

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald November 24, 1970

An application for a general electric rate increase for the Eastern Oregon Division of California-Pacific Utilities Company has been filed today with the Public Utility Commissioner of Oregon.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 24, 1995

Hunters in several Northeastern Oregon units will be allowed to shoot only spike bulls during the second elk season next fall.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on Wednesday adopted that and other substantial changes for 1996 elk hunting seasons. The commission's goal is to increase bull-to-cow ratios to management objectives within three years, and to increase the number of mature branch-antlered bulls.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 24, 2010

The Baker County Planning Commission is requesting a business plan from the couple who want to start a guest ranch along the Snake River north of Huntington.

Commissioners, meeting a week earlier due to Thanksgiving, agreed during their Nov. 18 meeting to ask Steve and Virginia Mayer to supply the business plan for their proposed Riverwind guest ranch.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald November 25, 2019

Iliene Hatch watches the soaring Sitka spruce in her yard surrender to the final spurt from the chain saw and her emotions, as the saw's two-cycle chatter goes silent, are mixed.

"I'm going to miss it, actually," Hatch said. "It's going to look so naked out here without that tree."

But Hatch is also happy to think about how many people will enjoy the sight of her tree, its branches loaded with Christmas lights, when they visit downtown Baker City during the holidays.

She's thinking especially of youngsters and their unique amazement at the sights of the season.

"Little kids love big Christmas trees," said Hatch, who donated the approximately 40-foot spruce as Baker City's Community Christmas Tree.

The tree, now standing in its customary spot in the Court Avenue Plaza between Main and Resort streets, will be illuminated after the Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7.

"I think that is an absolutely amazing thing to happen," Hatch said. "I offered the tree as a community gesture."

When she learned recently that officials from the city and Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative had picked her spruce, Hatch said she was ecstatic.

"I did the happy dance and clapped my hands," she said.

OTEC donated employees' time and the use of its trucks and other equipment to cut the spruce Saturday morning and haul it from Hatch's home at Cliff and Grove streets.

Hatch, who grew up in John Day and moved to Baker City in August, said she only learned by happenstance about the Community Christmas Tree program, which dates to the 1990s.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Nov. 21

6 — 13 — 14 — 16 — 22 — 30  
Next jackpot: \$48 million

### POWERBALL, Nov. 21

51 — 54 — 57 — 60 — 69 PB 11  
Next jackpot: \$200 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 20

26 — 33 — 45 — 61 — 68 Mega 17  
Next jackpot: \$202 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 21

35 — 42 — 50 — 68

### PICK 4, Nov. 22

• 1 p.m.: 5 — 3 — 6 — 3

• 4 p.m.: 0 — 0 — 7 — 5

• 7 p.m.: 9 — 4 — 0 — 5

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 6 — 4 — 5

### LUCKY LINES, Nov. 22

3-5-9-16-18-22-27-30  
Next jackpot: \$32,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Barbecued pork ribs, scalloped potatoes, corn, roll, pea-and-onion salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY:** Thanksgiving Day; no meals.
- **FRIDAY:** Thanksgiving Holiday; office will be closed, transit will not be running.
- **MONDAY (Nov. 30):** Barbecued meatballs, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, biscuit, fruit ambrosia, bread pudding
- **TUESDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, fruit cup, brownies

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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## RIVER

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But back in August, Clement said, a riot of clematis vines and prickly wild rose bushes made this a potentially painful place to venture off the path.

Not that stepping off the Parkway would have improved the nonexistent view of the river.

"It took about two weeks just in this 100-foot section to get this cleaned up," Clement said.

His interest in the river that winds through Baker City dates back somewhat further, however.

Clement, who moved to Baker City about four and a half years ago, said that around three years ago he noticed that branches from a box elder tree were hanging over the path just south of D Street. That's an area where bicyclists have created a series of paths and jumps near the Parkway.

Clement called City Hall and got permission to saw some of the especially hazardous limbs.

But he went about the task not as someone with a chain saw and a vague vision of what he wanted to see, but as a retired professional with decades of experience in such matters.

Clement, who has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management and a master's degree in wildlife ecology, said he worked for nearly half a century consulting with a variety of agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation, to design projects intended to improve wildlife habitat.

