

Fishing limits lifted at Malheur Reservoir

■ Low water level prompts temporary change through Dec. 31, 2021

Baker City Herald

Due to low water levels, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has canceled all size limits and daily limits for anglers at Malheur Reservoir south of Baker City, through Dec. 31, 2021.

Malheur Reservoir is south of Bridgeport.

The reservoir has very limited water due to low winter and spring precipitation and exceptionally warm temperatures. ODFW staff have observed fish kills during previous winters when such conditions exist. Based on the developing La Nina and associated projections

for a cooler winter, ODFW believes there is a high likelihood that conditions in the reservoir will become lethal for fish this winter.

"I'm not one to take lightly the liberalization of limits and gear restrictions but given the current water levels and past experience we expect fish will die during the winter due to low oxygen levels," said Dave Banks, ODFW's district fish biologist. "My goal with the removal of limits and gear restrictions is to provide opportunities for anglers to use these fish."

ODFW plans to restock the reservoir next spring to begin rebuilding the fishery. Malheur Reservoir is a productive waterbody that will grow fingerling rainbow trout, three to four inches

long, stocked in the spring into eight- to 11-inch fish by the fall. Those same fish will be 14 to 16 inches by their second fall in the reservoir.

Low water levels during the fall and ice in winter creates a low oxygen level situation that could be lethal for fish. When the reservoir surface freezes, it will trap any remaining oxygen under the ice.

"This would give the fish a very low oxygen supply to persist throughout the winter and normally results in fish dying under the ice," Banks said.

ODFW encourages anglers to keep any fish that they catch because this will improve the likelihood of survival of fish that remain in the reservoir through the winter.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Baker City steer wrestler Jesse Brown competes in the 2019 Pendleton Round-Up. Brown, who set an event record by bringing down his steer in 3.7 seconds, has qualified for the National Finals Rodeo for the second straight year.

RODEO

Continued from A1

One of his two closest competitors was competing in New Jersey, the other in Rapid City, South Dakota.

When the results had been tallied, Brown was in 15th place.

The margin between him and 16th place was \$1,560.

"Last year was a lot more stressful," said Brown, who played football at Washington State University before transferring to Montana State University and taking up rodeo full time. "It was nice not having to worry about the end of the season."

This year it was Brown's traveling companion and fellow steer wrestler, Curtis Cassidy of Donald, Alberta, Canada, who had to weather the last-minute anxiety.

Cassidy ended up in 15th place, his margin even tidier than Brown's from 2020, at just \$183.

Although Brown will be competing at the National Finals for the second time, he said he still thinks of himself as a rookie in one sense.

That's because last year's event, due to the pandemic, was moved from Las Vegas to Arlington, Texas, the latter an outdoor venue.

Brown had a solid debut at the National Finals, finishing tied for first on the first of the 10 consecutive daily competitions. He ended up the season ranked 13th in the world, with earnings of \$88,558.

But Brown said the prospect of competing on 10 straight nights, before 18,000 fans at an indoor basketball arena, is a different matter altogether.

"I can't wait," he said. "It's a completely different rodeo. I think the electricity in that building — you're not going to be able to match that."

Brown expects to have a sizeable contingent of fans rooting for him in Las Vegas.

His parents, Jim and Vicki Brown, plan to attend all 10 nights.

And his younger sister, Allie Brown, a teacher in Baker City, hopes to fly to Las Vegas to watch on the weekends.

"I've had a bunch of friends, from college and high school, a lot of people have reached out," Brown said.

He'll be in Baker City for the next few weeks, working at Lew Brothers Les Schwab Tires, which his dad and uncle, Rocky Brown, own.

Around the first of November, Brown plans to travel to Arizona and then to California to practice in the warmer weather.

He intends to compete in a couple of rodeos, including an outdoor event in Las Vegas.

"I want to stay sharp," Brown said.

He pointed out that unlike most sports, when the playoffs immediately follow the regular season, professional rodeo has a two-month interval between the end of the season and the National Finals.

