-

rant): Leigh Scott Carpenter, 34, Baker City, 1:49 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 at the sheriff's office; cited and released.

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★ December 17-23 ★

SPIDERMAN: NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Friday 4:00, 7:10
Sat & Sun 12:45, 4:00, 7:10
Mon - Thurs 4:00 7:10

ENCANTO (PG)
Friday 4:20, 7:20
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:20, 7:20
Mon & Tues 4:20, 7:20

GHOSTBUSTERS AFTERLIFE (PG-13)
Friday 4:10, 7:30
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:30
Mon & Tues 4:10, 7:30

OPENING WEDNESDAY 12/22
"THE MATRIX: RESURRECTIONS" (R) & "SING 2" (PG)

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