

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald October 2, 1970

(Photo cutline) — With syringe in hand Sister Margaret, administrator of St. Elizabeth Community Hospital, tries unsuccessfully to discourage an injured porcupine from seeking admittance to the hospital. Thursday morning the spiny porcupine reported to the new hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound. Sister Margaret explained that the hospital has not yet opened and hopefully operations will begin early this month. Upon hearing the word “operation” the sick porky decided to leave.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 2, 1995

One of every four hunters in the Sumpter and Keating units killed a buck during the opening weekend of deer season.

The 25-percent success rate is far better than in 1994, when 16 percent of hunters in Baker County bagged a buck during the season’s first two days.

Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife checked fewer hunters this year than last, said George Keister, head of the agency’s Baker City office.

The two biologists talked with hunters in the Sumpter and Keating units only; ODFW has no opening-weekend numbers from Baker County’s two other units, Lookout Mountain and Pine Creek.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald October 1, 2010

Baker County isn’t rich in prime moose habitat, but love, it seems, can lure the massive animals here even so.

Last week a young bull moose spent much of one day in a field near the Medical Springs Highway about 15 miles northeast of Baker City.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald October 2, 2019

Brooklyn Primary School became an eerie scene of chaos and violence Friday and Saturday afternoons as shots rang out in the hallways and teenagers fell to the floor with wounds sustained by the gunfire.

The good news is the wounds weren’t real and neither was the gunfire.

The shots came from pistols and rifles loaded with plastic silicone bullets, known as “simunition” rounds and used for training.

And the injuries were described on tags hung around the necks of the volunteers who helped bring a greater degree of realism to the scenarios played out both afternoons.

A group of teenagers, who also were joined by a few adults on Friday, filled the empty school with shrieks of terror as they ran aimlessly through the hallways seeking safety and crying out for help for themselves and their injured friends. It was all a part of “active threat” scenarios conducted during training brought to Baker City by officers with the state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Baker City Police, Baker County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police officers were joined by others from agencies in Union and Umatilla counties for the exercises. Dispatchers also participated along with EMTs and paramedics from the Baker City Fire Department.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Sept. 28

5 — 17 — 19 — 27 — 37 — 47
Next jackpot: \$2.5 million

POWERBALL, Sept. 26

11 — 21 — 27 — 36 — 62 PB 24
Next jackpot: \$34 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Sept. 29

14 — 39 — 43 — 44 — 67 Mega 19
Next jackpot: \$41 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Sept. 28

21 — 26 — 41 — 60

PICK 4, Sept. 29

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 6 — 3 — 1

• 4 p.m.: 2 — 6 — 9 — 8

• 7 p.m.: 6 — 5 — 1 — 0

• 10 p.m.: 6 — 1 — 8 — 1

LUCKY LINES, Sept. 29

4-8-11-13-20-21-25-31
Next jackpot: \$21,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **FRIDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, cottage cheese with fruit, cheesecake

■ **MONDAY (Oct. 5):** Hearty beef stew, cauliflower, cornbread, fruit cup, lemon bar

■ **TUESDAY (Oct. 6):** Boneless chicken breast with cream gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread, coleslaw, peach crisp

■ **WEDNESDAY (Oct. 7):** Pork roast, parsleyed red potatoes, green beans, roll, pea-and-onion salad, tapioca

■ **THURSDAY (Oct. 8):** Parmesan chicken, rice pilaf, corn, bread, green salad, cinnamon roll

Lunches 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.

CONTACT THE HERALD

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SALMON

Continued from Page 1A

The first coho fishing season on the Grande Ronde since 1980 started today.

The season will continue through Nov. 30, or until further notice, on the Grande Ronde from the Oregon-Washington border upstream to the Grande Ronde River Road bridge, about 7 miles above Troy.

Anglers can keep up to two adult coho — ones longer than 20 inches — per day, and up to five jack coho, shorter than 20 inches, per day.

Yanke said coho average between 20 and 27 inches.

“This is a bit of light in what has been a pretty dark period for anadromous fish runs in the Columbia and Snake River systems,” Yanke said. “It’s been a really hard five years to be a fish biologist.”

Coho, which are somewhat smaller than their salmonid cousins, the chinook, were once plentiful in the Grande Ronde basin, including the Lostine River, one of the major streams flowing from the Wallowa Mountains, Yanke said.

