



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File

This view from a drone shows the intersection of 10th Street, Hughes Lane (to the right) and Pocahontas Road (to the left). Jim Ingram, whose family owns the field at the upper right of the photo, is concerned about losing some of his property due to a redesign of the intersection.

Plan

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“Compensation for this land will undoubtedly be based on what ODOT wants to pay, not what we, the land owners would be asking. ... that is, IF we wanted to sell it. We do not,” Ingram wrote in the letter to Cannon.

Ingram also told councilors that if ODOT took that part of the field, the Ingrams would have to rebuild an underground irrigation system.

“I’ll sum up by saying that we formally object to the plans proposed by the Oregon Department of Transportation for this intersection,” Ingram wrote in the letter. “We believe any private land owner would feel the same in this situation. We realize that progress comes with a cost but don’t believe ODOT should have the authority to make such ambitious plans with little or no regard for the rights of private property owners.”

Councilor Johnny Waggoner Sr. said during Tuesday’s meeting that he believes the Ingrams are getting “the short end of the stick.”

“You’re the cheapest way out that they could see because you’re farm land but you and I know that Hughes Lane is going to be the next growth area, probably, in the near future,” Waggoner said.

Ken Patterson of ODOT, who attended Tuesday’s meeting remotely, said ODOT has options for the intersection that don’t require taking as much of, or any, of the Ingrams’ property.

“This isn’t set in stone, we can walk away from it if we need to, that’s still an option,” Patterson said.

Rezoning sent back to planning commission

Councilors voted 3-2 to send a rezoning request back to the city planning commission for reevaluation.

Earlier this fall councilors had approved the first two of three required readings of an ordinance rezoning a south Baker City property to make

buildings converted into a single-family dwelling compliant with the city’s development code.

The planning commission had recommended councilors approve the zoning change.

Gayle and Leonard Gazley own the property at 568 Elm St. The applied to rezone the property, which covers a little more than half an acre, from general industrial to general commercial.

A prior owner converted some buildings on the property to a dwelling without applying for approval from the city’s building or planning departments, according to city records.

“There have been some changes in some neighbors’ testimony that were instrumental in the planning department’s decision,” Councilor Kenyon Damschen said during Tuesday’s meeting.

Damschen had cast the lone dissenting vote in a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance on Oct. 25.

On Tuesday Damschen, Jason Spriet and Waggoner voted for the motion to send the matter back to the planning commission. Spriet was absent during the Oct. 25 meeting.

McQuisten and Councilor Joanna Dixon voted against the motion to send the ordinance to the planning commission.

Councilor Dean Guyer, who said previously that he had worked with the Gazleys in the past, recused himself from the discussion and vote, as he did Oct. 25.

Councilor Shane Alderson was absent Tuesday.

The Gazleys bought the property in 2014, after a previous owner had converted a building into a dwelling despite lacking a permit to do so, or having the structure inspected to ensure they comply with residential building codes.

The Gazleys, in their application for rezoning the property, note that it borders the industrial zone, and that “this structure has existed over 18 years as a residence and has no adverse effects on industrial or commercial properties.”

But adjacent landowners, Anthony and Lisa Constantine and Kevin and Ruth Woodworth, all signed a letter to the Baker City/County Planning Department urging that the Gazleys’ request be denied and that the property remain industrial.

In the letter they wrote: “A residence between two business properties could potentially lead to conflicts with the existing businesses.”

In a later letter, Anthony Constantine wrote: “Changing the zoning in order to respond to the needs of a non-permitted project does not seem justified.”

Beverly Calder, who likely was elected to a two-year term on the city council Nov. 8 and would take office in January, also wrote a letter, to Dawn Kitzmiller, the city’s building official, suggesting the council remand the Gazleys’ request to the planning commission.

“The fact that these changes are being proposed for a ‘dwelling’ that was not properly permitted, nor built to code in the first place seems like we are literally changing a ‘rule’ to allow one previously broken,” Calder wrote.

Meeting

Continued from A1

he and his wife met friends at a local restaurant. He wrote that Penny Rienks had increasing pain from her hip and complained of nausea.

After returning home, the couple went to the emergency room at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, where Rick Rienks said his wife had X-rays taken.

According to the police dispatch log, Officer William Mercado of the Baker City Police went to the hospital at 11:31 p.m. Friday.

Rick Rienks said he and his wife told Mercado about the incident.

McQuisten said she also talked the next day with Mercado, and told him she believes she was assaulted or harassed by Rick Rienks.

McQuisten contends the incident was planned, with a goal of implicating her in doing something wrong.

Not the first incident at GOP event

On March 25, 2022, two officers went to the Baker City Elks Lodge in response to a complaint about audience behavior during a forum featuring several Republican candidates for Oregon governor.

The officers escorted Rick and Penny Rienks from the lodge after a conflict over the Baker County Republican Party’s ban on audience members taking videos of the event or applauding while candidates were speaking.

Duby said he assigned an officer to go to the Sunridge during Friday’s meeting based on a report about a potential threat. He said Suzan Ellis Jones, the longtime chair of the Baker County Republican Party, had contacted him prior to the meeting to request police presence.

