

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald August 18, 1970

Oregon State Police District Four headquarters, located in Baker, is the largest Oregon State Police district in Oregon. The district headquarters is separated from the Baker OSP Patrol Office, although both are located in the same building at 1050 South Bridge St.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 18, 1995

UNION CREEK CAMPGROUND — For people who like to get away from home but not away from it all, this spot on the north shore of Phillips Reservoir has been a popular destination since it opened in September 1968.

By next month, when the campground will be able to accommodate even more travelers who can live without the daily grind but not without fresh-ground coffee or the nightly news, it's likely to become even more so.

Workers from a Montana company are installing fresh water connections and electrical outlets at 34 of the campground's overnight spaces.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 18, 2010

Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Dudley outlined his vision of Oregon as a place where Republicans and Democrats "roll up their sleeves and work together."

By listening to people in all parts of the state and working with lawmakers from all parties to change policies that discourage business development, Dudley said he will create jobs and restore a balanced statewide economy.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald August 19, 2019

The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally has donated \$2,100 to the Baker City Police Department.

Todd Godfrey, the HCMR organizer, received a painting from world-renowned artist David Uhl to auction off at the HCMR concert.

All funds raised from the auction were dedicated to the BCPD and the painting sold for \$2,200, \$100 of which went to shipping the painting to the buyer.

Police Chief Ray Duman accepted the donation from Godfrey Aug. 14. The money will go to purchasing a new ballistic vest for an officer.

"With the generosity of the Hell's Canyon, the next officer who comes on board will get a vest," Duman said.

Ballistic vests are tailored to the officer and range in price from \$1,400 to \$1,800, not including plates and a holder that will also need to be purchased.

Godfrey also presented a check of \$6,240 to the Baker High School girls soccer and basketball coaches, Kristin Rushton and Jason Ramos, who represented Mat Sand, head girls basketball coach.

Godfrey said the money was from the \$30 fee paid by campers using the high school football field for the HCMR.

Rushton said the money will go to a fundraiser for a new sound system.

"We got new lights on our field and, so, we're really excited to have a new sound system to go up on that."

The high school offers the practice football field and parking lot to motorcyclists and travelers who want to camp out during the rally.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Aug. 15
7 — 12 — 13 — 15 — 26 — 37
Next jackpot: \$5.4 million

POWERBALL, Aug. 15
5 — 12 — 34 — 45 — 56 PB 3
Next jackpot: \$22 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 14
3 — 24 — 29 — 42 — 47 Mega 13
Next jackpot: \$40 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 15
4 — 15 — 33 — 55
PICK 4, Aug. 16
• 1 p.m.: 9 — 6 — 5 — 9
• 4 p.m.: 3 — 5 — 6 — 5
• 7 p.m.: 1 — 4 — 9 — 5
• 10 p.m.: 4 — 5 — 0 — 2
LUCKY LINES, Aug. 16
4-8-10-13-20-21-25-30
Next jackpot: \$41,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Meat lasagna, peas, garlic breadsticks, carrot-raisin salad, cookies
- **THURSDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, broccoli-blend vegetables, bread, potato salad, tapioca
- **FRIDAY:** Barbecued pork ribs, au gratin potatoes, green beans, roll, coleslaw, lemon bars
- **MONDAY (Aug. 24):** Orange-glazed chicken tenders, fried rice, Asian vegetables, bread, Asian salad, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Aug. 25):** Spaghetti with meat sauce, cauliflower, garlic breadsticks, green salad, cheesecake

Luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75, under 60. Meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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LOGGING

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Over the past 25 years the agency has on occasion tried to amend the 21-inch limit. And in one notable case the agency tried to exempt a specific logging project from the rule. That was the Snow Basin project on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in eastern Baker County.

Wallowa-Whitman officials contended that to achieve their goal of protecting from wildfire forests that had historically been dominated by ponderosa pines and tamaracks but in recent decades largely replaced by Douglas-fir and grand fir trees, it was necessary to remove many of the firs, some of which were larger than 21 inches in diameter.

Snow Basin included four timber sales. In 2014 Boise Cascade logged most of the first sale and did a small amount of cutting on the second when a federal court, ruling on a lawsuit filed by environmental groups, halted the project.

A federal judge ruled that the Wallowa-Whitman couldn't ignore the 21-inch limit for a single project, Snow Basin, because the issue affected the entire Wallowa-Whitman.

Veronica Warnock, the conservation director for Greater Hells Canyon Council in La Grande, said the organization has always encouraged the Forest Service to address the issue of preserving large trees at a "landscape" level rather than for specific projects such as Snow Basin.

Warnock disputes the Forest Service's claim that cutting trees larger than 21 inches in diameter is necessary.

Indeed, Warnock contends that the purpose of the ban on logging such trees is as relevant today as it was 25 years ago.

She said those trees store the majority of the carbon sequestered in forests.

Yet Warnock said the Forest Service didn't even address the issue of carbon storage, and its influence on climate change, in the environmental assessment that looks at the possible effects of ending the 21-inch limit.