An estimated 20,000 adult coho returned to the basin annually.

But coho were extirpated from the basin as early as 1912 due to overfishing, dam construction and damage to their spawning and other habitat, according to ODFW.

State officials tried to restore coho runs several times up to the early 1970s, but though there were enough fish to have a harvest season as late as 1980, the salmon didn’t establish persistent runs.

The Nez Perce tribe, for which coho and other anadromous fish were vital sources of food, reintroduced the salmon to the Clearwater River in Idaho.

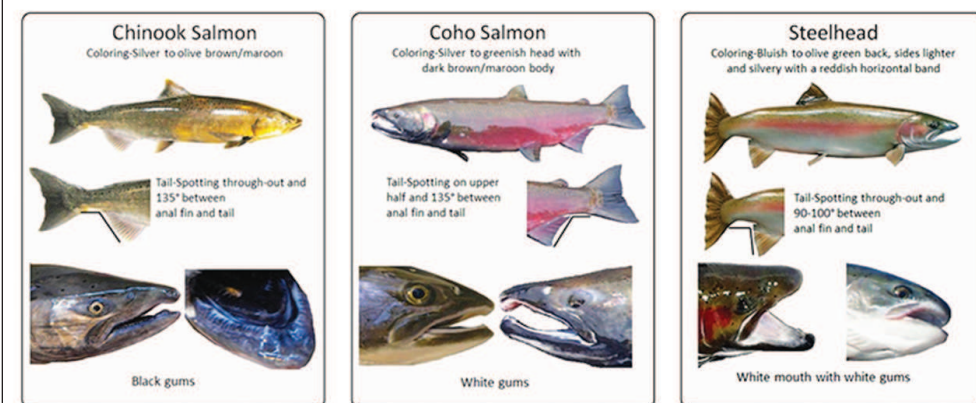
Then, working with ODFW, the Nez Perce in March 2017 released 500,000 coho smolts — baby fish — in the Lostine River near the town of Lostine.

Those smolts migrated down the Lostine, Wallowa, Grande Ronde, Snake and Columbia rivers to the Pacific Ocean.

Most coho spend 2 years in saltwater, although Yanke said some will begin their upstream migration after one year in the ocean.



Identification of Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead



This graphic from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife depicts the differences between chinook and coho salmon and steelhead, all of which anglers could potentially hook on the Grande Ronde River this fall. Anglers are not allowed to keep fall chinook salmon. The season is open for steelhead and for coho salmon. Anglers are encouraged to check regularly to updates on fishing seasons, which can change depending on fish numbers. Go to <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/northeast-zone>

“This is a bit of light in what has been a pretty dark period for anadromous fish runs in the Columbia and Snake River systems.”

— Jeff Yanke, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

In 2018 the first adult coho in almost four decades returned to the Lostine. That year’s run totaled fewer than 200 coho, Yankee said.

In 2019 the return dwindled to fewer than 50 adults.

But Yanke said that despite that disappointing result, he and other biologists had reason to be hopeful about the future.

Climate models are forecasting a shift to a wetter, cooler pattern in the Northwest, a trend that typically results in “upwelling” of cold, nutrient-rich water moving toward the surface of the Pacific off the Oregon Coast, he said.

Coho, chinook and other anadromous fish tend to thrive in those conditions.

Based on coho numbers in the Columbia and Snake rivers this year, that seems to be happening, Yanke said.

The number of coho salmon counted at Bonneville Dam — this includes several runs in addition to the Lostine River fish — are well above the 10-year average, according to ODFW.

Some of those coho are tagged fish from the Lostine River run, and using those results, biologists estimate that as many as 3,000 adult coho will pass Lower Granite Dam on the Snake, the last dam before the fish reach the Grande Ronde River.

It was that projection that prompted ODFW to approve

the first coho fishing season on the river since 1980.

“We knew that things were changing in the Pacific Ocean, and it’s always nice to see that that materializes in actual numbers of fish,” Yanke said.

The future of the coho run lies not in the Grande Ronde itself, however, but farther upstream in the Lostine River.

Yanke said the ultimate goal of the 5-year pilot project that the Nez Perce and ODFW started in 2017 is to have coho spawn in the upper Lostine and, potentially, other Wallowa County waterways, including the Wallowa River, where the salmon spawned in the past.

