

## Local Briefing

### Raffle, online auction raising money for BHS senior party

The Baker High School seniors are selling Bare Necessities raffle tickets and running an online auction to raise money for the Class of 2022 drug- and alcohol-free party. Tickets for the raffle, which includes more than 40 prizes, are available from any BHS senior, at Kicks Sportswear, 1801 Main St., Maurice's, 1090 Campbell St., or by calling 541-403-1480. The online auction runs through April 15.

Items include 80 pounds of ground beef, a Bulldog hope chest package, a wine and cheese basket, Seattle Mariners basketball tickets, a date night package at Wildhorse Resort, and many more items. To access the auction, go to <https://www.32auctions.com/BHS2022>.

### Workshop on caring for a lawn set for April 23

A three-hour workshop on growing and maintaining a lawn is set for April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the

Baker County Community Events Center, 2600 East St.

Participants can register by calling the OSU Extension Service at 541-523-6418 and pay at the door. Cost is \$10 per person.

David Cowan, an OSU Extension master gardener since 2005, will conduct the workshop. Topics include the role turf can play in a sustainable landscape, tips for proper installation and revitalization, sound cultural practices for maintaining a lawn, minimizing the risk of pests, and suggestions for selecting useful turf care tools.

## Resort

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schedule through the final day, Sunday, April 3.

The importance of the resort's elevation — 7,100 feet at the lodge, the highest base elevation among Northwest ski areas — proved itself yet again, Judy said.

Anthony Lakes' lofty position largely insulates it from thaws that can force less-elevation ski areas to temporarily close or reduce operations due to a lack of snow.

Much of the winter's snow fell in December and early January.

March, which in many years brings the biggest storms of the winter, was something of an anomaly this year, with only about two feet of total snow.

Nonetheless, "we had great skiing all year and the snowpack held up great," Judy said.

She didn't have visitor numbers available, but Judy said this season was "definitely quieter than last year."

During the first year of the pandemic, outdoor recreation proved popular across the West as the cancellation of most large events prompted people to



Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort/Contributed Photo

The ski season at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort ended Sunday, April 3, 2022.

seek other forms of entertainment.

Camping and hiking in the summer were attractive since social distancing was simpler.

And the trend continued into the winter of 2020-21, with skiers, both downhill and cross country, flocking to Anthony Lakes and other resorts.

This winter was more typical in terms of attendance, Judy said, although last winter's growing popularity of cross country skiing continued this year.

Some other, less welcome, effects of the pandemic did dissipate this season.

Last winter, Anthony Lakes limited seating on the chairlift to ensure social distancing, and that, combined with the large crowds, resulted in longer lift lines and waits than is typical.

This winter, though, the seats accommodated three skiers as usual, with much shorter lines, Judy said.

She said visitors also appreciated the end of the indoor mask mandate in early March.

The only other significant effect of the pandemic was a four-day closure of the lodge in early January — the resort was open for

skiing — when several employees were out after testing positive for COVID-19.

According to Anthony Lakes, the resort paid \$555,000 in wages to employees from October 2021 through the end of the season.

The resort's total expenditures during that period were \$807,000, 90% of which were spent locally, according to Anthony Lakes.

Its "support local" program, which gives visitors a discounted \$25 lift ticket if they bring a recent receipt of \$40 or more from a locally owned restaurant or shop in Baker and Union counties, resulted in 289 tickets being sold, representing a minimum of \$11,560 spent in local businesses.

The resort's Sunday free skiing program for fifth and sixth graders had an average of 45 students over the eight-week program.

Anthony Lakes also hosted 24 youth and community groups, offering discounted rates, this winter.

Although the ski season has ended, Anthony Lakes plans to have meals and other events at the lodge this summer. More information is available at [www.anthonylakes.com](http://www.anthonylakes.com).

## FBLA

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### Other Baker results

- Owen Higdon, 2nd, insurance and risk management (high school level)
- Adelaid Walden, 2nd, career research (middle level)
- Savannah Brown, Caitlin Lien, Phoebe Wise, 2nd, marketing (high school level)
- Savannah Brown, 3rd, business communication (high school level)
- Caitlin Lien, 4th, securities and investments (high school level)
- Ashlyn Dalton, 4th, introduction to financial math (high school level)
- Adeline Shaw, 4th, career exploration (middle level)
- Taylor Dalton, 5th, accounting II (high school level)
- Alex Wise, 5th, agribusiness (high school level)

