

Pilot greets family with flyovers of La Grande, Pendleton

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Jim Bieker was 6 years old when he boarded a Cessna aircraft for a flight around the Grande Ronde Valley about four decades ago with his family.

The child's life course may have been set by the time the plane landed.

"I had become fascinated with flight. I have been fascinated with it ever since," said Bieker, who grew up in Cove.

Bieker's aviation fascination spurred him to later begin a 22-year career with the U.S. Air Force, one now winding down as he will retire in July. He made his last Air Force flight Wednesday, May 26, and his parents, Chuck and Jeanette Bieker of La Grande, will never forget it.

Their son, a lieutenant colonel, made a La Grande flyover in a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft while on a four-hour training flight with a fellow Air Force pilot. The flyover was at 6,000 feet and could be heard throughout La Grande at about noon May 26.

"It was a good chance to fly over and say 'hello,'" said Bieker, who lives in Eatonville, Washington, and works out of McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington.



Contributed Photo

Lt. Col. Jim Bieker shows his daughters, Hannah, left, and Ella the inside of the cockpit of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft May 26, 2021, at McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington. They posed for the photo after Jim Bieker, a Cove native, completed his final Air Force flight, which included flyovers of La Grande and Pendleton.

Bieker also did flyovers May 26 over Pendleton and Nyssa to greet his brothers, Dave and John, during the four-hour training flight. Dave Bieker is an elementary school teacher in Nyssa. He took his students outside to observe the flyover.

After his flight and landing at McChord Air Force Base, Jim Bieker was greeted by his wife, Kate, and their

daughters, Hannah and Ella, who sprayed him with water while someone from the Air Force came up from behind and dropped several gallons of ice water on him. Bieker said he was not surprised by the dousing.

"It is a tradition for pilots after their last flights," he said.

Bieker said he will miss serving in the Air Force.

"What I really liked were the many wonderful people I got to meet," the pilot said.

Bieker, who graduated from Cove High School in 1993, has fond memories of growing up in Cove where he said some of the favorite things he did was work in cherry orchards and ride motorcycles with friends.

Bieker's Air Force experi-



Contributed Photo

A C-17 Globemaster III sits at McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington, May 26, 2021. The Globemaster is one of the planes Lt. Col. Jim Bieker, who grew up in Cove, flew for multiple missions during his long career with the Air Force.

ence includes eight years on active duty and 14 years as a reservist.

While in the reserves, Bieker has had to make training flights, like the one he made on May 26, every couple months. The C-17 Globemaster III he co-piloted is a military transport plane for troops and cargo. Bieker said when flying the plane it takes him about 40 minutes to go from Tacoma to Nyssa and back.

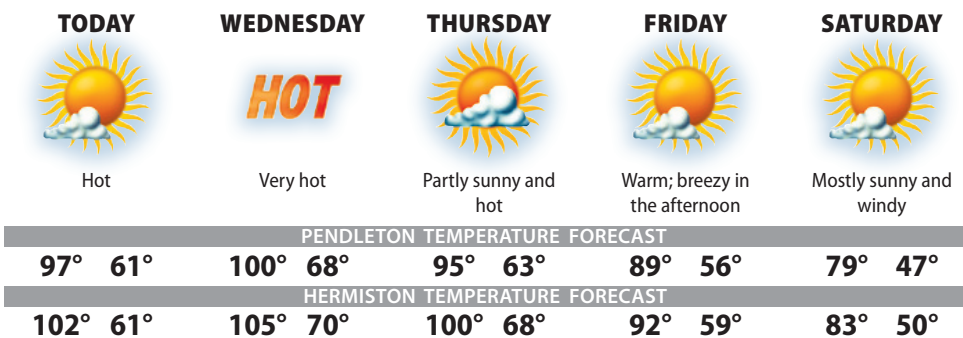
Bieker has been a pilot for Delta Airlines for 11 years,

flying primarily domestic flights. He plans to continue flying for Delta for years to come. He does not hesitate when asked what it is about flying that captures his imagination.

