

## Rachel

Continued from A1

churches with information about the center, and the help it provides.

The Sunday observation dates to 1984, when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating Jan. 22 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

"It's a reminder of life, and that life is important to God," Grove said.

### Center needs

Grove said the center has limited storage, but is accepting maternity and winter clothes.

Baby furniture is welcome, but call ahead first.

Other needed items include diapers, wipes, and toiletries such as shampoo, body wash and toothpaste.

"Prior to COVID we gave out quite a bit of that stuff," Grove said of the personal care items.

Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 1086, Baker City, OR 97814.

Also, the center's annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser will again run from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

For more information, call the center, 541-523-5357, check the Facebook page, or email Grove at rpc.director1@gmail.com.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The Rachel Pregnancy Center is stocked with clothing for boys and girls. The items are rotated based on the current season.

## Powder

Continued from A1

The move to online instruction, formally known as Comprehensive Distance Learning, was made after 11 students tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week. The number of students who were exposed via close contact is now being determined, but Dixon said the number was large. He said that doing contract tracing was getting to be extremely difficult because there have been so many close contacts.

"It was becoming an organizational nightmare," he said.

School districts have the option of operating a test-to-stay program, where students who are exposed to someone COVID-19 positive can stay in school if they test negative and have no symptoms of the disease and then test negative again five to seven days later.

Dixon said the test-to-stay program was not an option for the district because it does not have enough COVID test kits under the current circumstances.

The good news for the school district is that plans are in place for students to be back on campus Jan. 24. Dixon said by that time

North Powder students and staff will have been away from each other in school for 10 days, more than the state's required quarantine time after a close contact or a positive test. The span was lengthened by the fact there was no school on Jan. 17 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

"Thank God (Jan. 17) was a holiday," he said.

No online instruction was given Jan. 18 to give teachers a day to prepare to provide Comprehensive Distance Learning.

Dixon said teachers are ready to provide CDL instruction after giving it for a portion of the 2020-21 school year and remaining ready to make a quick transition to it.

"It is easy for teachers to start CDL again if they have a day to prepare," he said.

The superintendent said he believes that shutting down in-person instruction this week will pay dividends over the long term because it will allow the school district to be in a better position to control the COVID-19 outbreak when in-person instruction begins again on Jan. 24.

"It is the best solution and will keep students out of school for the shortest time possible," Dixon said.

## Wolves

Continued from A1

A depredation report from ODFW doesn't name the rancher who owns the dog.

Ratliff said the attack site, in an area where the rancher is feeding cattle, is the farthest into Keating Valley that wolves have traveled.

In the past the wolves have mainly stayed on the fringes of the valley, about 15 miles northeast of Baker City.

Ratliff said the Keating pack consists of at least 10 wolves. ODFW has trapped four of the wolves, including one pup that was born in the spring of 2021, and placed tracking collars on the animals, he said.

A signal from one of those collars about 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 14, showed the wolves on the property where the dog was killed, Ratliff said.

He said he called the owner and advised him

about the wolves and recommended he haze the wolves. Ratliff said the rancher said he would try to drive away the wolves.

The owner reported finding the carcass of his dog, a 40-pound Kelpie herding dog, about 150 yards from his house on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 16, according to a depredation report from ODFW.

A biologist who examined the dog estimated it was killed Friday night, Jan. 14.

The dog's carcass had been scavenged and most of the muscle tissue and organs were missing, according to the report.

The biologist examined the remains and shaved hair from the dog, finding more than 15 premortem bite punctures about 1/8th of an inch in diameter, as well as tears on the back and inside of the dog's right front leg.

"The location, size, and number of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on dogs," the report states.

## Surge

Continued from A1

(There were no classes Monday, Jan. 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.)

"It's moving pretty rapidly through the community, but we're still able to continue," Witty said. "If we can just slow it down so I can keep staff in their seats, we can get through this."

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, South Baker, with a staff of about 45, had five employees out, and Baker Middle School had the same number gone, from a staff of about 37.

None of the district's other schools had as many as five staff members out that day.

"I think we're doing pretty well, about where we were last week," Witty said.

As for student attendance, the absentee percentages for Tuesday, Jan. 18, ranged from 14% at South Baker Intermediate, to 42% at Keating Elementary. Keating, which has students from kindergarten through sixth grade, has just 25 students, including many siblings, so if the virus gets into just a couple households it can have an outsized effect on absenteeism, Witty said.

Absentee rates Jan. 18 for other district schools:

- Baker Early Learning Center, 23%
- Baker Middle School, 19%
- Baker High School, 15%
- Brooklyn Primary, 15%
- Haines Elementary, 9%

Witty said he's grateful that parents seem to be heeding the district's advice and keeping students home if they're feeling ill, regardless of whether they've been tested for COVID-19.