There were no arrests Nov.

18, he said.

Divide among Republicans

There has been a public schism in the Baker County Republican Party this year, with one group voting during a July 28 meeting to suspend the executive committee and appoint a temporary committee.

The Oregon Republican Party invalidated that vote Sept. 24, citing a Baker County GOP bylaw requiring at least three executive committee members be present at a meeting to conduct business.

During the Nov. 18 meeting,

PCPs elected a new executive committee.

New Chairman Danny Johnson, of Halfway, who received 29 votes to Kate Grace’s 26 votes, said he’s excited about moving forward “to build the brand of Republicanism in Baker County and the state of Oregon.”

Jones, of Bridgeport, who had served as the county GOP chair for 12 years, has retired.

Jones said she initially planned to retire as county executive committee members then, or in 2020, was willing to take on the duties, she said.

Maxwell Justin Upmeyer

September 11, 1973 - November 4, 2022

Maxwell Justin Upmeyer, of Evans, Colorado took his final ride at the age of 49 after a sudden loss of his life.

He was the son of Michael and Norma (Guilliams) Upmeyer Sr. He was born in Ontario, Oregon, on September 11, 1973. Maxwell attended multiple schools in Payette, Idaho, Springdale, Washington, John Day, Oregon, New Plymouth, Idaho and Baker City, Oregon.

He specialized in mechanics and truck driving, but had many other jobs throughout his life. When not at work you could find Maxwell outside. He loved to ski and snowboard, as well as snowmobile in the winter. During the warmer months of the year, he enjoyed hill climbing on his motorcycle, along with other outdoor activities.

Maxwell was married to Laura (Taylor) Edwards. They later divorced. After a few years, he met Siera Sears, who he had his beloved son Dalton with.

He leaves behind his son, Dalton, of Colorado, mother Norma of Baker City; sister, Mary Kenworthy of Payette, ID, brother Michael “JR” Upmeyer of Pendleton, along with 13 nieces and nephews and multiple cousins, aunts and uncles.

Maxwell was preceded in death by his dad, Michael Upmeyer Sr., grandparents John and Alice Upmeyer, Jack and Mary Guilliams, brother-in-law, Charles Kenworthy, and numerous other family members.

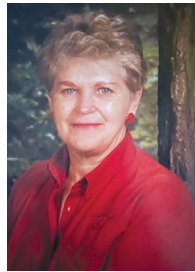
There are no services planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, please donate to either the Go Fund Me for funeral expenses at GoFundMe, Michael Upmeyer, <https://gofund.me/a859627f> or for suicide prevention. Suicide prevention hotline 1-800-273-8255.



Judith Schroeder

May 24, 1941 - November 15, 2022

Judith Schroeder, 81, of Baker City, died Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at home surrounded by her family. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City. A graveside committal will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception immediately following the committal back at the church.



Born May 24, 1941, in Portland Oregon to pioneer descendants of the Oregon Trail, Clyde Deval and Ellen Jean Heater, Judy was the 2nd oldest of five children. The family lived near Sherwood, Oregon, before moving to Creswell in 1950. She married her high school sweetheart, Kenny Fox. They moved to a small acreage near Creswell where they enjoyed life and started their family. Kenny passed away at age 28, leaving Judy with four children ages 8 years to 5 months.

Friends set her up on a blind date where she fell in love and married Gordon Schroeder, a marriage that lasted 50½ years. Their marriage blended her four kids with his three, and Judy was one busy lady.

In 1970, with seven kids, three cows and no ranching experience, they bought a rundown ranch 8 miles west of Mt. Vernon, Oregon. Judy’s days started early, cooking three homemade meals, sewing clothing, making quilts, gardening, canning, riding horses, herding cattle, building fence, driving farm equipment, irrigating and working part time at Dameon’s mercantile store, never missing church or children’s school activities.

In 1979, after successfully restoring their Mt. Vernon ranch, they purchased a larger ranch in Unity, Oregon, where she continued to help on the ranch, volunteered countless hours as a 4-H leader, FFA, community, sports and church events, while working as a substitute cook for the Burnt River School District where 100% of the meals were homemade.

Their years of hard work paid off; their ranching career was a success. They were founding members of Country Natural Beef, raised quality alfalfa and and cattle. In 1989, after their children graduated, they downsized their operation and leased a smaller ranch in Richland, Oregon. In 1992 they sold their cattle and moved to Nye Road outside of Baker City where Judy worked as a store clerk at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and later as head cook at Brooklyn Elementary School.

Finally, in 1999 she retired. She enjoyed traveling, fishing, pottery, painting, camping, Soroptimist, cooking church meals and grannies quilt club but most of all where she loved spending time with her 16 grandkids, hosting grandkids week which included tea parties and swimming with Allie the alligator.

Family and friends will remember her generous heart and helping hand, love for family and faith in her Lord, Jesus Christ.

Judy is survived by her seven children: Kelly Fox (wife Lorrie), Mike Schroeder (wife Julie), Robin Fox-Lavala (husband Robin), Nick Schroeder-Norton (husband Scott), Monique Schroeder-Devon, Terri-Fox Berthelsen (husband Mark), Tony Fox (wife Ronda), 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, one brother, Don Heater and two sisters, Mary Wadds (both from Australia) and Bonnie Clugston (from Unity, OR).