"It is fun to see the world from above," he said.

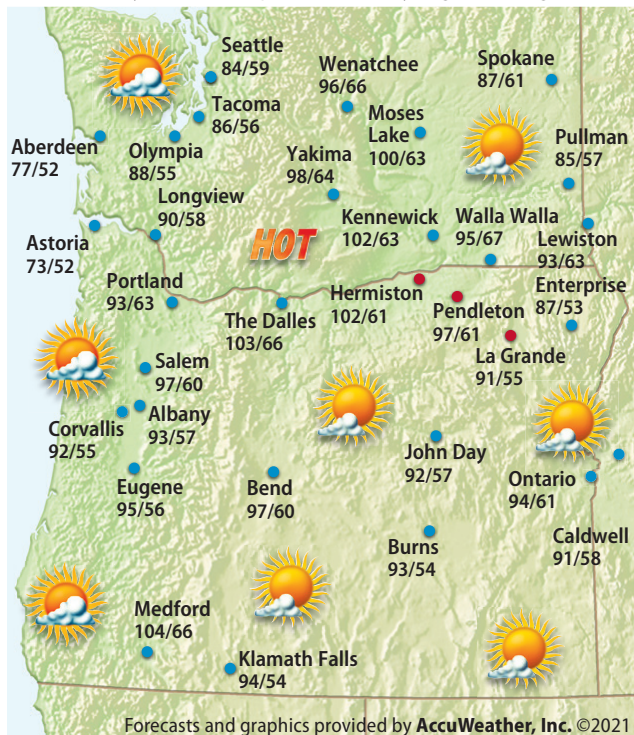
Bieker credits his Air Force training with putting him in a position to land his job with Delta. He said he never tires of flying, and it is unlikely he ever will because "I have a job which never feels like work."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	87°	48°
Normals	74°	50°
Records	100° (1986)	34° (1916)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.47"
Normal month to date	1.40"
Year to date	4.03"
Last year to date	7.86"
Normal year to date	6.51"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	89°	49°
Normals	76°	51°
Records	100° (1986)	35° (1928)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.42"
Normal month to date	1.12"
Year to date	1.70"
Last year to date	1.43"
Normal year to date	5.11"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	ENE 4-8	SW 4-8
Pendleton	NNE 4-8	WNW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:37 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:41 a.m.
Moonset today	11:49 a.m.



12 Northwest tribes say they are united to save endangered salmon

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE — Some Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest are criticizing the suggestion they have competing opinions on how best to save endangered salmon runs, saying tribes are united in pursuing the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Snake River to preserve the iconic fish.

A dozen tribes issued a joint press release on Wednesday, May 26, rejecting the notion that tribes based near Puget Sound might have differing goals than inland tribes.

"Any efforts to divide the indigenous peoples of this region by suggesting that the Puget Sound Tribes don't have the same interests as the Northwest Inland Tribes

have been soundly rejected by tribal leaders," Nez Perce Tribe Chairman Samuel Penney said in the release. "We are all salmon people."

The dozen tribes are united behind a controversial proposal by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, an Idaho Republican, to spend some \$33 billion on efforts to save salmon that include breaching the four dams.

The dams are on the lower Snake River between the cities of Pasco and Pullman in eastern Washington state, and are blamed by some for blocking salmon from reaching spawning grounds. Supporters of the dams point to ocean conditions, overfishing and other causes for the decline of salmon numbers.

Simpson's plan to remove the Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Granite and Lower

Monumental dams also includes a 35-year moratorium on lawsuits, ending costly litigation over the dams' environmental impact. That provision has caused a split among major Northwest environmental groups over the plan. Democratic Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Republican members of Washington's congressional delegation also oppose Simpson's plan.

The 12 tribes who support Simpson's proposal are the Nez Perce; Confederated Salish and Kootenai; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Kootenai; Yakama Nation; Spokane; Shoshone-Bannock; Coeur d'Alene; Shoshone Paiute; Burns Paiute.

