

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO
from the Democrat-Herald
March 18, 1971

Baker County is feeling the effects of a nationwide teacher surplus this year, according to reports of local administrators.

District 5J has been receiving teaching job inquiries at the rate of six to 10 per day, which amounts to a total of more than 500 accumulated over the last few months, district superintendent Dr. James Evans said yesterday.

25 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 18, 1996

Ellingson Lumber Co., which has been involved in the timber industry for more than 100 years and active in Baker County since 1948, announced this morning that it will cease operating its lone remaining mill, in Baker City.

The company, which laid off most of its 165 employees late last year but had hoped to bring them back this spring, plans to auction its mill equipment and rolling stock by late May or early June, said Rob Ellingson, president and general manager.

"This is a very sad day for our family as well as our company," Ellingson wrote in a letter to this newspaper.

10 YEARS AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 18, 2011

Baker County's first wind farm is scheduled to start producing electricity in November of this year.

Construction should begin in early July on the \$7 million, 3-megawatt Lime Wind project, which is on a ridge about five miles north of Huntington.

The wind farm will consist of six turbines, each measuring about 198 feet from the ground to the tip of the blade, said Randy Joseph of Sumpter.

Joseph's family business, Joseph Millworks Inc., owns the Lime Wind project.

The wind farm will not only be the first in Baker County, but also the first built on public land managed by the BLM in Oregon.

ONE YEAR AGO
from the Baker City Herald
March 19, 2020

Even before Gov. Kate Brown's Tuesday announcement extending public school closures through April 28, the Baker School District had decided to withdraw its \$7.5 million school bond measure from the May 19 ballot.

The Baker School Board made the decision during a special meeting Monday, said Superintendent Mark Witty.

"The Board does not believe that it was prudent or the right thing to do," Witty said of the decision to postpone the measure in light of concern for the additional financial burden it would have placed on the Baker community as effects of the coronavirus pandemic continue to unfold.

"This just isn't the right time," he said. "We've got higher priorities to consider for the betterment of our community."

By withdrawing the bond measure, the District also will be giving up a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Match grant it would have received had the bond measure passed.

The District will not be eligible to apply for the matching state grant again in time for the November election. That delays the District's plan to seek funding for school improvements until the May 2021 election.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, March 15

10 - 19 - 26 - 30 - 31 - 46

Next jackpot: \$3.2 million

POWERBALL, March 13

5 - 11 - 51 - 56 - 61 PB 2

Next jackpot: \$184 million

MEGA MILLIONS, March 16

10 - 41 - 46 - 52 - 69 Mega 8

Next jackpot: \$105 million

WIN FOR LIFE, March 15

12 - 13 - 37 - 52

PICK 4, March 16

• 1 p.m.: 3 - 0 - 5 - 5

• 4 p.m.: 2 - 1 - 4 - 0

• 7 p.m.: 8 - 8 - 0 - 1

• 10 p.m.: 2 - 0 - 2 - 2

LUCKY LINES, March 17

2-5-11-16-20-21-28-31

Next jackpot: \$44,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **FRIDAY:** Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, lemon squares
- **MONDAY (March 22):** Chicken and gravy over egg noodles, biscuit, Jell-O with fruit, bread pudding
- **TUESDAY (March 23):** Soup and sandwich (turkey sandwich and vegetable beef soup), fruit cup, cookies
- **WEDNESDAY (March 24):** Spaghetti, zucchini and tomatoes, garlic breadsticks, green salad, birthday cake
- **THURSDAY (March 25):** Pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, beet-and-onion salad, ice cream

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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1668 Resort St.

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CLOSE CALL

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Baker County Circuit Court Judge Matt Shirtcliff on Tuesday granted Deuel-Clinkenbeard a conditional release. He is required to stay with his father in Montana and to attend a status check hearing, by phone, on April 1.

Benge, who has worked for Superior Towing in Baker City for about seven months, was driving eastbound, toward Ontario, on Friday afternoon.

