

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

January 17, 1972

Trailing 38-35 in the last minute of play in Saturday night's Intermountain Conference game, the Pendleton Buckaroos desperately looked around for a Bulldog to foul to kill Baker's stall. Three times they chose guard Rick Scrivner, and each time they got burned as Baker pulled out a 44-39 squeaker.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 17, 1997

The ice-skating rink near Sam-O Swim Center, 580 Baker St., is open.

The below-freezing weather the past week has created a good skating surface, but hardly anyone has used the rink, said Randy Jones, Baker City's public works director.

He encourages residents to use the 104-foot by 60-foot rink any time.

There is a light nearby, although Jones cautions skaters that it's not designed specifically to illuminate the ice.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 18, 2012

So about that snow shortage ...

As you perhaps noticed when you looked outside this morning, the weather, as it is wont to do, has changed.

The snowiest storm of the season swaggered into Northeastern Oregon Tuesday night.

Several inches fell in the valleys, but as usual the especially impressive totals were recorded in the mountains.

Anthony Lakes Ski Area has had more than a foot and a half of snow since Saturday, and as much as two feet of additional powder is forecast by Friday.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

January 19, 2021

Ten months after its bid to repeat as state champions was stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baker High School girls varsity basketball team was able to practice again.

For nearly two weeks the Bulldog girls and boys worked out on school grounds while following strict social distancing and mask guidelines.

Practices ended last week when Baker County returned to the extreme-risk level under state guidelines on Jan. 15.

Varsity girls coach Mat Sand said he was saddened that his players weren't able to compete for back-to-back Class 4A state titles last March.

The Bulldogs' final game was a 53-31 playoff win over Gladstone in the Baker gym on March 6, 2020.

The next week, while Baker was in Forest Grove, preparing for its first state tournament game, the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), prompted by the brand-new pandemic, canceled the tournament, a moment Sand described in an interview as "surreal."

"It was a real disappointment for the seniors, the community has watched us grow as a program, it's a program that has gained a lot of traction, a lot of success," Sand, who is starting his sixth year as Baker coach, said last week. "It's been fun to be a part of, our support was really really good from our community."

Baker's basketball teams were slated to have a one-month mini-session starting in mid-November. But that too was canceled due to a surge in virus cases.

After Baker County dropped into the high-risk category on Jan. 1, the basketball teams were able to start practicing on Jan. 4 at BHS.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JAN. 15

8-11-15-39-45-48

Next jackpot: \$8.4 million

POWERBALL, JAN. 15

3-18-37-51-59 PB 13

Next jackpot: \$53 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JAN. 14

5-8-13-22-48 Mega 25

Next jackpot: \$347 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JAN. 15

2-40-58-62

PICK 4, JAN. 16

• 1 p.m.: 7-1-8-1

• 4 p.m.: 0-3-9-5

• 7 p.m.: 7-5-1-9

• 10 p.m.: 7-0-5-3

LUCKY LINES, JAN. 16

2-7-10-14-17-23-27-30

Next jackpot: \$11,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

TUESDAY (Jan. 25): Ground beef steak with onions, scalloped potatoes, peas-and-carrots salad, rolls, green salad, cookies

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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Investigation continues into stranded cattle

BY BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish said his office continues to investigate possible animal neglect by Dean Oregon Ranches and others in the stranding of cattle in the mountains during recent snowstorms.

Fish said in an email Friday, Jan. 14, that his department's criminal investigation into possible animal neglect is continuing.

"I do not have any specific number of cows that have been gathered or died," Fish said. "The staff for Dean Oregon Ranches are collecting the cattle. Most of the cattle belong to Dean Oregon Ranches."

The sheriff said he expects the investigation to take time as his office gathers statements from those involved.

In another development in the story, a new ranch manager for the Bob Dean Oregon Ranches in the Upper Imnaha area has arrived in the county, as the outgoing manager B.J. Warnock has submitted his resignation notice, according to Fish and Warnock.

In a statement received by email on Monday, Jan. 17, Warnock said, "We put in our two-week notice on Jan. 12. The gathering crew will be done the end of the month, as well. We wish the Deans and any future employees the best of luck going forward."

He said he would have no further statements on the issue.

Fish said the new manager is Katie Romero, but he hadn't yet met her nor did he know anything about her.

Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash, who is a rancher and often addresses agricultural issues on the board of commissioners, said Fish's statement of Dec. 31 that the county was "moving toward seizing the Dean Oregon Ranch" was not exactly accurate. Nash said it's the cattle — not the ranch itself — that may be seized and it is unknown if the small number of cattle owned by other ranchers would be included.

"We're looking at seizing the livestock," Nash said. "We're in the process of considering that."

He said there is no timeline in sight, as the proper legal measures — such as Fish's investigation — must be taken.

"We need to have all our ducks in a row," the commissioner said.