Many areas of national forests lack large dead trees — snags — that serve as habitat for birds and other wildlife, Warnock said.

A significant percentage of



Lisa Britton/ For the Baker City Herald

A spider web in a forest along Rock Creek in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Haines.

the old trees in national forests east of the Cascades were logged between World War II and the late 1980s, which is one reason environmental groups lobbied, and in some cases sued, to prevent logging of the remaining older trees.

Warnock agrees with the Forest Service that the 21-inch limit was intended to be a temporary rule when the agency enacted it in 1995.

But she contends the Forest Service has not replaced the rule with a policy that would adequately protect large trees. And the agency's current proposal would not accomplish that goal, either, she believes.

Instead, Warnock said, the Forest Service is in effect proposing to give national forest supervisors the authority to cut large trees with no limit on the number or size.

She said she doesn't expect that ending the rule would lead to widespread logging of big trees, but she believes there would be an increase in cutting of trees larger than 21 inches, especially in areas that haven't been logged recently.

"There's a lot of room to improve the (21-inch) rule, but we believe going forward we still need enforceable protection (for large trees) rather than giving full discretion to forest supervisors," Warnock said.

Although Forest Service officials say the 21-inch limit has made it more difficult to thin crowded forests and reduce the wildfire danger, Warnock notes that in many

such projects most of the trees removed are smaller than 21 inches.

Arvid Andersen of Baker City has a much different view of the 21-inch limit.

Andersen is a private forestry consultant.

He describes the 21-inch limit as "arbitrary" and he believes it has contributed to the severity of some wildfires by restricting the Forest Service's ability to thin forests and reduce the fuel load.

Andersen said he was the contractor on a thinning project on the Wallowa-Whitman several years ago and because loggers couldn't cut trees larger than 21 inches, taxpayers had to subsidize the removal of the smaller, less valuable trees.

He's especially worried about how the 21-inch limit could affect the proposal to cut trees in Baker City's 10,000-acre watershed, which is managed by the Wallowa-Whitman. Andersen is a Baker City Council member and a longtime advocate of logging in the watershed to reduce the risk of a fire that could foul with ash and mud the streams and springs the city taps for its water supply.

A large fire in the watershed could force the city to find a temporary alternative source of water as well as build a filtration plant that could cost several million dollars.

"You can cut all the little trees you want but you've got to get that fuel loading down," Andersen said.

Webinars scheduled

A 30-day public comment period is underway for the U.S. Forest Service's environmental assessment and proposed amendment to the 21-inch harvest standard.

The agency will hold a pair of webinars, scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Aug. 19 and 1:30-3 p.m. Aug. 20, to provide information and gather feedback. Registration information will be posted on the project's website at <https://go.usa.gov/xvV4X>. Groups and individuals can also submit written comments via email to SM.FS.EScreens21@usda.gov.

He said he doesn't advocate for wholesale removal of large trees, but he believes the Forest Service should have more flexibility than it has now with the 21-inch limit.

Warnock also criticizes the Forest Service for studying the potential effects of eliminating the 21-inch limit through an environmental assessment rather than the more in-depth environmental impact statement.

The 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to study the potential effects of their actions, states that an environmental impact statement should be done for projects likely to have a significant effect.

Warnock contends that doing away with the 21-inch limit on six national forests clearly meets that criteria.

"There's no way there's not going to be significant effects," she said.

Greater Hells Canyon Council joined four other organizations — Oregon Wild, Western Environmental Law Center, Sierra Club and Central Oregon Landwatch — in writing a letter on Aug. 12 to Forest Service Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa asking him to require an environmental impact statement for the proposal and extend the public comment period to at least 90 days.

Oregon's U.S. senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, have also urged the Forest Service to give the public more time to comment.

OBITUARIES

Mary Morin

Baker City, 1938-2020

On July 30, 2020, Mary Patricia Morin, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died peacefully at the age of 82 with her family by her side.

A graveside service and dedication will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Mary was born on March 17, 1938, at Fossil to Alfred and Elsie (Harrison) Caldera. She was the fifth of 10 children. She met her lifelong love, Ted Morin, in 1954 and they were married on Aug. 12, 1958. They were blessed with a son, Albert, and four daughters: Karen, Nancy, Janell

and Pamela. Mary was a devoted wife and mother who taught her children to love Christ. She led a Christ-like life and showed love, kindness, and charity to all who were blessed to know her.

Mary is survived by her husband, Ted; her four daughters; 24 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Albert; and her grandson, Nicholas.

Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Dick Hentze

Formerly of Baker City, 1945-2020

Richard Merle "Dick" Hentze, 75, of

Cheshire, Oregon, and a former longtime Baker City resident, died Aug. 8, 2020.

An outdoor memorial service will take place at the Hentze family farm in Junction City on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 2 p.m.

Dick was born on March 28, 1945, at Junction City to Merle and Alice (Glenn) Hentze. He grew up in Junction City, graduating from Junction City Senior High School in 1963 and from Oregon State University in 1968 with a degree in education. He married Janet Baker in 1969 and moved to Baker City in 1970, where he taught elementary school until he retired in 2000.

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'Dick' Hentze



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