

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

■ **Gubernatorial candidate forum, sponsored by Baker County Republican Party:** 6 p.m. at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald December 30, 1971

The Ellingson mill in 1971 is enjoying a 7 percent increase in lumber production over 1970, and the outlook is bright, according to Watt Skinner, sales manager.

The rate of increase is about equal to the rest of the Western Wood Productions Association region of 12 western states.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 30, 1996

Strong Chinook winds whipped through Northeastern Oregon Sunday, dissolving snow and rolling garbage cans but causing just one widespread power outage.

As was the case during other inclement weather that has hit Oregon this year, Baker County was spared the worst.

The fastest gust recorded at the Baker City Municipal Airport was 46 mph.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald December 30, 2011

A long-term plan guiding how the BLM will manage 364,000 acres of public land in Baker County could significantly reduce the area open to motor vehicles, and cut the number of cattle allowed to graze.

The BLM recently unveiled the draft version of its Resource Management Plan for the Baker Resource Area.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald December 31, 2020

After reviewing records showing how severely the pandemic has affected dozens of Baker County businesses, Bruce Nichols understands that nearly \$700,000 in federal aid is no panacea.

"It's a Band-Aid," said Nichols, a Baker County commissioner who served as chairman of a committee that recently approved a total of \$698,547 in grants to 67 businesses and nonprofit organizations. Many recipients are restaurants or other businesses in the hospitality industry, which have had severe restrictions imposed by the state during the pandemic.

The bandage reference isn't the only metaphor Nichols employs that's reminiscent of discussions in a triage unit.

"I hope this is a tourniquet for some of these businesses," Nichols said on Tuesday, Dec. 29. "It's really sad, the amount of losses that were involved in some of these businesses."

The grant checks were mailed on Tuesday, Nichols said. Oregon distributed money from the federal CARES Act, which Congress passed in late March, to counties. Each county received a base amount of \$500,000, and an additional amount based on population.

Totals ranged from \$7,630,752 for Multnomah County, Oregon's most populous, to \$511,685 for Wheeler County. Baker County's share was \$641,447.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Dec. 27

3 - 6 - 10 - 28 - 35 - 36
Next jackpot: \$7.6 million

POWERBALL, Dec. 27

36 - 38 - 45 - 62 - 64 PB 19
Next jackpot: \$441 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Dec. 28

3 - 5 - 8 - 31 - 38 Mega 4
Next jackpot: \$221 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Dec. 27

15 - 19 - 32 - 64

PICK 4, Dec. 28

• 1 p.m.: 1 - 3 - 6 - 8
• 4 p.m.: 1 - 5 - 2 - 7
• 7 p.m.: 8 - 9 - 0 - 3
• 10 p.m.: 0 - 7 - 4 - 0
LUCKY LINES, Dec. 28
1-8-11-15-18-23-25-30
Next jackpot: \$61,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Closed for New Year's Eve.
- **MONDAY (Jan. 3):** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, coleslaw, brownies
- **TUESDAY (Jan. 4):** Pork tips over fettuccine noodles, mixed vegetables, rolls, pea-and-onion salad, pudding
- **WEDNESDAY (Jan. 5):** Orange glazed chicken, rice, peas, rolls, green salad, peach crisp
- **THURSDAY (Jan. 6):** Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, carrots, rolls, cottage cheese with Jell-O, ice cream
- **FRIDAY (Jan. 7):** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, mixed vegetables, rolls, applesauce, cheesecake

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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Omicron variant ups Oregon COVID-19 numbers

By GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

The fast-spreading omicron variant of COVID-19 is pushing new cases up in Oregon, though not as steeply as other parts of the nation.

Weekly new cases of COVID-19 in Oregon were up 25% on Monday, Dec. 27 compared to a week ago, according to the Oregon Health Authority. That's a big jump for the state, but less than the more than 60% increase nationwide.

The report comes as the world approaches the two-year anniversary on Friday, Dec. 31 of the first report of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China.

To date, there have been over 281 million infections worldwide, leading to 5.4 million deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The United States has the highest number of fatal cases of any nation, just over 817,000.

Since Oregon's first case was reported in February of 2020, the health authority says there have been 414,140 cases and 5,623 deaths in Oregon.

Oregon officials are waiting for a new forecast from the Oregon Health & Science University that will contain more recent data on the impact of omicron in other states and nations.

A key number — the percentage of tests that come back positive — rose to 9% in

Oregon from 5% last week. Epidemiologists have said throughout the pandemic that anything above 5% creates the possibility of exponential growth of the virus.

The measure of omicron's impact is made more difficult by a collection of current circumstances and trends. OHA did not report new cases for four days over the Christmas weekend, and will also not report counts over the New Year's weekend.

Official testing has fallen off both in Oregon and nationwide during the winter holiday season. Part of the reason may also be the growing popularity of home fast-test kits that can report a result in about 15 minutes.

While less accurate than the laboratory tests that can take two days or more before a report is available. Many pharmacies in Oregon report they have sold out the kits, which cost about \$25 for two tests in each pack.

The delta variant continues to top COVID-19 case counts in Oregon, but for the first time in several weeks it is not the only variant to hit the charts.

Omicron officially has accounted for just under 17% of new infections in cases surveyed by OHA during the week of Dec. 25.

