

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

January 13, 1972

Highway traffic was halted for more than four hours yesterday, when zero visibility and drifted roads caused the closure of Highway 30 between Haines and North Powder.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 13, 1997

Baker City business people crammed into the Oregon Trail Restaurant Friday to greet the newly hired administrator of St. Elizabeth Health Services.

Robert Mannix Jr., 46, began the job of chief operating officer Monday. He replaces Jeffrey Drop, who served as interim president after Rod Barton's Aug. 30 resignation.

Mannix, who grew up in upstate New York, comes to Baker City from Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 13, 2012

Cancer patients in need of chemotherapy treatments no longer have to make the trip to Fruitland or Boise.

The Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic opened in September 2011 in a remodeled wing at St. Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City to provide a variety of infusion services.

By October, the clinic was offering chemotherapy treatment thanks to an affiliation with Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande.

Dr. Maynard Bronstein, an oncologist, relocated to La Grande in September, and since October has been spending Fridays in Baker City.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 14, 2021

Kerry McQuisten is Baker City's new mayor.

City councilors, who choose the mayor from among their colleagues, elected McQuisten by a 6-1 vote Tuesday night at City Hall. Councilor Lynette Perry nominated McQuisten.

Councilor Heather Sells voted for Shane Alderson. Both Sells and Alderson are, like McQuisten, new councilors who were elected Nov. 3.

"I feel humbled by the confidence voters and then the other elected councilors have shown in me," McQuisten said. "I'm also grateful for the chance to do some good in the community as mayor. My hope is that more citizens will turn out and start making their voices heard. I think the new city manager and council will bring some positive new changes, which is exciting."

The Council, also by a 6-1 margin, elected Perry as vice mayor. Councilor Jason Spriet voted for Alderson. McQuisten nominated Perry.

Baker City's charter doesn't give the mayor veto power. The mayor presides over City Council meetings, enforces Council rules and signs ordinances and resolutions.

The vice mayor assumes those duties when the mayor isn't available.

Tuesday's 20-minute meeting was the first for five of the six councilors elected Nov. 3 — McQuisten, Sells, Alderson, Joanna Dixon and Johnny Waggoner Sr.

Spriet, the lone incumbent on the Nov. 3 ballot, was also elected.

Perry was elected to a four-year term in 2018 and was not on the ballot.

It was also the first meeting for City Manager Jonathan Cannon, whom the previous City Council hired in November.

All seven councilors attended Tuesday's meeting in person at City Hall.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, JAN. 10

8-14-24-32-33-46

Next jackpot: \$8.2 million

### POWERBALL, JAN. 10

14-17-18-21-27 PB 9

Next jackpot: \$38 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, JAN. 11

2-3-19-52-58 Mega 16

Next jackpot: \$325 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, JAN. 10

32-35-40-52

### PICK 4, JAN. 11

• 1 p.m.: 6-6-2-3

• 4 p.m.: 7-2-6-1

• 7 p.m.: 7-2-9-2

• 10 p.m.: 6-3-3-1

### LUCKY LINES, JAN. 11

1-6-12-15-17-23-26-31

Next jackpot: \$75,000

## SENIOR MENUS

**FRIDAY:** Chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, ambrosia, cookies

**MONDAY (Jan. 17):** Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**TUESDAY (Jan. 18):** Baked ham, candied yams, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, cheesecake

**WEDNESDAY (Jan. 19):** Meatloaf, red potatoes, peas, rolls, pasta salad, cinnamon rolls

**THURSDAY (Jan. 20):** Lasagna, garlic bread, vegetables, green salad, lemon squares

**FRIDAY (Jan. 21):** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, rolls, coleslaw, brownie

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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# Bentz: River Democracy Act would harm Oregon, not help



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File

A reach of Rock Creek, which flows down the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains west of Haines, is among the streams proposed for designation under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Congressman Cliff Bentz during a five-minute floor speech in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Jan. 11, expressed opposition to a bill that would designate thousands of miles of streams in Oregon as protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Bentz, the only Republican member of Oregon's congressional delegation, represents the Second Congressional District, which includes all of the state east of the Cascades.

Another Oregon lawmaker, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, introduced the River Democracy Act last year.

The bill, in its current version, would add about 4,700 miles of rivers and streams to those protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

There would be a one-mile-wide corridor along each reach. That's twice the usual width for such designations, Bentz noted in his floor speech.

Bentz, who was sworn in as a congressman in January 2021, cited concerns expressed by county commissioners by the 20 counties in his district. That includes Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey, who in an April 2021 letter to the editor to the Baker City Herald, wrote that the River Democracy Act could increase the risk of wildfires along the designated streams by limiting or prohibiting logging and other work designed to reduce the fire threat.

Bentz, in his floor speech, warned that if the River Democracy Act becomes law, rivers and streams could be placed "in a bureaucratic wasteland where it will take years, if not decades, to initiate and then complete plans that may or may not allow the treatment activities needed right now."

Bentz argued that the River Democracy Act's proposed method of reducing wildfire risk — lighting controlled blazes to lower fuel loads — is a "dangerous" approach if it's not preceded by removing trees.

"Prescribed burning before thinning puts at extreme risk the very rivers and watersheds the designation is supposed to protect," Bentz said. "The overwhelming majority of my 62 county commissioners

have serious and unanswered concerns about the dangers the act presents."