The protocols for staff and students vary depending on whether they're vaccinated, and whether they might have

been exposed to the virus at school or elsewhere.

Witty said it appears that there are few instances of possible exposure at school.

Most students and staff who have missed school have chosen to stay home, rather than being identified, through contact tracing or case investigations from the Baker County Health Department, as having been potentially exposed at school.

Employees and students who are fully vaccinated, including a booster shot, and are possibly exposed at school but have no symptoms, do not need to quarantine, Witty said. They can continue to attend school.

Those who aren't fully vaccinated but have no symptoms can use the state-approved "test to stay" protocol. Stu-

dents and staff in that situation take a district-supplied test. If it's negative, they can stay at school. They then take another test five days later, Witty said.

If the first test is positive, the student or staff member would then follow the usual five-day minimum quarantine.

Witty noted that if the quarantine starts on a Friday, which is not a regular school day, a student or employee could potentially miss just two school days, with the first three being a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

When state officials reduced the quarantine period from 10 days to 5 days late last year (the period had been as long as 14 days earlier in the pandemic), it was a "game-changer," especially in terms of keeping an adequate number of employees, Witty said.

## James (Jim) Bacon

August 14, 1948 - January 2, 2022

James (Jim) Bacon, 73, of Baker City, Oregon, died Sunday, January 2, 2022, surrounded by his family. A memorial service will be held for Jim on Saturday, January 22 at 11 a.m. at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch Street, Baker City, Oregon.

James Henry Bacon was born in Baker City, Oregon on August 14, 1948, to Charles Clayton Bacon and Genevene Myrle Bacon (née Blize). A fourth-generation Baker County resident, Jim grew up in Sumpter, Oregon. He attended Baker High School before being stationed in Germany while serving in the United States Army from 1969 until 1971, where he finished his education.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, he returned to Baker City, where he started dating the love of his life, Rose Emilie Cheadle. Jim and Rose were married on March 31, 1973. Together they raised two daughters, Heather and Laura, and a son, Allen. Last spring they celebrated 48 wonderful years of marriage.

Jim worked throughout his life as a welder, a mechanic, and a fuel attendant. An avid outdoorsman, he loved hunting and fishing, wrenching on cars, building trailers and repairing guns. As a shooting enthusiast, he reloaded his own ammunition, and was also proud to be a licensed gun dealer for many years. If you had a problem with, or needed help finding a gun or a car, Jim was the guy you wanted to talk to! He just loved sharing these interests with his family and friends, and his favorite pastimes were working on cars with his kids and grandchildren, and heading out to the hills with family and friends to "burn some powder."

Jim was a hard worker and a loyal friend, but he really shone as a father and grandfather. He loved his family immensely, and would do anything for them. Jim didn't seem to know the meaning of the word "in-law." To him, family was family, and however you came to be part of his, he treated you with the same unconditional love and kindness with which he treated his own kids. He especially adored his grandchildren, all of whom will readily tell you that he was the "world's best Papa."

Jim was preceded in death by his father and mother, Charles and Genevene Bacon.

He is survived by his wife, Rose Bacon, his daughters, Heather Bacon-White (Zack), Laura Hale (Griffin), his son, Allen Bacon, his sister, Linda Myers (Gale), several grandchildren, nieces and nephews and numerous family members and friends.

Donations can be made in Jim's name to the Powder River Sportsman's Club Rifle Range, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



## COVID

Continued from A1

The two deaths bring Baker County's total to 40 during the pandemic. They are the first two COVID-19-related deaths reported in the county in 2022.

The Baker County Health Department reported a daily record of 55 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

That eclipsed the previous daily record of 37, set on Sept. 9, 2021, and Sept. 14, 2021.

According to OHA officials, the highly contagious omicron variant is driving a surge in cases statewide. However, because the variant is less likely to cause severe illness, the rate of hospitalizations, though increasing, and deaths, are not proportional to what happened during the delta variant wave in late summer 2021.

Officials say people who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster shot are well protected from severe illness, even though omicron is more likely to cause breakthrough infections in vaccinated people.

Nancy Staten, director of the Baker County Health Department, said vaccination remains the best tool to protect people from becoming severely ill.

For the first 18 days of January, the Health Department reported 363 cases, the second-most in any month during the pandemic.

The monthly record is 465, in September 2021.

The Health Department is promoting a free COVID-19 testing clinic on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the former Baker Clinic building, 3175 Pochahontas Road, just east of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center.

## Wayne Bourrie

March 9, 1953 - January 14, 2022

Wayne Bourrie, 68, of North Powder, met his Savior on January 14, 2022.

Wayne was known by all who loved him as a man of integrity, kindness, and overwhelming generosity. He valued people and expressed that in how well he cared for them, modeling the character of Christ in whom he put strong faith.