He was pleased with the results near D Street.

But then he started casting a wider view.

Clement said he often walks the Adler Parkway, and in particular the section between D and Campbell streets, where the paved path is mainly on the west side of the river, crossing to the east bank near D Street.

He noticed that the river-side trees didn't appear to have been pruned recently, and that areas between trees were clogged with underbrush.

The problems were not solely aesthetic, Clement said.

Beside blocking views of the river, this accumulation of vegetation posed dangers not only to pedestrians and bicyclists on the Parkway



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Tom Clement said branches from the willow tree in the center of the photo, before pruning, extended across the Powder River, posing a risk to people floating the river.

itself, but to people who float the river on torrid summer afternoons when the Powder is swollen with irrigation water for Baker Valley fields.

Clement gestures to a willow tree, a couple of hundred feet north of Campbell Street, that bears the fresh cuts from a pruning saw.

Before the trimming, he said, one willow limb extended across the river's channel, with one piece dipping into the water.

He said he talked with many passersby while working on the Parkway who told him they had been wrenched from their innertube by a dangling limb.

One floater even suffered a broken nose when a limb, bent back by another tuber, snapped back.

"I didn't realize how many people floated this river," Clement said.

Although safety is his top priority, Clement said he also has strived to make this urban forest both healthier and more attractive by employing his extensive experience and his background in botany.

Most of the trees are relatively healthy, he said.

Although water-loving willows and cottonwoods are the predominant species, there's a smattering of box elders, cherries and even a few mountain ash trees with their distinctive clumps of eye-wateringly orange berries.

Ultimately, Clement said, his goal is to improve what's there rather than to replace anything.

He cites as an example the box elder tree that grows beside the Parkway near Campbell Street.

It's quite an unusual tree, with six trunks, three of which, rather than soaring skyward as trees typically do, extend horizontally.

Clement, who is himself an artist, describes this box elder

as a "fabulous artistic tree."

Other than a bit of pruning, he focused on clearing out the vines and underbrush that largely obscured the tree's whimsical shapes.

Clement said he's been gratified by the comments he's heard from walkers who thanked him for cleaning up around the box elder. He especially enjoyed watching mothers who posed their kids on one of the horizontal trunks for photographs.

He also appreciates hearing from passersby who tell him they feel safer while walking this section of the Parkway, which has far fewer places where a person could easily hide.

Clement deflects credit, however, pointing out that many other people have contributed to this volunteer project.

"I'm happy to help out any way I can," he said.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative sent a crew, with a wood-chipper, to work for much of a day to chip the dozens of limbs that Clement and others had stacked.

"That's huge," he said of OTEC's contribution.

The Baker City Lions Club, which has created pocket parks, including a fitness park, and installed shelters and tables along the Parkway over the past dozen or so years, also supports the campaign.

"It looks really nice," said Gregg Hinrichsen, Lions Club president, of the revitalized section of the Parkway. "Tom is an amazing guy."

Hinrichsen said the Lions Club invited Clement to a meeting to thank him for his efforts.

Clement said Nick Paulsen, who works for the Oregon Department of Transportation and is adept at the dangerous job of climbing trees and pruning limbs that can't be

reached even with a pole saw, volunteered to cut many of the limbs overhanging the river and posing a threat to floaters.

Clement said he has talked with multiple city officials to get their endorsement for the project, including Joyce Bornstedt, who oversees the city's parks, including the Adler Parkway.

Bornstedt said the efforts of Clement and other volunteers is invaluable, as the city's budget includes just \$1,500 annually for tree maintenance across the city's network of parks.

"The need far exceeds the money we have available," Bornstedt said. "Having someone like Tom who has the knowledge to do the work in an appropriate manner is wonderful."

Clement said he also walked a section of the Parkway with Fred Warner Jr., Baker City manager, and Arvid Andersen, a city councilor who's also a professional forester.

"I'm incredibly impressed with Tom," Andersen said.

Although the city is legally responsible for trees that overhang the Parkway and its right of way, Bornstedt said that's a relatively narrow strip.

For most of its length, the Parkway crosses private property, the city having bought easements for the path when it was built about 20 years ago.

The section that Clement has focused on this year, for instance, is a 2-acre parcel that belongs to Mark Johnson of Baker City.

