

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald February 27, 1971

In a repeat of last week's squeaker over Redmond, the Baker Bulldogs escaped with a 42-38 win over a scrappy Hermiston squad last night in Baker. Again, it was right down to the wire. Hermiston brought the ball in with 1:25 remaining, trailing 40-38, but was unable to pick up a basket.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald February 27, 1996

Students at South Baker Elementary School will be part of the World's Largest Concert to be shown on Public Broadcasting Stations across the nation March 7.

The program will be broadcast at 10 a.m. on OPB Channel 13 in Baker City, according to Judy Trohkimoinen, South Baker music teacher.

The South Baker students will sing "Good Night" a Russian folk song for eight to 15 seconds as part of the program in which students from all over the world sing the same music at the same time.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald February 28, 2011

Baker has made a habit of hovering at or near the 100-point mark in recent games.

The Bulldogs did so again Saturday despite a slow start, rolling past Astoria 91-34 in a Class 4A boys basketball play-in game at BHS.

Baker now travels all the way across the state to play at North Bend Friday at 7 p.m. in the first round of the state playoffs.

Baker (20-4) has scored 82 or more points in five of its last nine games, including 100 against Mac-Hi, and 101 against Ontario in Greater Oregon League games.

Saturday, Jesse Brown gave Baker the lead at 2-0 with a driving basket off the opening tip.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald February 27, 2020

The Blue Mountain Translator District, which supplies TV signals to parts of Baker and Union counties, wants to start a local channel available by antenna and through online streaming and cable TV.

The new channel, which could air such events as local government meetings and high school sports, could launch later this year.

The District, which is based in La Grande, has issued a request for proposals to operate the low-power local channel and set up the streaming and cable options.

The new channel would be available to anyone who pays the District's \$100 annual subscription fee, said Alex McHaddad, the District's executive director.

McHaddad said the District has been working on the project since the spring of 2019. It distributed community surveys last fall to learn what people want to see on a local TV channel, and the District's board of directors has been working on a strategic plan.

In 2019 the Oregon Legislature passed a bill — SB 394 — that authorized the District to start a low-power station.

"Ideally we would want to be able to broadcast all local government meetings — city council, county commissioners, school board," McHaddad said. "Of course each entity is going to be allowed to say yes or no."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Feb. 24

8 — 11 — 14 — 23 — 37 — 39
Next jackpot: \$2.4 million

POWERBALL, Feb. 24

4 — 33 — 43 — 53 — 65 PB 21
Next jackpot: \$106 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Feb. 23

5 — 7 — 9 — 20 — 57 Mega 15
Next jackpot: \$30 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Feb. 24

22 — 36 — 66 — 75

PICK 4, Feb. 25

• 1 p.m.: 8 — 4 — 5 — 5

• 4 p.m.: 4 — 5 — 1 — 3

• 7 p.m.: 3 — 0 — 9 — 8

• 10 p.m.: 8 — 8 — 2 — 7

LUCKY LINES, Feb. 25
1-6-11-16-17-23-26-30
Next jackpot: \$25,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes with country gravy, green beans, biscuit, coleslaw, cheesecake
- **TUESDAY:** Beef stroganoff over fettuccine noodles, peas, roll, sauerkraut salad, cookies
- **WEDNESDAY:** Baked ziti, zucchini and tomatoes, garlic bread, pasta salad, pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Breaded pork loin, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, brownie
- **FRIDAY:** Barbecued pork ribs, baked beans, corn, cornbread, potato salad, apple crisp

Public 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 for those under 60. Meals must be picked up; no dining on site.

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Robbery, kidnapping suspect, in jail since September, released on bail

By Chris Collins
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

A Reedsport man who came to Baker City last summer quickly found himself in trouble with the law and has been in jail since Sept. 16, 2020, on 13 criminal charges ranging from burglary and robbery to kidnapping.

That changed Monday, Feb. 22, when Cesar Eduardo Lira, 30, was released from jail after posting a reduced bail of 10% of \$150,000 (\$15,000). Bail had earlier been set at \$400,000.

Lira has been charged in a Baker County grand jury indictment issued Sept. 8, 2020, with two counts of second-degree burglary and one count of first-degree burglary, Class A felonies; two counts of second-degree kidnapping, a Class B felony; five counts of coercion, a Class C felony; and two counts of menacing and one count of second-degree theft, both Class A misdemeanors.

Baker County Circuit Court Judge



Lira

Matt Shirtcliff declined to reduce bail to 10% of \$50,000 (\$5,000), as requested in a motion filed in January by Lira's attorney Bob Moon of Baker City. Shirtcliff did, however, lower the security amount to \$200,000 in a February ruling, according to court documents.

Moon next sought a reduction of bail to 10% of \$130,000 (\$13,000). Moon argued that Lira's parents have operated two successful Mexican restaurants in Reedsport for the past 25 years, but the family was hard-pressed to meet the bail requirement because of business struggles as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a ruling on Feb. 16, Shirtcliff ordered bail reduced to \$150,000. Lira was released to his parents on Monday to return to their home in Reedsport with them.

Moon stated in court documents that Michael Spaulding, chief deputy district attorney for Baker County, did not object to Lira's release from jail to his parents' custody.

The release was necessary to allow

Lira to seek medical treatment and to allow him to settle pending misdemeanor or criminal charges in Coos County, Moon stated in court records.

