

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 23, 1971

Baker County recently received \$3,550 from the department of revenue to help pay for tax relief administrative costs, the county court announced yesterday.

“The money will be used to expand the office of Delmar Dixon, Baker County sheriff and tax collector,” said Judge Lloyd Rea, “for the purchase of necessary equipment and the hiring of additional staff.”

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 23, 1996

Baker School District has received a \$23,000 federal grant to buy computers, furniture and other items for the Northeast Oregon Technical Training Center.

The school district is leading the 10,000-square-foot training center at Behlen Mfg. Co.’s new livestock equipment factory in Baker City.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 23, 2011

Baker County Commissioners are planning for a seven-member wolf depredation compensation committee to begin work early next year to help area ranchers.

The committee will consist of one county commissioner, two people representing the livestock industry, two people supportive of wolf conservation or coexistence, and two people from the wider business community.

The five other members, once selected, will pick the two business community representatives.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 24, 2020

Most years, one pickup truck has enough cargo capacity to haul the food that volunteers from the Baker Elks Lodge pack into Christmas boxes for local families and residents. But not in 2020.

The Elks had to add a second truck to their fleet to satisfy the need this year.

The Baker Lodge delivered about 130 boxes of food and, for families with kids, donated toys, said Morgan Brinton, public relations chairperson.

Last year was more typical, with about 60 boxes, Brinton said.

“The need was definitely there,” she said.

Brinton said the Elks Lodge saw a similar increase in interest for its annual free Veterans Day dinner for veterans, which this year, in deference to the pandemic, was a takeout and delivery meal.

Brinton said the Elks Lodge has no formal application process for families or residents who would appreciate receiving a Christmas box.

Usually the Lodge relies largely on suggestions from the Oregon Department of Human Services and New Directions Northwest.

But with those agencies also affected by COVID-19, Brinton said she decided earlier this month to also post on the Elks Facebook page, soliciting nominees.

That social media campaign was largely responsible for the big increase in food boxes, she said, as residents nominated friends who might need a little extra help this holiday season.

“A lot of people are looking out for each other right now,” Brinton said. “There are lots of families with young kids, and senior citizens on fixed incomes.”

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 20 10 — 15 — 16 — 22 — 36 — 42 Next jackpot: \$7.3 million	WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 20 2 — 14 — 37 — 53
POWERBALL, Dec. 20 2 — 13 — 23 — 34 — 66 PB 2 Next jackpot: \$378 million	PICK 4, Dec. 21 • 1 p.m.: 0 — 8 — 2 — 9 • 4 p.m.: 2 — 5 — 5 — 2 • 7 p.m.: 0 — 1 — 7 — 5 • 10 p.m.: 7 — 8 — 5 — 7
MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 21 25 — 31 — 58 — 64 — 67 Mega 24 Next jackpot: \$187 million	LUCKY LINES, Dec. 22 2-7-10-13-19-23-27-31 Next jackpot: \$54,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Closed for Christmas Eve
- **MONDAY (Dec. 27):** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, carrots, rolls, fruit, ambrosia, lemon squares
- **TUESDAY (Dec. 28):** Ground beef steak with onions, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, pea-and-onion salad, cookies
- **WEDNESDAY (Dec. 29):** Baked ziti, garlic bread, cottage cheese with fruit, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY (Dec. 30):** Chicken with homestyle noodles in gravy, rolls, mixed vegetables, broccoli-and-bacon salad, peach crisp

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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Hospitals receive nearly \$8 million in aid

By ALEX WITTWER
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A bevy of local hospitals and providers are receiving more than \$7.8 million in funds through the American Rescue Plan via a program specific to rural hospitals.

While the fund allocated \$118 million to hospitals across the state, nearly 25% — more than \$29.4 million — was sent to hospitals in Portland. Most of that went to Providence, a hospital chain that serves the Willamette Valley and coastal regions of Oregon.

The largest single fund in Northeastern Oregon went to Good Shepherd in Hermiston, which collected a little more than \$2.6 million in funds, while Baker City’s Saint Alphonsus Medical Center received more than \$1.1 million. The list of providers and suppliers that were awarded funds also included Interpath Laboratories in Pendleton, Center for Human Development in La Grande, Wallowa County Health Care District, Blue Mountain Hospital Dis-

trict in John Day, and Morrow County Health District.

“Good Shepherd Health Care System did receive the \$2.6 million and we plan on using it for either of two areas — to be applied to additional COVID expenses we have incurred or to lost revenue due to the COVID pandemic,” Caitlin Cozad, marketing and communications director for Good Shepherd Health Care System, said in an emailed statement.

An official with Baker City’s Saint Alphonsus Medical Center said the funds will be crucial in renewing depleted resources and hiring temporary staff such as nurses.

The American Rescue Plan Rural payment program totals nearly \$7.5 billion in federal funds, and was targeted toward suppliers and providers that serve rural Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicare beneficiaries, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“Health care providers in rural communities have been hit hard by the COVID-19

pandemic, and they continue to experience significant financial hardships,” U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a press release. “The infusion of these funds will be critical to ensuring rural communities maintain access to high-quality health care and addressing urgent needs like workforce recruitment and retention.”