Johnson said that when Clement asked him for permission to clean up the area beside the river, he readily agreed.

Johnson said he's "impressed" with what Clement and the other volunteers have accomplished.

"That was a lot of work," Johnson said. "The community is fortunate to have a gem like Tom, who would take on a project like that."

Johnson said he sees the improvements that volunteers have made between Campbell and D streets as an example for future efforts on other sections of the Adler Parkway.

Clement agrees.

In fact he's been looking at the section of the path near the bridge close to H Street as an area that could also benefit from tree-trimming and underbrush removal.

## VIRUS

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Dixon said four other high school students were identified as potentially being infected because they had been in close proximity with the student who tested positive.

None of the four has shown symptoms of illness, Dixon said.

The high schooler who tested positive has three siblings who also have been quarantined, for a total of eight students.

Family members will return to school 10 to 14 days after their sibling's symptoms have subsided, Dixon said.

The other four will remain quarantined for 14 days from the time they were exposed. They will be allowed to return to classes on Dec. 3, Dixon said.

While there have been a couple of COVID-19 cases in the community of North Powder, Dixon said this was the

first positive case among his students.

Two staff members who knew they had been exposed to COVID-19 quarantined themselves earlier, he said. One tested negative and the other was advised not to seek testing unless she began experiencing symptoms and remained in quarantine until released to return to work.

Dixon praised his staff and students for following the protocols that have kept them free of the virus until this week.

"We've had 12 weeks of instruction with no shutdowns until now," Dixon said Monday.

North Powder Charter School resumed in-person instruction for all students in kindergarten through 12th grade on Sept. 8.

As a result of the in-person instruction, his students aren't experiencing some of the difficulties that have been reported by other schools in the area,

Dixon said.

The superintendent said enrollment has not been added at the North Powder Charter School other than new families who have actually moved into the district.

Adding more students would only have hampered the District's ability to remain in-person, Dixon said.

The North Powder Charter School has about 80 students in Grades 9-12 and another 75 in Grades 7-8. The K-6 enrollment totals about 125 students, Dixon said.

The high school students also were able to participate in five-on-five football earlier in the year and competed in regulation volleyball matches as well, with limited crowds, Dixon said.

Future sports seasons are on hold until further notice as the year progresses, depending on COVID-19 numbers and Oregon School Activities Association rulings, he said.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### DEATHS

**Edmond Charles Austin:** 83, formerly of Baker City, died on Nov. 16, 2020, at Fruitland, Idaho.

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police

#### Arrests, citations

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Juan Pablo Burgos, 59, of Baker City, 1:34 p.m. Sunday, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Brandon Allen Chase, 31, of 3510 Ninth Drive, 4:35 p.m. Sunday, at his home; booked at the jail and released.

#### Baker County Sheriff's Office

#### Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Joseph Bruce Brandt, 18, of Richland, 6:48 p.m. Sunday, in the 42000 block of N. Cedar Road; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE FAILURE TO APPEAR, FIVE COUNTS (Baker County Justice Court warrants): Trevor James Heath, 24, Baker City transient, 4:04 p.m. Saturday, at Balm and Madison streets; jailed and later granted a conditional release.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Kayla Lee Christy, 32,

of La Grande, 8:01 p.m. Saturday, at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Crystal Lee Charbonneau, 34 of 1015 Walnut St., 1:33 p.m. Friday, at the Courthouse; booked at the jail and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Dion Everette Wilcher, 27, of 2710 B St., 5:15 p.m. Friday, at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.

FIRST-DEGREE ARSON, SECOND-DEGREE ARSON, RECKLESS BURNING and RECKLESS ENDANGERING (Baker County Circuit Court warrant) and FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY,

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF and INTERFERING WITH A POLICE OFFICER (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Jason Lloyd Dinger, 41, of 2239 Ninth St., 5:17 p.m. Friday at the Baker County Jail where he is being held on other charges.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant) and POST-PRISON SUPERVISION VIOLATION (Kolbe, Board warrant): Lacey Polb, 39, 7:24 p.m. Friday, at Huntington; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Issac Jeremiah Kolb, 20, 7:24 p.m. Friday, at Huntington; cited and released.