Before being released from jail Monday, Lira was cited on two Coos County warrants charging him with carrying a concealed weapon and two counts of second-degree disorderly conduct, both Class B misdemeanors. The crimes are alleged to have taken place on Aug. 8, 2020, in Coos Bay, according to Coos County court records.

Lira's parents have assured the court that they will help their son comply with requirements to settle his legal issues in Coos County and in Baker County, Moon stated in court documents.

Lira is accused of entering the Baker City home of Veronica Taylor and David Cassaro on April 26, 2020. Lira allegedly was carrying a hammer and threatened to harm Taylor if she didn't give him a backpack he was seeking or tell him where the backpack was, the indictment states.

See Suspect / Page 5A

THEATER

Continued from Page 1A

"It will be normal — people will just have to wear masks and social distance," McQuisten said.

While Baker County is in the lowest of the state's four risk levels for COVID-19 spread, the theater can have up to 50% of capacity. However, McQuisten said she will limit ticket sales to 30% or 40% to ensure enough space between patrons inside the theater spaces.

That would mean about 40 to 50 tickets per showing for the largest of the Eltrym's three screens, and fewer than 20 in each of the two smaller spaces.

The Eltrym, Baker County's only moviehouse, hasn't been open much in the past year. Due to state-mandated restrictions, it closed mid-March 2020.

McQuisten reopened Sept. 18, but studios weren't releasing new movies. A statewide freeze again closed theaters on Nov. 14. The



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

The Eltrym Theater is Baker City's only movie house. It reopens March 5.

Eltrym has been closed since then.

During the closures, the McQuistens worked on several projects, such as installing air scrubbers on the HVAC system.

While inside the theater,

masks are required except when eating or drinking.

McQuisten said movies are being released at a better rate now that more venues are reopening, including Disney's "Raya and the Last Dragon."

"The films are getting better," she said.

She plans to be open Friday through Monday or Tuesday until she can increase her staff. To stay updated, visit www.eltrym.com or check the theater's Facebook page.

BORDER

Continued from Page 1A

The organization submitted 746 signatures, and Kirby said she verified 630 of those.

Among the 116 signatures that weren't verified, 22 were duplicate signatures, 21 didn't match the signature on the person's voter registration, and others were from people who either aren't registered to vote or don't live in Baker County, Kirby said.

Similar measures will also be on the May ballot in Malheur, Lake, Sherman and Grant counties.

Move Oregon's Border is also seeking to put measures on the ballot this November in Harney, Morrow, Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Curry counties, said Mike McCarter, who lives in LaPine, south of Bend, and is president of Move Oregon's Border.

In a press release Sunday, Feb. 21, McCarter said restrictions that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic illustrate the disconnect between the urban and rural parts of the state.

"The lockdown has affected the whole state, but we saw Oregon give

COVID relief to urban Oregon instead of rural Oregon," McCarter said. "Rural Oregon is unrepresented in the Democratic caucuses in the Oregon House and Senate. Since state leadership doesn't consult Republicans, rural interests are completely ignored when it comes time to apportion state spending around the state. This state protects Antifa arsonists, not normal Oregonians, it prioritizes one race above another for vaccines and program money and in the school curriculum, and it prioritizes Willamette Valley above rural Oregon."

OBITUARY

Leo Poe

Baker City, 1944-2021

Leo Dave Poe, 77, died peacefully in his home on Feb. 23, 2021, with his family by his side.

A celebration of Leo's life will take place later, with the place, date and time to be announced.

Leo was born on Feb. 21, 1944, at Durango, Colorado, to Inez-June and Orville Poe. The oldest of 10 children, Leo began working at age 9 and never stopped.

Leo was a co-owner of Britton Equipment, a supervisor for Ash Grove Cement and

owner of Windfall Antiques. He was a man of few words and great integrity. He always quietly helped those in need.

Previously married to Barbara Haydock, he was father to a son, Buck. He wed Gayle Quigley on May 25, 1985, and together they remodeled multiple houses, built a business, raised children, Angie and Andy, and started a farm.

They had many happy years together with their loyal companions, Rex and Kirby. Our lives were richer for knowing him.

Leo is survived by his wife of 35 years, Gayle; his son, Andy Quigley (Alice) and

grandsons, Wyatt and Emett; his daughter, Angie Howe (Bob); his son, Buck, and grandson, Alexia; his siblings and in-laws, Carol and Einar Traa, Jack and Charlotte Poe, Linda and JD Lethlean, Donna and Jim Guelder, Ivan and Alice Poe, Todd and Jean Poe, Cindy Poe, and Wade and Debbie Poe; and multiple nieces and nephews.

The family owes a debt of gratitude to Heart 'N Home Hospice Care.

Memorial contributions can be made to Heart 'N Home in Leo's honor through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamis-pinevalleyfuneralhome.com



Leo Poe

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

VIOLATION OF RELEASE

AGREEMENT: Travis Spurdue, 23, of Baker City, 2:59 p.m. Thursday, in the 1200 block of Third St.; jailed.

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO A MOTOR VEHICLE, THIRD-DEGREE ROBBERY and FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: Jesse Aaron Hatch, 41, of Seattle, Washington, 6:54 a.m. Thursday, in the

Albertsons parking lot; Hatch was arraigned Friday in Baker County Circuit Court on charges that he used force in an attempt to take a vehicle belonging to Nicholas Lark; jailed.

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John Day (every other monday)

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