A lifelong Oregon resident, Wayne was born to Henry and Grace Bourrie in Elgin on March 9, 1953, and attended high school in Hermiston. He married Christy Bradley in 1975 and together they had three children. He worked as a millwright and at various carpentry jobs throughout the northwest.

In 1993, he married Theresa Heaton and began his general contracting business in Baker City. The ultimate outdoorsman, he loved hunting, fishing and serving his community. He took particular joy in blessing Rachel Pregnancy Center in Baker City through generous donations.

Wayne died as he lived, with dignity and with his eyes on Jesus. He was preceded in death by his son, Samuel Wayne, his parents, and his two brothers, Bruce Bourrie and Lance Cady. He is survived by his children Travis Bourrie; Sarah and Jamie Coller of Bella Vista, Arkansas; Joe and Kim Bourrie of South Jordan, Utah; his stepdaughters Ami Halvorson and Jenni Rounselle-Heaton; 11 grandchildren; his brother Larry and wife Barbara Bourrie of Caldwell and his special friend, Diane Aichele of Haines.

A celebration to honor Wayne will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 22 at First Baptist Church of Haines, 714 Cole St. All memorial contributions may be made to Rachel Pregnancy Center, P.O. Box 1086, Baker City, OR 97814.



## Janice Evelyn Munn Gyllenberg

March 9, 1933 - December 31, 2021

Janice Evelyn Munn Gyllenberg, 88, a longtime Baker City resident, died December 31, 2021, at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City, Oregon. Her memorial service will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 22, 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 church.

Janice was born in Baker City on March 9, 1933, to Ralph and Elma Munn. She was raised on the family ranch in Unity, Oregon, for the majority of her childhood. The family briefly resided in La Grande and Jordan Valley before returning to Unity where Janice graduated from Hereford High School.

Janice was very involved in family and school activities. Favorite memories included driving a team of horses to put up hay, time with family, and participating in sports and school events including volleyball, track, baseball, student body offices, yell leader, and acting.

Following graduation Janice attended Portland Business College. She then returned to Baker and married her husband, Jack, whom she'd met before college at a community dance where he and his band were playing in Hereford. They wed in 1952 and celebrated 52 years of marriage before Jack's passing in 2004.

Janice joined Jack's band as a drummer and singer. They played for dances every Friday and Saturday night until 1962, and continued playing for special family events through the 1990s. Janice especially enjoyed family music sessions with her husband, sons, and her brothers, as they played for family gatherings. She enjoyed playing the accordion at these family gatherings. In later years she found this same joy in playing music with her grandchildren.

Janice and Jack worked side by side to raise their family of four, and worked toward their dream of owning a ranch. After 40 years of hard work together, Jack often working multiple jobs while Janice held things down at home, they accomplished their dream and built a ranch from nothing.

The couple raised cattle, sheep and hay, and Janice had a milk cow, chickens, and a garden to provide for her family. She loved irrigating, raking hay, and taking care of her animals. Her greatest joys were her children, grandchildren, and caring for oth-

ers. You never left her home without being offered a meal, dessert, or fresh produce or flowers from her gardens. She was known for hosting special gatherings for friends and neighbors, and especially her annual craft-wreath making parties. She expressed her love by giving. She loved greatly, and was greatly loved by those around her.

Janice was heavily involved in her church, serving as a Sunday school teacher for almost 30 years, and assisting wherever needed. She was a 4-H volunteer and supported the program from her children's involvement in 1964 until her health no longer allowed, just a few years ago. Whatever the need, cooking, sewing outfits for a parade, cleaning — she did it all, and humbly. She never wanted to be in the limelight or recognized. She worked diligently with her hands, and her faith was expressed in her actions. Her love for animals was also an expression of her gentle nature. Whether nursing a sick calf to health, raising bumper lambs, or caring for a brood of chicks, her love for animals was evident. She gave all she could by doing the little things that held meaning for others.

Janice is survived by her four children and their spouses, Brent and Bitsy Gyllenberg of Baker City, Neva Parker of Powell Butte, Oregon, Clay and Chris Gyllenberg of Baker City, and Elissa and Clint Morrison of Baker City. Grandchildren and spouses Justin and Savannah Gyllenberg, Dani Gyllenberg, Laura and Cale Marcum, Ty Morrison and Zack Morrison, all of Baker City, Cody and Elle Gyllenberg of Richland, Washington, and Dusty Gyllenberg of Pocatello, Idaho. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, and nieces Wilma Johnson, Theresa McClay, and Shelly Westfall, nephews Ralph Morgan, Floyd Morgan, Steve Munn and Wm. Munn, and their families. She was preceded in death by her husband John Powell "Jack" Gyllenberg, her parents, and siblings Betty Morgan, Loren Munn and Melvin Munn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center either online, or through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon, 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



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