He said he had just picked up a couple whose car had hit a deer near Milepost 327. He was towing their car to Ontario, and they were riding with him in the tow truck.

Benge said he was near Ash Grove Cement, where the freeway enters a series of curves in the Burnt River Canyon, when he saw the silver car, traveling west in the eastbound lanes.

The car was rounding a corner when Benge saw it.

He estimated its speed at more than 90 mph.

"The whole car was lifting to one side from the force," Benge said.

After the near collision, Benge continued east to Ontario to drop off the couple, who are from Washington, and their vehicle.

He said the couple was already "shaken up" from hitting the deer, and the close call with the wrong-way driver added to their anxiety.

Benge said his boss, having heard over a police scanner about Deuel-Clinkenbeard's collision with McClay's patrol SUV, radioed him to tell him what had happened.

Benge said workers were still cleaning up the scene at Milepost 327 when he was on his way back to Baker City from Ontario.

He ended up towing the OSP vehicle,



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

A 2011 Toyota Camry driven by Logan Deuel-Clinkenbeard sustained major damage after being hit by an Oregon State Police vehicle while driving the wrong way on I-84.

which sustained major damage, to Baker City.

Benge said it was his first encounter with a wrong-way driver on the freeway.

Sgt. Craig Rilee of the Baker County Sheriff's Office, who investigated the case and interviewed both McClay and Benge, wrote in his report that the Baker County Dispatch Center received more than 35 calls to 911 about the wrong-way driver.

It's not clear where Deuel-Clinkenbeard starting driving the wrong way, but callers reported the silver car driving west in the eastbound lanes starting around Milepost 342, near the Lime exit.

Deuel-Clinkenbeard then drove through the Burnt River Canyon, which is one of the curviest sections of Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon, and continued through the Durkee Valley toward Baker City.

According to Rilee's report, McClay

was driving eastbound near Milepost 327 when he saw, about half a mile ahead, a vehicle swerve to avoid colliding with a silver car traveling west.

McClay had his emergency lights flashing and his siren blaring.

In his report, Rilee wrote that McClay "was unable to safely maneuver out of the path of the oncoming vehicle so he made the decision to stop the wrong way vehicle from continuing the wrong way. The left front of (McClay's) patrol vehicle collided with the left front of the wrong way vehicle."

Deuel-Clinkenbeard's Camry stopped in the freeway median, about 50 yards from McClay's vehicle, Rilee wrote.

In his own report, McClay wrote that he "rammed the vehicle to get it off the roadway."

McClay was not available for an interview because the criminal investigation is ongoing, OSP Capt. Timothy Fox, the state police government and media relations official, wrote in an email to the Herald.

In a document filed on Monday, March 15 in Baker County Circuit Court in support of a motion seeking to release Deuel-Clinkenbeard to either his father or on conditions set by the Court, the father said that his son has "severe mental health conditions for which we have been seeking treatment." The document also states that Deuel-Clinkenbeard has no prior criminal history and "needs consistent mental health treatment."

None of the police reports mentions Deuel-Clinkenbeard being tested for intoxicants.

Fox, the OSP spokesman, said the driver likely wouldn't be tested if he did not show any signs of impairment.

One of the conditions of the release agreement requires Deuel-Clinkenbeard to meet with a doctor and to take any medications prescribed.

MERKLEY

Continued from Page 1A

Merkley said he had not heard of any changes made to what are known as "above the line" charitable donations.

"Donations to arts organizations would be very much appreciated," Merkley said.

Julie Huntington, a member of the Baker School Board, asked Merkley about a possible extension for businesses to apply for loans under the Payroll Protection Program, a key part of last year's CARES Act.

"I'm afraid there's going to be many people who are in need of that PPP process that just will not have the time or the resources to actually get an application in by that 31st March (deadline)," Huntington said.

Merkley said he would check on the issue. He said the PPP program has been changed many times, and that the most recent federal aid package includes more money for the program.

"I thought there were some details on this particular refunding of PPP that was designed to try to make sure that the small businesses were able to get the

money rather than it being sucked off by a few larger businesses," Merkley said. "But I didn't hear anything about whether the application period was extended or not."

