



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Malachi Martell mops the floor at Marla's Mall on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The thrift store is one of three Baker High School programs that provides work experience for students, while also providing a service to the community.**

## Marla's

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To prepare for the evening event, the store will be closed during that day.

Marla's Mall is in a building just west of the Baker High School gymnasium, between the student parking lot and Baker Technical Institute.

"Overall, it's the best location," Myers said.

To get there, access the parking lot at the corner of Ninth and G streets — on the north side of Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

### Learning job skills

BHS students work shifts at the three businesses, gaining job experiences and earning credits.

Myers said students are graded on work skills — being on time, being on task, finishing a job, good attitude and having good hygiene.

On a recent afternoon at Marla's Mall, Horn and Brandon Unrein sorted clothes while Malachi Martell mopped the floor between clothing racks.

As they worked, Horn and Unrein shook out clothes, checked pockets and inspected items for holes or stains.

"Some people take the time and wash it for us," Unrein said. Horn has one wish for donations:

"Clean things."

After inspection, clothes are separated into bins organized by size.

Myers said they are accepting donations, but especially need men's clothing.

"We get five times more women's clothes than anything," she said.

She said donations of gloves and boots are also welcome.

"The only thing we can't take are large amounts or large items," Myers said.

For information about donating, call 541-524-2309.

### Hours

Marla's Mall is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Hours are subject to change, based on the school schedule, and updates can be found on the Facebook page for Marla's Mallow.

Visitors are asked to sign in each time, which helps Myers keep track of numbers for grant applications.

"We're averaging 400 visitors

a month," she said.

Everything is free, and visitors are limited to one small bag per week, or one large bag per month.

### Other businesses

Students also gain job skills at Bulldog Bubbles, which uses a commercial-sized washer and dryer.

Bubbles serves the district, as well as seven businesses in town.

The general public is welcome to utilize the service as well — Myers said the laundry machines can clean up to king size quilts. The cost is \$5.

To inquire, call 541-524-2309 or email susan.myers@bakersd.org.

Money earned from Bulldog Bubbles is used for supplies and business expenses, student needs, field trips, and to employ students during the summer.

The third business, Bulldog Blender, is located inside Baker High and sells blended drinks at the end of lunch and after school.

As for job skills, Myers said students learn how to bill monthly for Bulldog Bubbles, and the Blender teaches money skills, such as how to count back change.

## Festival

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Aldade said volunteers are welcome to help during the day. For more information, contact Jason Yencopal, 541-519-0599, or Evan Kaseberg, 541-980-8730.

### The trees

About 24 small trees — two to four feet tall — will be decorated by community members and sold by silent auction. Proceeds will support the local Foundation.

Anyone who would like to sponsor or decorate a tree can contact Kyra Rohner at

kyrarohner.elkhorn@gmail.com.

### Santa

The Kiwanis Club will again offer photos with Santa for \$10, which includes two 5x7 prints or three 4x6 prints.

"This is an opportunity for your child to have a one-on-one with Santa and get that Christmas card photo, too," said David Cowan, of the Kiwanis Club.

Proceeds from this event support Kiwanis' community service projects, which focuses on supporting children that supports the club's mission of "changing the world

one child and one community at a time."

Children can also write letters to Santa either before or after visiting with the jolly elf.

### Art

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center is bringing back the "make it and take it" craft activities during the festival.

Ginger Savage, executive director, said the craft station will be set up in one end of event center, rather than the small room as in previous years.

The art projects will be free this year, thanks to support from the D.E. and Jane Clark Foundation.

## John Vernon Hays

September 25, 1942 - November 2, 2022

John Vernon Hays of Baker City, OR was born on September 25, 1942, in Enterprise, Oregon to Vernon and Mary Hays. He passed away with his family by his side on November 02, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Nampa, Idaho at the age of 80 years. John was the third of five children born to Vernon and Mary.

Big John grew up in Enterprise, Oregon on a registered Hereford Cattle Ranch, which his parents owned. He attended school in the Enterprise School System, graduating from Enterprise High School in 1960 where he was active in FFA and enjoyed showing cattle. John also served as an Altar Boy for the Catholic Church in his youth.

John voluntarily enlisted in the US Marine Corp at the age of 17. He served our country for just under five years. Some of his duties included being an Embassy Guard in Paris, France. He was also stationed in Okinawa for a time. He received a Good Conduct Award and one of his proudest duties was to provide security for the President of the United States. While John was in the Marines, he wrote many letters back and forth to his mother, father, siblings, and friends. He was always positive and upbeat in his letters and his love and care for the recipient was evident in his writings.

