

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

January 3, 1972

Although the deer are still not in the safe stage, the recent break in the weather has improved their chances with a possible thaw on the way to provide an additional boost, according to district game biologist Dick Humphreys.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 3, 1997

Highway 86 remained closed this morning between Halfway and Oxbow, but with cooler, drier weather replacing the downpours of the past few days, the worst of Baker County's flooding appears to be over.

Gov. John Kitzhaber on Thursday declared a state of emergency in Baker County.

Crews from the Oregon Department of Transportation and Baker County are working around the clock clearing debris and repairing damaged sections of the highway.

There is no estimate for when the highway will reopen.

Residents of Oxbow and Homestead remain stranded, because Idaho Highway 71, leading to Cambridge, Idaho, still is closed.

Floodwaters from Pine Creek apparently destroyed one home and damaged several others in a mobile home park near Oxbow.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 4, 2012

A Baker School Board member is upset that classes resumed Monday, which was a legal holiday since New Year's Day fell on a Sunday.

"We are in a pickle here," Director Kyle Knight said. "We never should have had school on this day."

But Baker 5J Superintendent Walt Wegener said having classes on Monday wasn't a problem because the district's two employee unions approved the calendar that included Monday as a regular school day.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 5, 2021

After working for several months treating people who are recovering from bouts with COVID-19, Lori Brock now uses a telephone to fight the virus.

Brock, a registered nurse, has lived in Baker City for four years.

She was hired at the Baker County Health Department in August and since then has done both case investigations of COVID-19 infections as well as contact tracing — talking to people who were potentially exposed to the virus and advising them about quarantining.

But earlier in the pandemic, Brock was, as she puts it, on the "front lines" of combating COVID-19.

She worked as a traveling nurse in Roseburg, Portland and the Boise area. Her duties included treating people who had been released from a hospital after being treated for the virus and were recovering at home.

Brock said that her experience in home health nursing showed her how the effects of the virus can linger.

"Many (patients) were on oxygen and still feeling pretty weak," she said. "It was really interesting."

Brock said she was gratified to have a chance to join the Health Department staff.

"It's nice to be home, based in Baker City," she said. "That's where my heart is."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JAN. 1

1-4-20-23-40-46

Next jackpot: \$7.8 million

POWERBALL, JAN. 1

6-12-39-48-50 PB 7

Next jackpot: \$522 million

MEGA MILLIONS, DEC. 31

2-5-30-46-61 Mega 8

Next jackpot: \$244 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JAN. 1

28-52-55-70

PICK 4, JAN. 2

• 1 p.m.: 0-6-1-8

• 4 p.m.: 7-0-0-6

• 7 p.m.: 6-6-3-2

• 10 p.m.: 4-5-1-1

LUCKY LINES, JAN. 2

4-8-12-15-20-24-26-32

Next jackpot: \$66,000

SENIOR MENUS

WEDNESDAY: Orange glazed chicken, rice, peas, rolls, green salad, peach crisp

THURSDAY: Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, carrots, rolls, cottage cheese with Jell-O, ice cream

FRIDAY: Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, mixed vegetables, rolls, applesauce, cheesecake

MONDAY (Jan. 10): Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, pea-and-onion salad, cookies

TUESDAY (Jan. 11): Herb baked chicken with gravy, rice pilaf, rolls, carrot-raisin 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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Obituaries

Georgia Wells

Baker City, 1926-2021

Georgia Bonita Wells, 95, of Baker City, died Dec. 28, 2021, at her residence in Meadowbrook Place.

Her memorial service will take place at a later date.

Georgia was born on June 23, 1926, in Copperfield, Oregon, to Frank and Gertrude Howland. She married Morris Wells Jr. on Nov. 10, 1944. They had one son, Larry Dean Wells.

She enjoyed working as a volunteer at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, and she was active at the Senior Center. Georgia was also the weigh-in person at TOPS.