Bryan Tweit, Baker County's contracted economic developer who is part of the county's economic recovery team during the pandemic, asked Merkley about assistance for renters in the new package.

"There is a significant amount of funding for rental assistance which is intended to enable people to pay their rent and therefore money gets into the hands of a landlord," Merkley said.

He didn't have details about how that portion of the relief funding will be disbursed.

The senator said homeowners making mortgage payments is another issue.

"I am very concerned about mortgage payments because the downside of giving a forbearance period is that families who missed three or four or five months under the forbearance now may be facing, well, you've got to pay it all at once or you lose your house," Merkley said. "So we're hoping the

mortgage companies will really work hard to restructure those loans and put the missed payments on the back end of the loan but that requires some significant effort."

Priscilla Lynn, president of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City, asked Merkley about funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pay for workers at vaccination clinics.

Lynn said the Baker County Health Department is doing "a great job" with the resources it has for vaccinations.

As of Wednesday, March 17, Baker County had the second-highest vaccination rate, per 10,000 residents, among Oregon's 36 counties.

Merkley said information about health care resources in the new relief bill are available on his website, www.merkley.senate.gov/

The senator said the new relief package includes money to help states provide health coverage, including COVID-19 treatments, to uninsured residents.

Merkley said one of the chief goals with the new law is to accelerate the nationwide vaccination effort,

which is done at no cost to people who are inoculated.

River Democracy Act

Ken Alexander of Unity asked Merkley about Senate Bill 192, also known as the River Democracy Act. It would add reaches of dozens of streams to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and Alexander said he's concerned that streams in the Burnt River basin, which flow through highly mineralized areas, are included in the bill.

"What that does is it prevents any future mining or prospecting on those rivers and I'm concerned about the process going ahead of how you're going to investigate what rivers really belong in this bill," Alexander said.

Merkley said Oregon's other senator, Ron Wyden, compiled the list for the bill based on nominations he received from residents across the state.

"There's a map of all the river segments, there's more details about a number of concerns that were raised," Merkley said.

He said he supports the bill, and he offered to connect Alexander with Wyden's staff.

AID

Continued from Page 1A

Bennett said he looks forward to meeting with officials from Baker City and other incorporated cities in the county to ensure that the federal money is disbursed to

yield the maximum benefit, and to avoid duplication.

In an email to the Herald, Sara Hottman, communications director for Merkley, wrote that although the senator is waiting for detailed guidelines from federal officials, local governments

can use the money to replace revenue lost because residents can't pay local taxes, and for a variety of other COVID-19-related effects, including to help businesses and other organizations.

"This has a lot of flexibility," Hottman wrote.

One thing local governments can't use the money for

is to lower tax rates, she wrote. Amounts for other incorporated cities in Baker County include:

- Haines, \$90,000 (population 415)
- Huntington, \$90,000 (445)
- Halfway, \$60,000 (300)
- Sumpter, \$40,000 (210)
- Richland, \$40,000 (175)
- Unity, \$10,000 (75)

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

Taran Arthur Moothart:

There will be a celebration of Taran's life at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 20, 2021, at Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St., in Baker City. Pastor Brad Phillips will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the Taran Memorial Fund at Old West Federal Credit Union, 2026 Broadway St., Baker City, OR 97814, or through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel at 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for the family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Tommy G. West: Graveside services will be Wednesday, March 24, at 2 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery, with military honors. Those wishing to make memorial contributions in Tommy's memory can direct them to a charity of one's choice through ColesTributeCenter, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Tommy, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations
THIRD-DEGREE SEX ABUSE, HARASSMENT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Juan Pablo Burgos, 59, Baker City, 11:29 a.m. Monday, March 15 in the 1300 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's

Office
Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Sierra Jean Dougharity, 32, Baker City, 10:08 p.m. Tuesday, March 16 at Washington and Clifford streets; jailed.

Rachel Pregnancy Center

2192 Court Avenue, Baker City • 541-523-5357

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