- Meadoh Waldrop, 5th, introduction to business communication (high school level)
  - Jozie Ramos, 5th, organization leadership (high school level)
  - Phoebe Wise, 6th, political science (high school level)
  - Adeline Shaw, 6th, leadership (middle level)
  - Tristen Tritt, 6th, business communication (high school level)
  - Tristen Tritt, 7th, graphic design (high school level)
  - Meadoh Waldrop, 8th, human resource management (high school level)
  - Abbey Benson and Owen Higdon, 8th, sales presentation (high school level)
  - Lupita Rodriguez Sanchez, 9th, client service (high school level)
- Zikmund said Baker students who qualified for the national conference will each have to raise about \$1,800 by June 1, so they will be doing fundraising in the community this spring.

## Students

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The April 8 session was organized by OSU Extension, which recruited Alderson.

"I asked Shane to come because he's so good at orienteering," said Katie Hauser, program coordinator for OSU Extension-Baker County.

Prior to his lessons, Alderson set up a course in the park and hid signs for the children to find. Some of those had disappeared overnight, however, so he improvised.

But first, he started with the basics.

"What direction does a needle on a compass always point?" he asked the youngsters gathered in a circle around him.

Several suggested "north," which Alderson met with an empathic nod.

"I set up a course for you guys to follow and use compasses to navigate through the park," he said.

After dividing into groups of four, the students tried their skills at orienteering with the help of an adult.

Although many students found their way to the hidden objects,

frustration was part of the activity, as well.

When Alderson came to help Oberlander's group, the youngster spoke up with the true honesty of a child.

"We can't really have a kid as our leader," he said.

But Alderson and the other adults kept the interest high — until another pressing concern surfaced, again from Oberlander.

"I have a wiggly tooth," he said.

This made nearby Annabelle Knight perk up.

"I have three wiggly teeth!" she said.

And then they went back to reading the compass.

In the coming weeks, the OSU Extension activities for Friday Academy include an introduction to the Baker City Police canine unit with Lt. Wayne Chastain, and a presentation about how math helps to design fire trucks in a session with the Baker City Fire Department.

Stocks said she hopes to end this year's Friday Academy session with a field trip to Eastern Oregon University on May 13.

## Winter

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The effect on the better known blossoms, those of May, remains to be seen.

After a relatively tranquil winter, the second full week of April, a period sometimes defined by balmy breezes scented with spring blooms, delivered instead instant January.

A storm that the National Weather Service in Boise aptly described as "impressive and unusually strong and cold" barreled into Baker County a little before dawn on Monday, April 11.

About an inch of snow fell Monday morning in Baker City prior to the arrival of a potent cold front.

After a brief lull, the cold front brought another burst of heavy snow and gusty northwest winds starting around 9:15 a.m.

Because the ground is relatively warm, snow didn't accumulate much on streets, and as of noon on Monday, Interstate 84 and other local highways remained open, although some had packed snow in places.

Tom Strandberg, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Transportation in La Grande, said the agency refitted snowplows to some of its trucks in anticipation of the late storm.

"They may not have had as many plows as in the dead of winter but they did know there was a storm coming through and they were retrofitting some of their vehicles so they still had enough plows to manage the situation," Strandberg said on Monday morning, April 11.

One possible problem, he



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

A daffodil drooped under the weight of snow Monday morning, April 11, 2022, in Baker City.

said, is that Oregon's legal season for driving vehicles with studded tires ended March 30.

"If folks are not prepared with chains, that could cause problems," Strandberg said. "I'm hopeful we're not going to have any issues. But usually when we have snow we do have folks who have problems with that."

Commercial trucks that lose control, or can't maintain momentum on hills, often are the culprits on closures on I-84.

They are required to carry chains regardless of the season, but Strandberg pointed out that even during winter, unchained trucks can lead to freeway blockages and closures.

"Hopefully this will clear up and we'll be OK," he said. "We all know that when there's snow on the ground, it doesn't take much for one single vehicle to cause a crash that shuts down the freeway for hours upon hours. Be prepared, there could be delays, and if you're prepared for them, you're going to feel a lot better and safer."

Strandberg recommends travelers check the road report website, [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com), or call 511 on a mobile phone for updated conditions.

The wintry storm canceled Baker High School's tennis match scheduled for Monday at Weiser, Idaho, and a softball game at Nyssa.

A JV golf tournament at

Quail Ridge Golf Course in Baker City was also postponed.

