

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

January 15, 1972

La Grande was enjoying Friday night's game, a dramatic change from their first encounter — but the fun screeched to a halt 10 minutes into the fray. That's when Baker used its spoiler to help lash the Tigers, 53-35. The Bulldogs' spoiler was 6-1 sophomore guard Rick Scrivner, who scored 14 points.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 15, 1997

Karen Yeakley is Baker City's new mayor. Yeakley, 47, a Baker City native who was elected to the City Council as a write-in candidate in 1992, is the first woman to serve as the city's mayor.

She was elected for a two-year term by a 6-0 vote at the council's meeting Tuesday evening. She was the only nominee.

"It's an honor; I'm willing to do it and happy to do it," Yeakley said after presiding over her first meeting as mayor.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 16, 2012

Bowen Valley Archery recently introduced a computerized video simulator for people who want to practice their aim year-round.

Called TechnoHunt, this indoor simulator shows an archer various animal scenes and allows the person to aim and shoot.

Owner Allen Jensen describes TechnoHunt as similar to being inside a movie theater. Professional wildlife photographers captured images of the animals.

"It has a big, 10-foot Kevlar screen," he said. "And the videos of animals were shot all over the world."

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 16, 2021

The city of Halfway is using a \$1.5 million federal block grant to build a new station for the Pine Valley Rural Fire Protection District.

Halfway received the Community Development Block Grant in 2019 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In an email to the Herald, Lisa Dawson, executive director of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NOEDD) wrote that the city has contracted with the District to prepare the environmental review for the construction project.

The new 7,800-square-foot station, which will replace a structure built in the 1960s, will be built in the northwest portion of a two-acre property the Fire District owns in Halfway, adjacent to the Pine Valley Fairgrounds and near Pine Haven Cemetery.

Dawson wrote that construction is slated to start this summer, and that the project should take about a year to finish.

She said the Pine Valley station, which will include five equipment bays with room for the Department's vehicles and equipment, will be similar in size to one built recently in Richland for the Eagle Valley Fire Protection District.

The current fire station can't accommodate all the equipment, and it's also inefficient to heat, Dawson wrote.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JAN. 12

7-20-32-33-41-46

Next jackpot: \$8.3 million

POWERBALL, JAN. 12

12-21-22-30-33 PB 24

Next jackpot: \$48 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JAN. 11

2-3-19-52-58 Mega 16

Next jackpot: \$325 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JAN. 12

16-28-65-71

PICK 4, JAN. 13

• 1 p.m.: 2-6-8-1

• 4 p.m.: 3-8-6-7

• 7 p.m.: 6-4-4-9

• 10 p.m.: 7-8-7-7

LUCKY LINES, JAN. 13

3-6-11-15-18-21-27-32

Next jackpot: \$10,000

SENIOR MENUS

MONDAY: Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY: Baked ham, candied yams, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, cheesecake

WEDNESDAY: Meatloaf, red potatoes, peas, rolls, pasta salad, cinnamon rolls

THURSDAY: Lasagna, garlic bread, vegetables, green salad, lemon squares

FRIDAY: Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, rolls, coleslaw, brownie

MONDAY (Jan. 24): Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, broccoli-and-bacon salad, apple crisp

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

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Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101 (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are \$10.75 for print only. Digital-only rates are \$8.25.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid

at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

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Reward of \$16,500 in killing of wolf

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

WALLOWA COUNTY — Conservation groups announced Thursday, Jan. 13, that they are offering a \$16,500 reward for information that leads to an arrest and conviction in an illegal wolf killing last week in Wallowa County.

A 2-year-old collared female wolf was found dead south-east of Wallowa and reported just after 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 8. Oregon State Police reported the killing on Jan. 11. The wolf, designated OR-106, was found on Parsnip Creek Road in the Sled Springs game management unit. OSP said the wolf had dispersed from the Chesnimnus Pack in northern Wallowa County.

"Illegally killing Oregon's few wolves out of hatred or spite must stop," Kelly Peterson, Oregon senior state director at the Humane Society of the United States, said in a press release. "The death of OR-106 at the hands of a poacher is heartbreaking and infuriating, especially after eight of Oregon's wolves were illegally poisoned and killed just last year. While this reward cannot bring back these iconic animals, we hope it brings these cruel actors to justice and helps to put an end to the illegal slaughter of our wolves once and for all."

In addition to the Humane Society, the Center for Biological Diversity, Predator Defense, Western Watersheds Project, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild, Speak for Wolves and Northeast Oregon Ecosystems are pledging funding to the reward.

The killing is among more than 30 poaching incidents in Oregon since wolves were



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

A 2-year-old female wolf was fatally shot in Wallowa County last week.

reintroduced, according to Stephanie Taylor, president of Speak for Wolves.