Georgia is survived by three granddaughters, Brenda, Karen and Rhonda; great-grandchildren, Jesse Wale and Seirea Wale; nieces and nephews, Deanna Clark, Peggy Albrect, Carol Mason, Debbie Johnson and Howard Hopkins.

She was preceded by death by her father, Frank Howland, and her mother, Gertrude Howland; and her sisters, Mary Hopkins, Betty Mason and Myrtle Hanson.

Memorial contributions can be made to Community Connections through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

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



Georgia Wells

Robert George

Baker City, 1944-2021

Robert George, 77, of Baker City, died Dec. 16, 2021, at his home, surrounded by family.

A celebration of his life for all family and friends will be announced this spring.

Robert Franklin George was born on May 26, 1944, in Tacoma, Washington. He was raised in Baker and attended Tiedemann, South Baker Grade School, Baker Middle School, and graduated from Baker High School. Following high school he joined the armed service with the Marines serving from 1961-1965 where he specialized in Communication Electronics. This was one of his proudest accomplishments.

Robert was married three times. First to Bonnie Halm from 1965-1972, together they had two children. He then was married to Rose Miano from 1972-1991. In 1993 he had found the one he would spend his life with, Sayonna Ragsdale.

In his early years, Robert worked for his father, Omer George, at his Harley motorcycle shop in Baker. While living in Portland he worked as a supervisor at Montgomery Wards and built trucks at Freightliners. When he moved back to Baker he was employed as a motorcycle mechanic at Cliff's Saws and Cycles for several years.

Robert absolutely loved motorcycles. During his younger years he enjoyed flat track racing and won several first place trophies. He loved riding dirt bikes with his brother, Bill George, best friends, Gary Baxter, Ross Brinton, and several others. He rode his dirt bike into every mountain lake around Baker Valley including street bike riding with wife Sayonna. He also enjoyed snowmobile riding.

Robert was into black powder shooting and leather making, he made his clothes, and gear for muzzleloading rendezvous. He adored reading, loved The History Channel and watching Perry Mason, he



Robert George

could tell you how every single episode would end.

In later years, he decided he would start grilling. Robert mastered ribs, and made the best chicken wings. He also played guitar, sang and had a band with friend Jerry when living in Portland.

Robert is survived by his wife, Sayonna George; his daughter, Amy George Hammond; his stepdaughters, Robin Cummings and Justin Loftis; his brother, William George; his grandchildren, Tyler Bieker, Hunter Gandy and Amanda Lee; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Adelene Hanson; his father, Omer George; his son, Robert George Jr.; and his sister, Susan Schaan.

For those who would like to make a donation in Robert's memory the family suggests either Hope4paws or the Shop with a Hero program through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Brian Spencer

La Grande, 1938-2021

Brian Rodney Spencer, 83, of La Grande, died Dec. 23, 2021.

The Rosary will be said, with a Funeral Mass immediately following at 1 p.m. on Jan. 6 at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande. Burial will be on Friday, Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Burns Cemetery in Burns.

Brian was born on Sept. 19, 1938, in Baker City to Warren and Thelma Spencer. He was the oldest of seven children. He married Catherine Diane O'Toole Spencer on Sept. 2, 1989, and they were married for 32 years.

Brian attended St. Francis Academy in Baker City; Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington; and Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he received his Doctorate of Dentistry. After graduating from Marquette, he enlisted in the Navy and became a proud member of the Sea Bees and served in Vietnam. At the conclusion of his service in the Navy he moved to La Grande and established a dental practice that he operated until his retirement in 2012.

Brian was an active member of the Catholic Church and a strong supporter of his community, belonging to many community organizations and he especially enjoyed supporting area youth at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show.

He was an avid outdoorsman and hunter, taking joy in the many hunting trips with his son, Brian. Spending time experiencing the natural beauty of the surrounding area was something that gave him both peace and joy. He was a generous and kind man, always willing to help with most any project or to those needing a helping hand. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and lifelong friend to many and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends truly looking forward to any opportunity to spend time with those he loved, creating much laughter as the prankster of the party. In retirement, he turned his talents to jewelry making, creating beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces for family and friends.