After his service with the Marines, he returned and worked with his father on the Hays Hereford Cattle Ranch in Enterprise, OR. While in Wallowa County he met and fell in love with Callie "Joann" Pifher. The two were married on June 18, 1966. John and Joann raised four children: Johnny Thomas (1967), Christine Ann (1968), Debra Mary (1970), and Ryan Eric (1982).

Later in 1967, John and Joann moved to John Day, Oregon where John managed the Elks Lodge in John Day, OR. In 1968 he became the Manager of the Elks Lodge in Pendleton, Oregon. In 1977, John moved from Pendleton to Ontario, Oregon to own and operate Moore's Alley Restaurant, where his brother Dan worked side by side with him. He later owned and operated The Locker Room in Fruitland, Idaho. In 1981, John moved to Milwaukie, Oregon, where he managed the Milwaukie Elks Lodge. Later, he purchased and operated Winner's Bar & Grill in Beaverton, Oregon, and also worked for the Portland Breakers, a football team affiliated with the USFL. He later worked at Beaverton Nissan as the Fleet and Lease Manager.

Following the death of his Uncle Michael Rouse, John moved to the Rouse Brothers Ranch in Unity, Oregon, to help his Uncle John Rouse. Following his Uncle John's death in 1987, he continued to operate and later acquired the Rouse Brothers Ranch. During this time, John became very active in the Baker County and Oregon Cattlemen's Association. John was very passionate about ranching and landowner grazing/water rights. In 2001, he became President of the OCA. It was this period of John's life that was the most satisfying and enjoyable, as he worked with his brothers Mike and Dave, his children and grandchildren. He also befriended many employees, neighbors, and OCA Cattlemen. John didn't know a stranger. When he loved, he loved hard. You could almost bet he was your number one fan and if you were a friend, you quickly became family.

John's most enjoyable times would consist of watching his grandchildren play sports and follow them on social media as well as their daily phone calls. He was so proud of all his kids and grandkids, bragging to everyone of their accomplishments.

He was a regular fixture at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas and the Pendleton Round Up. In the early years, his children would testify that you couldn't walk 10 feet before stopping and visiting with yet another friend. John was an avid Trail Blazer fan and had season tickets, where he befriended many Blazer fans, coaches and players. In November of 1970, he happened to be at a Portland Trail Blazers game while his daughter Debra was born. Something Joann would continue to remind him of regularly. He always watched The Cowboy Channel, the Oregon State Beavers, and Portland Trail Blazers on TV. He especially enjoyed being able to watch his granddaughter Mary Shae and her now husband, Jason Thomas, compete in rodeos on the Cowboy Channel, videoing their runs and sending



them via text message to all of us. John also followed the local cowboys he knew and would root for them so loud through the TV that it's quite likely he was heard in the arenas they were competing in.

John enjoyed family gatherings and Deb's cooking. It didn't matter what she made, it was better than any restaurant he had ever been to, and second helpings were always a given. He would say, waving his plate, "just a little bit more, if you don't mind" with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. He was happiest when surrounded by his children

and grandchildren. As one could imagine, the volume in the room would elevate when family gathered. John was okay with this, as he would just turn the TV up louder, take a phone call (there were many), and turn the TV up just a little louder again so he could hear both the phone and the TV over the chatter of family members, who also got louder. It was a vicious cycle, one we will now miss.

As far as his grandchildren go, John was especially looking forward to the wedding of his grandson Morgan to Cody Jo. He was honored to attend Mary Shae's wedding to Jason. The day Anthony married Chelsea he was beaming with pride. He was also beaming with pride when Suzanne married Dustin. John loved that "Little" John had married Ashley and was so proud of how devoted they are to each other. Additionally, he enjoyed that Trevor always had a pretty girl on his arm.

John loved his family and friends more than anything. There was rarely a moment that he wasn't on the phone joking with one or the other and bragging about his kids and grandkids. If you ever spoke with John in person or on the phone, you knew how at least one of his children or grandchildren were excelling at something, whether it be occupations, military accomplishments, sports, everyday successes, raising their families or where they were traveling to and what incredible adventures they were on. He also became quite proficient with emoji's in his later years.

John loved his siblings and had close relationships with his cousins as well. He was often sharing the latest updates about his brother's and their families. It was not uncommon for John to be on the phone with his cousins and brothers, laughing so hard he was crying. They had a very special relationship.