"When poachers get away with breaking the law, it only leads to more poaching and lawlessness," Danielle Moser, of Oregon Wild, said in the release. "This is a result of wolves losing their endangered species protections coupled with a culture of poaching permissiveness. For far

too long, poachers have been emboldened by those who excuse and celebrate their criminal acts without fear of consequences."

The shooting comes on the heels of the poisoning of wolves in Northeastern Oregon in 2021, the release noted.

In addition to the amount offered by the conservation groups, The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's

Turn in Poachers division is offering a potential \$300 reward for information regarding illegal wolf killings.

Those with information may contact Oregon State Police Sgt. Isaac Cyr through ODFW's Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 800-452-7888, *OSP via mobile, or via email to TIP@state.or.us between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Deputy district attorneys in short supply in Northeastern Oregon

Baker County alone in having a full staff

BY ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Counties across Eastern Oregon have struggled over the past few years to hire attorneys to prosecute criminal charges, and officials believe a variety of factors, including uncompetitive salaries, have contributed to the vacant positions.

Wallowa County is bereft of a deputy district attorney for its already strained staff.

Morrow County and Grant County each have just their district attorney to handle cases.

Umatilla County has just five prosecutors — including the district attorney — instead of the normal 10 attorneys.

Union County seems to have fared better, but even its office is down one deputy district attorney.

Only Baker County has a fully staffed prosecution team.

Every other county in Northeastern Oregon has positions open for deputy attorneys.

Those positions have been hard to fill, and in some cases have been left open for at least three years.

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter has had an open position since 2018 — except a brief period when a prosecutor fresh out of college worked for a short stint



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Reed West, Union County deputy district attorney, sits in the Union County Courthouse during arraignments on July 20, 2021.

before leaving to become a local public defender. Carpenter remains the county's sole prosecutor.

"Following his departure, I had no confidence that I would be able to find a replacement," Carpenter wrote in an email, "especially knowing that areas such as Deschutes and Multnomah, which pay much better than northeastern counties can, had numerous openings and I would not be able to complete with them for quality applicants."

Carpenter had an agreement with Grant County that he would serve as county counsel in return for funding for a deputy district attorney position; before then, the role was funded through a grant. Unable to locate a suitable attorney to fill the role as deputy, he resigned from his position as counselor in February 2020.

Likewise, Wallowa County District Attorney Rebecca Frolander has had an open position for three years. She was the deputy prosecutor there before she was elected as district attorney.

"From 2018 up until we revamped the position in the fall of 2018, I received two applications," Frolander said, "but before I could even get them interviewed they took jobs across the state."

For a long while after Frolander became district attorney in 2012, grants funded the deputy district attorney position in Wallowa County. But it sat vacant for an extended period, and that grant money had to be returned and the job left unfilled.

The paper chase

Data from the Oregon State Bar during the past decade show the number of examinees per year steadily dropping — approximately 12 less attorneys each year pass the bar based on a simple linear regression model. The exam has not become more difficult over time, but people are taking fewer attempts to pass it.

And in 2020 the pandemic ushered in a "diploma privilege," which allowed newly graduated law students to bypass the bar entirely and receive their license — a first for Oregon. But even then, only 343 attorneys were minted in Oregon that year. It was the lowest admission numbers since 1972 when just 310 attorneys passed the bar exam.

Lower numbers alone don't make shortages — they need to be coupled with a higher number of lawyers retiring or leaving the field. And that is exactly what is happening. According to a 2017 economic survey released by the Oregon State Bar, nearly 20% of respondents said they had planned on retiring within the next five years — or by 2022. Additionally, the average age of practicing lawyers was 47 according to the survey.

See, **Prosecutors**/Page A3

News of Record

DEATHS

Rex School: 86, of Vale, died Jan. 9, 2022, at his residence in Pioneer Place Assisted Living. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To leave an online condolence for Rex's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

FUNERAL PENDING

Janice Gyllenberg: A celebration of Janice's life will take place Saturday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane. Friends are invited to join the family for a dinner reception immediately following the service at the Family Life Center adjacent to the Nazarene Church. For those who would like to make a donation in Janice's memory, the family suggests the Nazarene Compassion Center either online at <http://neoregoncompassioncenter.org> or through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online

condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY, HARASSMENT: Alyssa Renee Owens, 26, Baker City, 5:24 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, on Foothill Drive; cited and released.

PAROLE VIOLATION: Jason Charles Taylor, 42, Baker City, 3:02 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Courthouse; jailed.

CONTEMPT OF COURT: Joseph Palmer, 41, Baker City, 8:32 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

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