Brian is survived by his wife, Catherine (Katy); six children, Brian of Washington, Kathleen, Molly and Bridget of Oregon, and Laura and Michelle of Idaho; his sisters, Suzy, Cheryl, Jan, Celeste and Kim;



Brian Spencer

eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Gregory.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that remembrances be made in the form of a donation to Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, 1002 L Ave., La Grande, OR 97850 and The Eastern Oregon Livestock Foundation, P.O. Box 3230, La Grande, OR 97850.

Online condolences can be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Frances Yaggie

Baker City, 1959-2021

Frances Yaggie, 62, of Baker City, died Dec. 20, 2021, at her home, surrounded by loving friends after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

There are no services planned.

Frances was born on Oct. 13, 1959, in Reykjavik, Iceland. She was adopted as an infant by naval petty officer Jack Yaggie, and Jack then brought her to the United States. They remained as close father and daughter throughout his life.

Friends of Frances describe her as having been a very strong, resilient lady, capable of almost anything she set her mind to. Her childhood was challenging and some experiences even hard to imagine, but she developed an awesome ability to take care of herself and enjoy life. She seemed to be an unusual combination of someone with a strong will and self discipline, and then also a sweet and gentle lover of people, animals and nature. Frances loved to give to others and she constantly proved that with gifts of kindness and friendly visits to everyone she knew.

Frances was best known locally as a self-employed and highly successful painting contractor, and she enjoyed the arts, drawing, painting and crafts. In sharing how she felt about painting she said in her words of experience, "don't be afraid of color." She loved planting flowers and gardening. Her favorite color was yellow and her favorite plant was Million Bells. She wanted to be remembered for her laugh, her smile and sense of humor.

Frances was a member of the Elks Club, and in the recent past she had purchased a motorcycle and was learning to ride. Everything amazed Frances and she was always up for something new and fun.

She especially loved cats and they were always a part of her life — whether they were hers or belonged to someone else. She was very knowledgeable about animals and their needs and friends found her very helpful when they had pet problems.

Frances is survived by her brother, Michael Yaggie; her sister, Dale Laskowitz, and brother-in-law, Gary Laskowitz; her nephews, Sean and Eric Laskowitz; she leaves three very special cats and many, many friends, some of whom cared for her tenderly in her last months and who will miss her deeply and never forget her.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Jack Yaggie and Margaret McLaughlin; her stepsister, Debbie Summers, and brother-in-law, Gordon Summers.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Frances, she suggested Best Friends of Baker (animal shelter and 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.

News of Record

DEATHS

Dora Fisher: 99, of Baker City, died Dec. 31, 2021, at Settler's Park. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St. in Baker City. To light a candle in memory of Dora, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

Janice Gyllenberg: 88, a longtime Baker City resident, died Dec. 31, 2021, at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City. A service will be held, with the time and date to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

James Young Sr.: 89, formerly of Halfway, died Jan. 1, 2022, at La Grande Post-Acute Rehab 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.

Mary Henry: 83, of Baker City died Jan. 2, 2022, at her home with her 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.

James Bacon: 73, of Baker City, died Jan. 2, 2022, surrounded by his family. A service will take place later, with the date, time and place to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Lena Chetwood: 88, a longtime Halfway resident, died Dec. 28, 2021, at her home. Her graveside service will take place on Friday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. at Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Lena, the family suggests the Pine Valley Museum or Community Connection (to provide Meals on Wheels) through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O.

Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Rhonda Culley: 65, of Baker City died Dec. 31, 2021, at her home, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life will be held, with the date, time and place to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Michael Speelman: 77, formerly of Baker City, died 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.

Ellen McBroom: 85, of Baker City died Dec. 30, 2021, at Memory Lane Assisted Living in Baker City. 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

MENACING: Christina Rae Martell-

Lundy, 38, Baker City, 8:38 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 2 in the 3600 block of Cedar Street; jailed.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Alex Ryan Hammans, 20, Baker City, 12:53 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31 in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

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