Wife speaks up

But Karen Dean, wife of Bob Dean, the owner of the ranch in the Upper Imnaha area where cattle have been freez-



Anna Butterfield/Contributed Photo

Calves rescued from the deep snows in the Upper Imnaha get some refreshment Jan. 2, 2022, at the Joseph-area ranch of Mark and Anna Butterfield. They are among many rescued since the end of December.

ing for the past few weeks, was defensive of her ailing husband during a telephone interview from her Georgia home.

Dean said her 68-year-old husband underwent surgery in June when his oxygen was cut off and left him with brain damage. Dean placed the responsibility for the cattle's welfare squarely on the shoulders of the ranch managers, B.J. and Emily Warnock.

"He was supposed to bring the cows down in October," Dean said. "They let the cows go down on their own."

The Deans also own ranches in Colorado and New Mexico. Dean said one of their wranglers from New Mexico visited the Oregon ranch to see what was happening. She said the wrangler said ranchers normally round up their cattle, take them to a pen and put them aboard a truck to ship to market.

"He said they don't do that (in Wallowa County)," Dean said. "They let (the cattle) find their own way down."

Despite the Deans being the owners of the land and livestock, Dean holds the Warnocks responsible.

"They're responsible," she said. "We called him every other day to get him to bring those cattle down."

But B.J. Warnock disagreed with Karen Dean on the nature of their business relationship.

"Mrs. Dean is not our employer and she is misinformed," Warnock said in an email. "Typically, in a situation

like this, the owner blames the manager, who blames the crew, and so on. We are not going to do that. Unfortunately, I was never officially named or authorized to act as manager, which left me without decision-making authority to act in critical situations. We did have a main crew of seven people gathering Dean Oregon Ranches cattle. We are very proud of all of their hard work and the fact that they have stuck with the job despite extenuating circumstances."

Attorney involved

Chris Gramiccioni, a South Carolina-based attorney for the Deans in their ongoing lawsuits over handling of nursing home evacuations last year at the time of Hurricane Ida, said the Deans and their attorneys were just learning of the situation with the cattle.

"My client is not happy with what happened to those cattle," he said. "My client had a team of people who were supposed to bring the cattle down from the mountains."

Gramiccioni, who said the Deans have paid the cost to fly in hay and help rescue the cattle, declined to comment specifically on whether the Deans shared responsibility for the fate of the cows and their calves.

"I have to be cautious on answering that because it could be the subject of litigation," he said. "Our client is taking it very seriously. It's not something he's taking lightly."

In an emailed statement, Gramiccioni said the Dean Oregon Ranches have historically entrusted livestock management to a local onsite expert familiar with the land in Wallowa County.

"Thankfully, most livestock were recovered before the snows made routes impassable. Dean crews have worked tirelessly to ensure the care and feeding of the remaining animals while ongoing efforts are undertaken to bring them back down to the ranch," he said. "The Dean family is truly grateful for the continued recovery efforts by local ranchers, state and county government officials, and volunteers. It is hoped and prayed that the continued search for the remaining cows will be successful, and we wish to ensure the community that rescue efforts will remain unwavering."

B.J. Warnock said on Jan. 2 that when they began gathering the cattle in September, there were 1,613 Dean Oregon Ranches mother cows on summer range. Of those, 10 were found unrecoverable and 1,548 Dean Oregon Ranches mother cows were successfully gathered before the snows of late December. Since then, another 34 mother cows were gathered in joint efforts between the ranch crew and the community. Warnock said 26 of those were Dean Oregon Ranches cattle and the others were owned by neighboring ranches.

News of Record

DEATHS

Allan Maxey: 81, of Baker City, died Jan. 16, 2022, with his family at his side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Melvin Luther Raffety: 82, died Jan. 11, 2022, in Baker City. His memorial service will take place this spring, with the date to be announced soon. To leave an online condolence Melvin's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Karen Jean Wilson: 79, of Halfway, died on Jan. 13, 2022. Her family will have a private celebration of her life, followed by a community graveside service this spring. Karen will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Margie Harris: 95, of Halfway, died on Jan. 14, 2022, at her home in Richland, Washington. A celebration of her life will take place the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, with the time and place to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Jacquelin 'Jackie' Emele: 79, of Baker City, died on Jan. 14, 2022, at her home. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.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

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Umatilla County warrant): Paul Adam Heller, 50, Baker City, 8:52 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, in the 1200 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT IN THE PRESENCE OF MINORS: Chris David Goodnature, 46, Baker City, 1:52 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, in the 2900 block of Myrtle Street; jailed.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT, DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED: Chris David Goodnature, 46, Baker City, 11:13 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the 2100 block of Second Street; cited and released.

MENACING: Joseph Allen Charbonneau, 41, Baker City, 8:09 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the 2400 block of Clark Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Joseph Forrest Highley, 57, Baker City, 8:21 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14, at the Courthouse; cited and released.

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