But the sequencing of the virus make-up can take over a week, creating a lag time

between signs of its presence in climbing caseloads, but yet to be confirmed by lab results.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 25 new deaths and 3,585 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, Dec. 27. The data covered four days, from Thursday to Sunday as reported by county health agencies between Dec. 23 and Dec. 26.

A number being watched closely to gauge the severity of the omicron virus is hospitalizations.

On Monday, hospitals across Oregon reported 381 COVID-19 patients, an increase of 23 from Sunday's total. COVID-19 patients were in 94 intensive care unit beds, up two from Sunday.

Oregon has 56 available adult ICU beds out of 649 total — about 9% availability. There are 311 available adult non-ICU beds out of 4,082, or about 8% availability.

Scientists have been watching the fast-moving variant as it spread from South Africa to Europe and the United States. Studies of the variant offer hope that while it will drive up case numbers beyond earlier spikes last winter and the arrival of delta in July, the severity of this incarnation of COVID-19 may be less severe than its predecessors.

Oregon Health & Science University originally forecast on Dec. 17 that hospitalizations in Oregon could top 3,000. But

it revised the figure to 1,200 in its report last week based on additional data from Europe and the eastern United States.

The forecast still shows the number of cases rising sharply to a peak around Feb. 9 and then descending equally fast. The sheer number of new infections caused by omicron will push Oregon's hospitals to the brink of collapse, OHSU reported.

Hospitals are already feeling the impact of even the moderate rise in cases so far.

"Emergency departments in Oregon are under significant strain," OHA's report said on Monday.

Nine states and Puerto Rico have topped 100 cases per 100,000 residents, according to a running tally updated daily by the New York Times. Washington, D.C., has seen cases grow six-fold over the past two weeks. New York's reported cases have more than doubled and have reached a daily average of 32,566.

Some states with relatively low case counts are seeing sharp increases. Cases are up 964% over the past two weeks in Hawaii, and Florida reported an 818% rise. Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama saw their numbers more than double from levels below the national average.

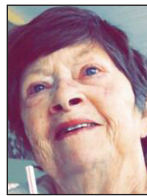
See, **Omicron** / Page A3

OBITUARIES

Gretchen Ann D'Ewart

Durkee, 1947-2021

Gretchen Ann D'Ewart, 74, of Durkee, became her loved ones' guardian angel on Dec. 23, 2021. She passed on at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.



Ann D'Ewart

No services are currently planned.

Gretchen Ann was born on Aug. 20, 1947, in Livingston, Montana, to Gretchen Ward and William Ward.

Ann married Richard D'Ewart in Livingston, Montana, in 1967. They have lived in Durkee since 1975. Ann was an active member in the

community, who was involved in Cattlewomen in Baker and at the state level. Ann enjoyed traveling, cooking and baking, reading, and treasured being a part of her two daughters' and grandchildren's lives.

She is survived by her husband, Richard; her daughters, Marilyn Logsdon (Kevin) and Tory Kernion (Dave); and her grandchildren, Austin Kernion, Taylor Kernion, Jaxon Logsdon, and Lily Logsdon; and her great-grandchild, Harper Kernion.

Rest in peace, Mom, we couldn't have gained a better guardian angel, her loved ones said.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Durkee Community Hall through

Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in Ann's honor or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Kathleen Bradshaw

Baker City

Kathleen Mae Bradshaw, 60, of Baker City, died on Dec. 15, 2021, at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

A memorial service will take place on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., in Baker City.

In 1978, Kathleen graduated from Baker High School. Nine years later, on June 7, 1987, she married David Bradshaw in Boise. She worked at Walmart for three years in retail sales, but her true passion was being home,

taking care of her family. Kathleen enjoyed rock hunting and collecting stones of every shape and size. However, Kathleen's most significant accomplishment was serving God as a Christian with all her heart.

Kathleen is survived by her husband, David Bradshaw of Baker City; her son, Dane Lynch of Bend; her daughter, Samatha Lynch of Boise; her brother, Mathew Daniels of Baker City; her sister, Pat Shirtcliff of La Grande; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She as preceded by death by her father, Jean Daniels; her mother, Alice Marie Daniels; and her brothers, Douglas Daniels and John Daniels.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Make a Wish Foundation through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave, Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for Kathleen's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Georgia Bonita Wells: 95, of Baker City, died on Dec. 28, 2021, at her residence in Meadowbrook Place. Her memorial service will be announced soon. To leave an online condolence for Georgia's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Donna Brodhead: 86, of North Powder, died on Dec. 24, 2021, at Grand Ronde Retirement Center in La Grande. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Jarma Myers: 62, of Baker City, died on Dec. 24, 2021, at her home with family at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Michael Spielman: 77, formerly of Baker City, died on Dec. 26, 2021, at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Janis Taylor: 85, of Baker City, died on Dec. 25, 2021, at Ashley Manor in Baker City. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center. Donations can be made to Best Friends of Baker or Haines Methodist Church, through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Janis, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Brandon Douglas Culbertson, 33, Baker City, 4:26 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27 in the 1200 block of East Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker

County Justice Court warrant): Joshua David Givens, 27, Halfway, 2:04 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28 in Halfway; cited and released.
VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Joshua David Givens, 27, Halfway, 9:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27 on Gover Lane; cited and released.

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SPIDER-MAN NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Fri-Sun 12:45, 4:00, 7:10
Mon-Thurs 7:10

SING 2 (PG)
Fri-Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20
Mon-Thurs 7:20

THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS (R)
Fri-Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:30
Mon-Thurs 7:00

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