He said biologists have found smolts in the Lostine the past 2 years, which suggests some of the adult coho that returned in 2018 and 2019 spawned successfully.

Yanke said biologists will count adult coho that return to the fish weir near Lostine, then allow those fish to continue upstream. Coho usually spawn in November, he said.

Another objective is to have enough adult coho return to the Lostine River weir each fall — at least 500 fish — to serve as the broodstock for the run.

Those fish would be artificially spawned to produce the half a million or so smolts that biologists release

Baker City angler hopes to land a coho

Dylan Isaacson has hooked quite a few fish but he’s never landed a salmon.

The Baker City angler hopes to fill that gap in his resumé this fall by landing a coho in the lower Grande Ronde River in Wallowa County.

Isaacson, who grew up in Baker City, said he fly-fished that reach of the Grande Ronde with his dad, Tom.

But Dylan said he hasn’t fished for salmon or steelhead, which return in relatively small numbers to several rivers in Northeastern Oregon.

— Jayson Jacoby

each spring, usually between early March and early May, in the Lostine River to perpetuate the population.

Since the reintroduction pilot project started, adult coho have been trapped near Bonneville Dam, with the coho smolts then reared in the Cascade Hatchery near the dam before being trucked to the Lostine for release, Yanke said.

He said biologists would prefer to raise smolts that are the offspring of coho that made the entire arduous journey from the ocean to the Lostine. Salmon that return to the Lostine are “locally adapted fish,” Yanke said.

OBITUARY

Helen Gates

Baker City, 1938-2020

Helen R. Gates, 82, of Baker City, died on Sept. 20, 2020, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

At her request, cremation was held and private inurnment took place on Sept. 23 at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Helen was born on Jan. 7, 1938, at Lancing County, Tennessee, to Ora Dean (Garrett) and Pearly Clifford Hacker. She graduated from

Baker High School in 1956 and went on to become a beloved wife and friend to many in her community. Helen married Clay Loren Gates on June 29, 1972; Clay passed away in 2004. She completed flight attendant training and worked as a waitress and a homemaker.

Her favorite pastimes were reading, music, taking care of stray animals (feeding them for years), and taking care of her family, and she found

great joy in making her nieces and nephews laugh.

Helen helped anyone who needed her help and any animal she could; she believed that people should help one another and all creations. Helen strived to make the world a better place through fond and funny memories. She will be greatly missed.

Helen is survived by her brother, Tom (Toby) Hacker of Haines; her sister, Susie Perrine of Baker City; her nieces, Audra Perrine and Myka Spriet of Baker City, and Brandy Bennett of Molalla; her nephews, Kyle Hacker of Wallowa County, Terry Perrine of Gaston,

Tony Vasquez of Albany, Tom Maliwauki of Pendleton, and Brice Hacker of Blue Springs, Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clay Gates; her parents, Clifford and Opal Dean Hacker; a nephew, Darrell Hacker; and her brother-in-law, Louis Perrine.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions can direct them to the ASPCA, through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St. Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle or to leave a condolence for Helen’s family, go to www.celestrubutecenter.com

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Robert T. ‘Bob’ Gilkison: 90, of Baker City, died Sept. 4, 2020, at Settler’s Park in Baker City. His graveside service will take place Saturday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Haines Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Mr. Gilkison may be made to the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in his memory, go to www.celestrubutecenter.com

Douglas A. Warrington: 76, of Baker City, died Sept. 27, 2020, at his home. At his request, there will be no services. Contributions in his memory may be directed to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in his memory, go to www.celestrubutecenter.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
SECOND-DEGREE CHILD
NEGLECT (Baker County Circuit

Court warrant): Robert Stanley Olp, 36, of Baker City, 3:44 p.m. Tuesday, at the police department; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Austin Mikel Coble, 42, of Baker City, 3:08 p.m. Tuesday, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

POSSESSION OF METH-AMPHETAMINE (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Stacey Lee Bork, 31, 1690 Indiana Ave., 3:05 p.m. Monday in the 1700 block of Main Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff’s Office

Arrests, citations
STRANGULATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Zachery Ryan Payne Smith, 25, transient, 1:38 p.m. Monday at the Courthouse; jailed; Smith also was cited on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle and possession of a stolen vehicle in connection with a Sept. 4 incident in Baker County.

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