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Judy the family suggests the Alzheimer’s Association through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Zachary “Zach” Jordan Valentine

December 12, 1992 - November 18, 2022

Zachary “Zach” Jordan Valentine, formerly of Baker City and North Powder, passed away Nov. 18, 2022, in Seattle, Washington, as the result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.



Zach was born Dec. 12, 1992, to Tonya Dias and Michael Valentine, in La Grande, Oregon. Though tiny at just over 5 pounds, Zach began his life as a fighter and strong-willed person, a characteristic that remained prominent his entire life. Zach was soon joined by his brothers, Joshua (1995) and Logan (1997). The boys were not only close in age but also shared an unbreakable bond of brotherhood and friendship.

Zach made friends easily and was an incredibly fun and charismatic person. His smile and laugh were infectious, and his goofy personality was a trademark that all who knew him enjoyed. He was incredibly generous and loving - if anyone he knew needed anything, he made sure he did everything possible to be there for them in any way he could. Family was everything to Zach, and he always made the effort to be involved in family gatherings or whenever anyone wanted to just hang out.

Zach was a free spirit and boundary tester from the beginning. He loved to live large, enjoying every minute. He approached everything in his life with determination, strength and passion and lived life with no regrets.

Zach is survived by his mom, Tonya Dias, and stepdad, Jake Jones; father, Michael, and stepmother, Carla; brothers and sisters-in-law, Joshua and Megan, and Logan and Lexy; grandparents, Ernie and Donna Dias, Terry Valentine (Kathy) and Linda Valentine; aunt, Denise Chamberlain; and many great-aunts, great-uncles and cousins. Zach was also a phenomenal uncle to Jackson and Arya. Additionally, he is survived by his girlfriend, Sophie, and countless close friends who meant the world to him.

Zach will be missed immensely but never forgotten. In honor of his wishes, there will not be a memorial service. He would want his friends and family to celebrate his life in their own way.

Kimberley Charles “Kim” Kowalski

March 16, 1954 - November 15, 2022

Kimberley Charles “Kim” Kowalski, 68, of Huntington, Oregon, crossed into spirit peacefully in his home on November 15, 2022, from pancreatic cancer.



Kim was born on March 16, 1954, in Troutdale, Oregon, the first son of Joseph Kowalski and Marie Kowalski, nee Anderson. He grew up working on his family farm where he created many fond memories of mischievous fun with his siblings and cousins. As a child, he won awards in 4-H for horsemanship and he became a skilled mechanic working on farm vehicles. He attended Sam Barlow High School in Gresham, Oregon, where he enjoyed participating on the school wrestling team and held a school record for fastest pin for multiple decades.

He graduated early to join the US Army and served during the final years of the Vietnam War from 1972 to 1975. He proudly served our country as a mechanic in a military hospital in Germany until 1975, but was injured unloading supply vehicles, and returned to the US.

He married his first wife, Lilja Jordan, in 1975 and they had three children. Their youngest son, Christopher, sadly died in 1982. Kim worked at Reynolds Aluminum in Troutdale, Oregon, from 1976 to 1986. Then, Kim moved with his family to Mitchell, Oregon, to experience an off-grid homestead lifestyle and spent summers working on a family mine in Durkee, Oregon. In 1989, they moved to Huntington, Oregon, to live near Kim’s parents. Kim started a business selling firewood, and he volunteered in town in a variety of roles including serving as City Planning Commissioner. He was also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, (and its president for two years) through which he volunteered on local projects such as installing solar-powered irrigation lines for watering plants in the town cemetery, and launching the Pioneer Days fair, which was held annually for several years. He was divorced in 2010. Kim was very proud of the accomplishments of his daughters, and later his grandchildren.

Kim married Debi Shaver Kowalski in October 2020. He became an active member of the Open Arms church in Huntington where he attended frequently with his wife and stepdaughter. Sadly, Kim fell into poor health in 2021, but he was diligently cared for by Debi and her daughter Samantha throughout his illness.

Kim was known as a generous person with a big heart, who took in stray animals and helped any person in need. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening, and cooking. He loved children and enjoyed dressing up as Santa Claus for the kids in the community, and teaching others anything he learned.

He was predeceased by his son, Christopher Charles Kowalski, and his parents, Joseph and Marie Kowalski, also of Huntington, Oregon.

Kim is survived by his wife, Debi Shaver Kowalski; his stepdaughters, Candace Renee Salim of La Grande, Oregon and Samantha Coulter of Huntington, Oregon; his daughters, Marcie Kowalski of Mebane, North Carolina, and Marija Mikolajczak and her husband Chuck Mikolajczak and their two children, Jordan and Lauren, of Greenwich, Connecticut; his brother, Kelly Kowalski of Huntington, Oregon, his sisters, Denise Lein of Huntington, Oregon and Debra Kowalski and her husband Donald Gourley of Prineville, Oregon; and a host of aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends.

A celebration of life will be held on December 10, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Open Arms Pentecostal Church of God in Huntington, Oregon.