John will be missed by many and forgotten by none. He was the best Dad, Grandpa, Gramps, Papa, Uncle, Mentor and Friend. He will continue to rent all of us on from Heaven and continue to be proud of all of our accomplishments, no matter how big or small they are. We are all better people because of him. John is survived by his son Johnny (Joan) Hays of Hermiston, OR, daughters Christine Massingale of Otis, Oregon and Debbie (Ty) Bennett of Baker City, OR and son Ryan (Candice) Hays of Jiggs, NV; Grandchildren Mary (Jason) Thomas of Archer City, TX, Heather (Johnny) Lunny, Holly (Roy) Schuening of Pendleton, OR, Suzanne (Dustin) Jackson of Tualatin, OR, USMC Staff Sgt. Anthony (Chelsea) Massingale of San Diego, CA, Elizabeth Massingale of Grass Valley, OR, John (Ashley) Massingale of Baker City, OR and Trevor and Morgan Bennett of Baker City, OR. John had 4 great-grandchildren. Brothers Mike (Ella Mae) Hays of Newberg, OR and David (Angie) Hays of Kennewick, WA. He was predeceased by his parents, sister JoAnn Radinovich and brother Dan Hays.

Memorial Contributions can be made to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel at 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. Recitation of the Rosary was held following the visitation at 6:00 pm at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral beginning at 11:00 am, with Father Rob Irwin officiating. The vault interment followed the mass at Mt. Hope Cemetery, and a reception ceremony was held at the Baker City Elks Lodge.

To leave an online condolence for the family of John, please visit [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).

## Trends

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The city does use some local property tax dollars to maintain streets, although the state gas tax is the larger source for the street department — about \$800,000 for the current fiscal year compared with \$670,000 in property taxes.

The budget board, which consists of the seven city councilors and seven city residents appointed by councilors, typically meets only during the spring, when the board reviews the proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1 and advise the city council, which has the final authority on adopting the budget.

Cannon said earlier this fall that he intended to propose a special budget board meeting to give the board an update before starting on budget discussions next spring.

Five city councilors were absent from Wednesday's meeting — Kerry McQuisten, Dean Guyer, Jason Spriet, Kenyon Damschen and Johnny Waggoner Sr.

Councilor Shane Alderson attended the meeting by computer, while councilor Joanna Dixon attended in person.

Budget board members Jason Bland, Richard Haynes Jr. and Shelly Cutler attended by computer, and members Ray Duman, Amanda Daugherty, Dan McQuisten and Randy Daugherty attended in person.

### Concerning trends

Cannon used a series of slides to illustrate trends in the cost of the police and fire departments and the city's revenue. The slides showed figures from previous years as well as projects through the 2027-28 fiscal year.

The overall trend is that the city's costs for public safety are rising faster than property taxes.

During the past 40 years, Cannon said, the city's property tax revenue has been enough to pay for both the fire and police departments only once.

Currently the city receives barely enough in property taxes to pay for only one of those departments.

Jennifer Spencer, the city's finance director, said property taxes for the general fund totaled about \$2.9 million in the prior fiscal year. The police department's budget was \$2.76 million, and the fire department's budget was \$2.61 million.

The police department budget for the current fiscal year, which started July 1, is slightly lower, at \$2.71 million.

The fire department's budget, however, is much lower, at \$1.67 million. That's due to the city council's decision, at Cannon's suggestion, to discontinue ambulance service, which brought in about \$1 million in revenue. The fire department's staffing dropped from 16.25 full-time equivalents last fiscal year to 10.5 this fiscal year.

Randy Daugherty, chairman of the budget committee and a former city councilor, noted a drop in the city's beginning working capital — the cash on hand at the start of the fiscal year — in 2008-9.



Baker City Fire Department/Contributed Photo

**Firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department and Baker Rural Fire District doused a blaze in a home at 948 Valley Ave., in Baker City on Saturday, May 7, 2022.**

The working capital dropped from about \$2 million to a little more than \$1 million, largely because the council agreed with then-city manager Steve Brocato's proposal to buy the building at 1768 Auburn Ave. as police department headquarters. The city paid \$615,000 for the building, which continues to house the police department.

The beginning working capital has increased in recent years, however, from \$1.2 million in 2019-20 to a budgeted \$2 million for the current fiscal year.

Cannon said that even with the cuts in the fire department, personnel expenses will be rising in the future, and that the city's total public safety cost, for police and fire, will rise faster than property tax revenue.

Daugherty said he believes public safety should be the top priority for general fund dollars and that the rest of the general fund "has to suffer until things turn around."

"The general fund is public safety. It's that simple," Daugherty said.

Other departments in the general fund include administration (the city manager, human resources director and finance director), cemetery, parks and airport departments.

The police and fire departments, however, comprise the majority of the general fund budget — almost 54%.

Cannon said the next step for the budget board is to discuss spending priorities, and possible sources of revenue other than property taxes.

"What do we really value in the community? What's important enough for us to figure out how we're going to fund?" Cannon said.

The next meeting is tentatively planned for late January or early February.

That would give city staff time to incorporate the budget board's discussions into preparing a proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.