Practice, then, is vital, Brown said.

But not all preparations happen on horseback.

He said he has a gym workout regimen as well, one designed to boost his strength and speed, and reduce the risk of injury, an inevitability for people who leap from a galloping horse and wrestle a 550-pound steer to the ground hundreds of times per year.

"Any advantage you can get on the steer helps," Brown said.

City Council to discuss railroad quiet zone idea

Baker City Herald

The Baker City Council will discuss this evening, Oct. 12, a proposal from a local group that wants the city to apply for a railroad quiet zone and has volunteered to raise the money to make the required safety improvements to five public crossings.

The Council meeting starts at 7 o'clock at City Hall, 1655 First St.

In November 2019 the City Council, after hearing from the citizens group, directed city staff to prepare a notice of intent to apply for a quiet zone.

The application goes to the Federal Railroad Administration.

The city submitted that notice in May 2021.

None of the current councilors was in office in November 2019.

To qualify for a quiet zone — as La Grande did two years ago — a city must make physical changes to railroad crossings to make it more difficult for vehicles to get to the tracks when a train is passing.

Train engineers can still sound their horns at their discretion, as in an emergency.

Also on the Council's agenda Tuesday is a review of potential resolutions councilors could approve regarding Gov. Kate Brown's vaccination and mask mandates.

The staff report that City Manager Jon Cannon prepared includes four draft resolutions.

One resolution states, among other things, that "all employees and agencies of Baker City shall not participate in the enforcement of directives and mandates under executive orders of the Governor relating to the Coronavirus pandemic, including state agency mandates, directives or guidance, under such alleged authority, unless these matters have received specific authorization from this City Council to do so."

Another resolution would amend the resolution councilors approved in March, declaring a local "public health, mental health and economic"

emergency due to statewide COVID-19 measures. The amended resolution would add to the list of emergencies an "access to healthcare provider" emergency. The resolution states that the governor's vaccination mandate has "destabilized the supply of Healthcare Providers by mandating healthcare providers receive healthcare procedures or risk losing their employment."

A third draft resolution is similar to one that Baker County commissioners approved on Sept. 22. It would declare a local emergency due to potential shortages in emergency responders due to the vaccination mandate, and requesting state assistance to deal with emergencies, specifically firefighting and ambulance service.

The fourth draft resolution states that the city can mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, specifically in ambulance service, by taking precautions such as wearing face masks, and that requiring all firefighter/paramedics to be vaccinated is not necessary.

Judge rejects troopers' effort to stop vaccination mandate

PORTLAND (AP) — A judge has rejected a request by 33 Oregon State Police troopers to temporarily halt a mandate that requires them to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 18.

Retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Jack Landau said in a written opinion Thursday, Oct. 7 that based

on case law "the police power of the state includes the authority to enact public health laws that may have the effect of curtailing individual rights," The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Landau, who is presiding over the troopers' lawsuit in Jefferson County Circuit Court, also said Gov. Kate

Brown is acting within her legislatively granted authority in issuing the vaccine mandate.

Brown has mandated vaccinations for the state's executive branch employees, including the troopers, and for hundreds of thousands of health care workers and K-12 educators and volunteers.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

David Gene Cherry: 75, of Baker City, died Oct. 8, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel is in charge of arrangements. To leave an online condolence for David's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Linda Patton: 73, of Baker City died Oct. 9, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Betty Hindman: 85, of Baker City, died Oct. 10, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Homer Boutwell: Memorial service with military honors, Saturday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. at Pine Valley Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow at Pine Haven Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Raymond Howerton: Celebration of life with military honors, Friday, Oct. 22 at 3 p.m. at the Vet-

erans Memorial Club, 2005 Valley Ave. in Baker City. Please attend for food, drinks, a good time and story sharing. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

SECOND-DEGREE BURGLARY, THIRD-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE: Jarod Roland Taylor, 39, Walla Walla, Washington, 1:25 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9 at the sheriff's office; jailed.

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