Payments ranged from as little as \$500, which went to providers such as individually licensed psychiatrists and social workers, to several million dollars. The largest single award for Oregon went to Central Oregon’s Saint Charles Health System, which received more than \$10.5 million.

Of the nearly 500 awards distributed, the most frequent award was \$500, which went to 88 different Oregon suppliers and providers.

Caveats in the program allowed providers in the Portland metropolitan area to receive funding, even though there was a separate fund of \$9 billion already earmarked for non-rural areas. Clinics and providers in Portland that

received funding included places like Northwest Urology, located in the Pearl District of Portland, which received just over \$90,000.

According to the U.S. Health & Human Services, providers who serve Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare patients who live in rural communities are eligible for the ARP Rural payments. As well, providers who serve any patients living in Federal Office of Rural Health Policy-defined rural areas with Medicaid, CHIP, or Medicare coverage, and who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, will receive a minimum payment.

Other Portland businesses that received funding include optometrist clinics, acupuncturists, a dentist office, retirement homes and Portland State University — which received just over \$1 million in funds, though the university does have its own on-campus clinic.

The U.S. Health & Human Services did not respond to requests for comment about the requirements for the payments before publication.

OBITUARY

Leland Myers

Sumpter, 1938-2021

Leland Lee Myers, 83, of Sumpter, died Dec. 12, 2021, from natural causes.

Services will take place Dec. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Hall in Sumpter.



Leland Myers

Leland was born on July 4, 1938, in Oceanlake, Oregon, the eldest child of Norman and Loraine Myers. His parents, paternal grandparents, and one set of paternal great-grandparents were born in Oregon, and Leland was very proud of being a fourth-generation Oregonian.

In and out of Granite from age two months, where his paternal grandmother was born, he attended school in The Dalles and Mt. Vernon, Oregon, where he learned the importance of volunteering. Like his folks, Leland helped some when the Mt. Vernon park was developed and, as part of the Mt. Vernon Boy Scout troop, helped lay the floor of the Mt. Vernon Community Center. He graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1956, then attended Oregon State University, graduating in 1962 with a bachelor of science degree in Forest Engineering.

While in college, he met Nancy Loughheed, from Portland, in the campus international folk dancing club. They were married in Mt. Vernon in June 1959. Folk dancing remained part of their lives for decades, with demonstrations at schools and other events. Many people have fond memories of watching them dance.

Leland worked first for Hines Lumber Company as a forester, and his first child was born in Burns. Late in 1963, the small family moved to Sumpter where, with his father and two brothers, they operated 4-M Lumber Company, doing salvage logging and milling. And the little family grew by three more children.

Leland became a licensed professional land surveyor in 1965. Through the years, Nancy and the kids served as field crew on survey projects. Being self-employed, Leland had the flexibility to attend a lot of his kids’ activities and head up some interesting misadventures, some on special days or occasions.

Following his upbringing of service to community, Leland was one of the founders of Sumpter Valley Days and Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, was a Boy Scout leader, and was a project leader for Sumpter Valley’s 4-H Club. After Sumpter Valley Days was retired, Leland and Nancy managed the Outdoor Sumpter Flea Markets at The Grounds. He served on Sumpter City Council and Sumpter Planning Commission, was a member of Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, and while the City’s Water Commissioner, oversaw the first

upgrade of the city’s water system.

He was a member of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, and also was a Mason for 55 years, serving four times as Worshipful Master, and, with Nancy, was an active member of the Order of Eastern Star. He promptly joined when Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers was founded to support the valley’s fire departments, historical projects, and community events.

Carpentry wasn’t exactly just a hobby with Leland. He designed and led construction of the Sumpter Masonic Hall (1974), McEwen Railroad Depot (1976), and the office/restroom building at The Grounds in Sumpter (1996). Most recently, he was trying to finish the remodeling of his home.

Leland is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy Myers; his children, LeAnne Woolf of Sumpter, Chris Myers and his partner, Chrissy White of Baker City, Laura Grove and her husband, Bob,

of Pendleton, and Jim Myers of Breckenridge, Colorado; his grandchildren, Nicole Dey and her husband, Jake, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, Sydney Woolf and her partner, Ommar Romero, of Auburn, Washington, and Brandon Groshens and his wife, Tabby, of Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts; great-grandchildren, Damien Romero and Brynn Dey; his sister-in-law, Joy Myers of Sumpter; his brother Gale, Myers and his wife, Linda, of Payette, Idaho; and many nephews, nieces and cousins across the United States.

Leland was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Loraine Myers; and his brother, Jerry Myers.

If you wish to make a donation in Leland’s name, the family suggests Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) 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.

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SPIDER-MAN NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Peter asks Doctor Strange for help. When a spell goes wrong, dangerous foes from other worlds start to appear, forcing Peter to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man.

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