IN BRIEF

Oregon man allegedly driving stolen Montana vehicle arrested by College Place police

COLLEGE PLACE — A wanted man from Oregon, who was reportedly driving a car stolen in Missoula, Montana, was arrested Thursday, May 27, in College Place after a brief police pursuit.

Jonathon R. Romine, 40, of Halfway, had a warrant for his arrest out of Baker County, according to a release from the College Place Police Department.

Romine had his first appearance in Walla Walla County Superior Court on May 28 and was booked into the Walla Walla County Jail with a \$20,000 bond.

Prosecutors filed charges on two counts — stolen vehicle possession and third-degree driving with a suspended license — out of several charges police presented, according to court documents.

According to the release, police interaction with Romine began when dispatchers were notified of a vehicle driving erratically on U.S. Highway 12 around 4:30 p.m. May 27.

College Place officers spotted the vehicle, a Subaru Legacy, heading south on Northeast

Myra Road and followed it.

The driver allegedly ran a stop sign while police were trying to catch up. The driver then stopped the car on Northeast Cargill Avenue.

Romine left the vehicle and ran away when officers got out to talk to him. The man eventually stopped in the backyard of a house in the 100 block of Northeast Rose Street, and he was arrested "without further issue," according to the release.

Officers entered the license plate numbers in their database, but they didn't match the vehicle description. They learned the car was listed as stolen out of Missoula the night before, the release noted.

Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle said he expected arraignment on the local charges to happen June 14.

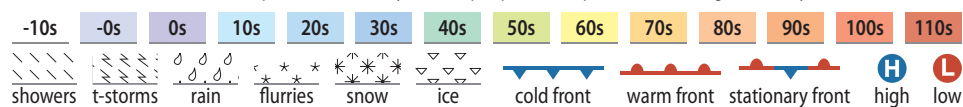
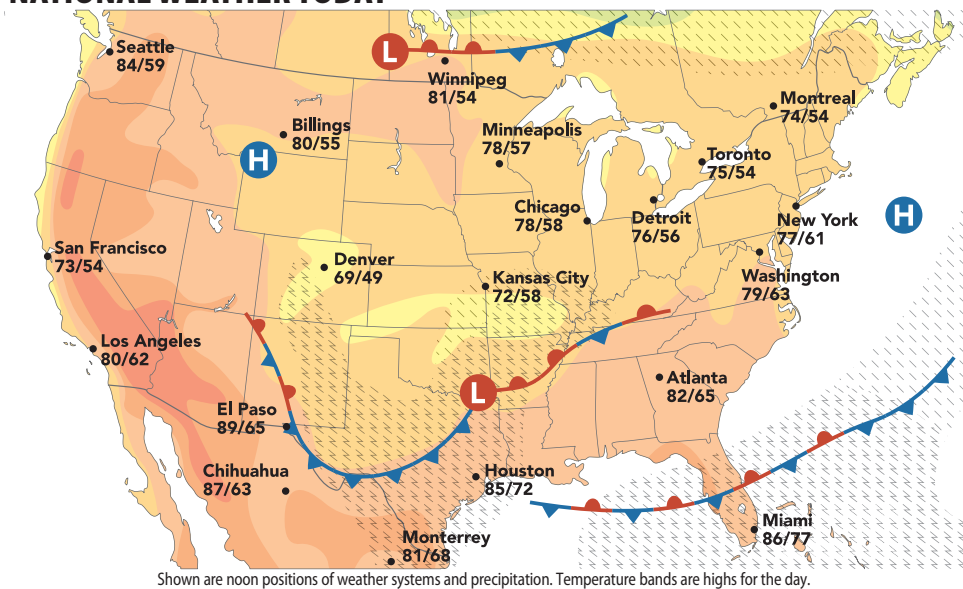
Romine has multiple pending charges in Baker County, including stolen vehicle possession, plus charges on another case involving illicit guns and drugs and illegal burning. According to the Baker City Herald, Romine was convicted in 2018 of starting a fire that burned 800 acres and was accused of illegal burning again in September 2020.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 105° in Red Bluff, Calif. Low 24° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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