Bentz also criticized the way that Wyden went about compiling a list of potential stream and river segments.

"The approach of the bill's sponsors used in developing this bill was seriously flawed because river and stream nominations were solicited from

various groups and the general public without any clear legal or scientific analysis to identify those rivers, streams, and creeks that would qualify as scenic," Bentz said during his floor speech. "If a scientific or legal analysis exists, the sponsors should share it."

According to Wyden, the River Democracy Act was developed based on more than 15,000 nominations from 2,500 Oregonians.

Wyden said the River Democracy Act would not limit uses of private property, nor would it prohibit thinning and other forest-restoration work on public land within the one-mile corridor.

He said the bill also would require land management agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to assess wildfire risks in each wild and scenic river corridor.

Wyden's website includes a list of testimonials from elected officials, business owners and residents in Oregon who support the bill.

The list includes Mike Higgins, a farmer and retired science teacher from Halfway, who wrote: "As a fifth-generation eastern Oregonian I'm a strong supporter of Oregon's clean wild rivers. I applaud Senator Wyden for his leadership and vision in thinking about protecting our clean drinking water sources and the lifeblood of our wildlands as wild and scenic rivers. This is a gift to our children and their children for generations to come."



Bentz

## Jarma Myers

August 8, 1959 - December 24, 2021

Jarma Myers, 62, of Baker City, died at her home on December 24, 2021.

Jarma was born August 8, 1959 in Salinas, California. She attended first through fifth grades at Chualar California Union School. At age 10, Jar-

ma moved with her family to Baker City, OR where she completed her education. She left Baker High School in 1977 to work at Bud and Louis Morgan's Hidden Valley Horse Ranch on Wolf Creek. The Morgans loved her like a daughter. She trained and tended their horses and took kids on trail rides. She spent a lot of time with horses, breaking and training them for herself and friends.

Jarma met Fred Myers at a bonfire party when she asked Fred for a match. He said, "Clint Eastwood?" She replied, "You wish!" They were married six months later on December 23, 1977.

Jarma worked cleaning homes for elderly folks for 20 years. The people she took care of loved her; if they had a problem, they called Jarma. Furniture acting up, plumbing backing up or 11:30 p.m. "I fell" she was out the door and gone by 11:32 p.m., she was always there when you needed her and they believed she could do anything. For 10 years she did chores on her parent's ranch and poured concrete with her husband.

Jarma nurtured many bummer lambs, colts, calves and babies of all types including human. She took in any animal in need or person. Jarma gave the best hugs; she was a hugger.

Her favorite color was blue; she loved snap dragons and her beloved "Boris the Cat." Her life philosophy was live and let live. She had many catch phrases she would use, for example, instead of cursing she would say, "What the blue blazes!" or when you did something clumsy, she'd say, "it's a good thing you're pretty" or for any reason at all she'd say, "By Krykees!"

She was a member of 4H and a 4H mentor. She was also a member of the Bowling League.

Memorable dates in her life were the births of her sons and grandkids. She accomplished making friends everywhere she went. If she was

driving down the highway and came across someone broke down or who was on foot she would stop and make sure they were OK. She now has friends in 9 or 10 states and is a hero to a young family in Canada.

Jarma was proud of her home of 40 years on W. Sutton Street. When she was around her sisters or B.F.F. Muffy, be prepared for laughter that shook windows.

She would most like to be remembered for her open ears, her kindness to the young, old, and everyone. Jarma loved her family deeply and especially being grandma to 8 wonderful grandkids.

Fred said, "She was my wife for 44 years and the love of my life. Jarma's touch gave comfort, her smile was sunshine, her hugs were healing, her feisty spirit was fun. She was my fishing and hunting partner for the last 12 years. She was truly a wonderful person to be around; the joy she gave will be missed greatly by many."

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Kay Dobbel of Baker City.

Jarma is survived by her husband Fred Myers; sons Lukus B. Myers and Zackery H. Myers; brothers Jonathan and Jay Dobbel; sisters Johnnet Toll, Jodie Radabaugh, and Janece Hintz; grandchildren Brandon, Gryphin, Daniel, Logan, Brooks, Canyon, Rylee and Sage-lyn.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Jarma the family suggests 4H through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, PO Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

## News of Record

### FUNERAL PENDING

**Janice Gyllenberg:** A celebration of Janice's life will take place Saturday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane. Friends are invited to join the family for a dinner reception immediately following the service at the Family Life Center adjacent to the Nazarene Church. For those who would like to make a donation in Janice's memory, the family suggests the Nazarene Compassion Center either online at <http://neoregioncompassioncenter.org> or through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

### POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT: Joseph Palmer, 41, Baker City, 8:32 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

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★ January 14-20 ★

**SCREAM** (R)

Friday	4:10, 7:10
Sat - Mon	1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Tues-Thurs	7:10

**SPIDER-MAN NO WAY HOME** (PG-13)

Friday	3:45, 6:45
Sat - Mon	12:45, 3:45, 6:45
Tues-Thurs	6:45

**SING 2** (PG)

Friday	4:00
Sat - Mon	1:00, 4:00
Tues-Thurs	7:00

**AMERICAN UNDERDOG** (PG)

Fri	7:00
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