Although snow isn't exceedingly rare in April in Baker City — occasionally a late storm even whitens the ground in May or June — Monday's storm was unusually powerful, and it ushered in a prolonged period of abnormally chilly weather.

The average high temperature at the Baker City Airport for the period April 10-15 ranges from 57 to 59.

The high temperature on Sunday, April 10, was 41 degrees.

And that might be one of the warmer days this week.

The National Weather Service was forecasting highs in the upper 30s on Tuesday and Wednesday, and in the low 40s from Thursday through Saturday.

Overnight lows could dip in the teens and low 20s, and snow showers are possible each day this week.

The wintry week offers a bit

of relief for the persistent dry weather that prompted Baker County commissioners to approve a drought disaster declaration on April 6.


Most of Baker County is in extreme drought, the second-worst category, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The mountain snowpack in Northeastern Oregon is about 68% of average.

An automated measuring station near Anthony Lake reported seven inches of new snow on Sunday, April 10.

New snow totals for Monday, through noon, included four inches at Schneider Meadow north of Halfway, six inches at Eilertson Meadow in the Elkhorns west of Haines, five inches at Bourne and eight inches at Tipton, along Highway 7 between Sumpter and Austin Junction.

**WATCH OUT FOR THE WILDLIFE ON THE ROADS**



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### Helen Georgia Buckmaster

May 31, 1932 - April 1, 2022

Helen Georgia Buckmaster, age 89, of Baker City passed away on Friday, April 1, 2022, surrounded by family at her home. A celebration of her life will be planned for and announced at a future date.

Helen was born on May 31, 1932, to Harold and Hazel (Lutes) Crawford in Calusa, California. She attended school through the eighth grade and spent most of her life fulfilling her calling as a housewife and mother. Some of her favorite things to do were painting plates, crocheting and knitting. She also enjoyed traveling. She attended the Lighthouse Church in Baker City, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Helen's biggest accomplishment was raising her children and grandchildren. She was proud of each and every one of them and she loved them dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son, Donald (Gene) Haynes, a daughter, Polly Avery, a stepdaughter, June Hanson, a sister, Marjorie Sharp, a brother, Harold (Bo) Crawford and four grandsons: Franke McCullough, Lawerance McCullough Jr., Roger Larkins Jr. and Jason Hanson.

Helen is survived by one son Harold Haynes (Theresa) of Baker City, Oregon, four daughters; Sandra McCullough of Nyssa, Oregon, Dianna Haynes (Paul) of Blaine, Minnesota and Celia Williams and Kathy Hoffman (Lewis) of Baker City, Oregon, a stepdaughter Marilyn Hubert and a stepson Gerald Buckmaster both of Baker City. She is also survived by one sister Jackie Wilson (Charles) of Baker City; 24 grandchildren; Randall McCulloch, Charlie McCulloch, Shelia Larkins, Crystal Berry, Nathan Hoffman, Manual Haynes, Zachary Avery, T.J. Williams, Dakota Williams, Jesse Soliz, Stephanie Soliz, Teonia Avery, Chelsea Avery-Graves, Hayley Lundy, Lewis Hoffman JR., Andrew Hoffman, Ashley Hoffman, Jimmy Smith, Malaina Smith, Brandon Hanson, William Hanson, Micheal Hanson, Mark Hanson, Daniel Hanson and Brandie Avery-Epperson and 51 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, Oregon 97814.

To light a candle in Helen's memory or to offer online condolences to her family, please visit [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).



### Ron Anderson

1942 - 2021

### Sharon Joy Anderson

1949 - 2021

Ron and Sharon passed away in November 2021 in Las Vegas Nevada.

They lived in Baker City Oregon for most of the year, escaping the cold weather of Eastern Oregon to their property in Pahrump Nevada during the winter months.

Ron and Sharon loved to travel, gold panning and were avid rock hounds. They enjoyed taking walks, morning coffee with friends, Copperbelt Winery and dances at the VFW.

Ron and Sharon are very much missed by their friends and family who they both loved and cherished dearly.

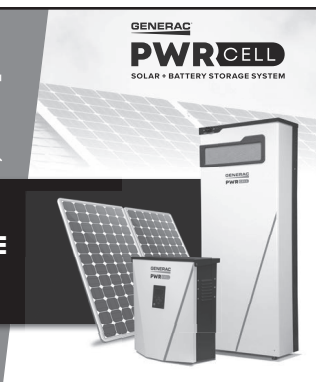
There will be a celebration of their lives on April 14th, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the Eagles, 2935 H Street, Baker City, OR 97814.



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