

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
January 31, 1972

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Youths born March 6, 1953, were assigned the first Selective Service callup for 1973 today by the luck of the draw in what may turn out to be the nation's last full-scale draft lottery.

The March 6 birthdate was the 287th of 365 drawn at an earlier-than-usual lottery at Selective Service headquarters.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
January 31, 1997

Travel is no longer an integral part of Judge Milo Pope's job as he dispenses rulings from the bench of Oregon's 8th Judicial District.

Since Jan. 1, the district has returned to its historic configuration to include only Baker County. The boundaries were extended to Grant County by the 1985 Legislature in an attempt to better distribute the workload among judges.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
February 1, 2012

Baker City Police have arrested a man they believe is part of a counterfeiting ring that's been passing fake money in the community the past two weeks.

James Davis Hume, 31, was taken into custody at 7:24 p.m. Tuesday. He is being held at the Baker County Jail on two counts of first-degree forgery.

Hume had been living in a local motel. It's not clear where his permanent address is.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
February 2, 2021

New city manager Jonathan Cannon has had a busy first month in Baker City.

Cannon, who started work as the city's chief executive Jan. 1, has been getting to know the city's staff and learning about what's happening in Baker City.

"Between that and meeting all of the staff and meeting city council and having a couple of council meetings and onboarding meetings, it's been a busy and I'll say a productive month," Cannon said.

Cannon, who was hired in late November 2020, replaces Fred Warner Jr., who retired.

In the council-manager form of government Baker City has used for more than half a century, the city manager, who is hired by the City Council, oversees the day-to-day operations of the city, including its various departments.

The seven elected councilors, meanwhile, set city policy and have the authority to hire and fire the city manager.

Cannon's first month included the Council's approval on Jan. 26 of a nearly \$5.6 million contract to build a new wastewater pipeline and storage lagoon, one of the bigger projects the city has undertaken in a few decades.

"Right off the bat we had to make sure that was in order and would continue on," Cannon said. "Michelle Owen, our public works director, has done a phenomenal job at working on that."

Elsewhere in public works, the city is continuing a long-term project to replace sections of its water supply pipeline, and a contractor is drilling a new backup well near the city-owned Quail Ridge Golf Course.

"Those are some things right off the bat that need to keep happening and proceeding on," Cannon said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JAN. 29

15-33-34-40-42-47

Next jackpot: \$1 million

POWERBALL, JAN. 29

2-15-38-54-65 PB 11

Next jackpot: \$113 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JAN. 28

3-16-25-44-55 Mega 13

Next jackpot: \$20 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JAN. 29

15-26-28-57

PICK 4, JAN. 30

• 1 p.m.: 4-0-1-1

• 4 p.m.: 5-6-9-8

• 7 p.m.: 3-3-8-5

• 10 p.m.: 8-8-7-9

LUCKY LINES, JAN. 30

4-5-10-15-18-24-26-30

Next jackpot: \$12,000

SENIOR MENUS

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 2): Baked ziti, zucchini and tomatoes, garlic bread, Jell-O with fruit, cake

THURSDAY (Feb. 3): Ham and beans, mixed vegetables, combread, cottage cheese and fruit, brownies

FRIDAY (Feb. 4): Meatloaf, baked beans, corn, rolls, broccoli-bacon salad, apple crisp

MONDAY (Feb. 7): Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, biscuits, green salad, pudding

TUESDAY (Feb. 8): Ground beef steak with onions, red potatoes, rolls, broccoli-and-bacon salad, brownies

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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Opinions mixed following OSAA findings in La Grande football investigation

Allegations of racism during November 2021 playoff game were unfounded

BY DAVIS CARBAUGH

The (La Grande) Observer

LA GRANDE — The result of a recent Oregon School Activities Association investigation lifted a weight off the shoulders of La Grande High School, but opinions are still lingering on the origin of the allegations of racism and where the involved schools go from here.

Following a 4A state playoff matchup on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, a Gladstone football player and parents accused the La Grande football team of racist remarks throughout the game. After months of speculation and in-depth investigation by a third party, OSAA ruled on Jan. 11 that the allegations could not be verified. The claims did a number on the parties involved, leaving some entities questioning the process and others just wanting to move on.

"The whole thing has obviously been hard," La Grande head football coach Rich McIlmoil said. "It's been hard on me, it's been hard on our team and it's been hard on our kids."

The investigation revealed three findings. Two allegations of racism could not be proved. The third section of the findings noted that an official calling the game identified a Gladstone coach by his race, and the official had apologized to the coach before the game was over.

Officials association response

Peter Caldwell, commissioner of the Northeast Oregon Football Officials Association,



Andrew Cutler/The (La Grande) Observer, File

Gladstone's quarterback Brayde Owen (No. 3) makes a break for it during the match between La Grande and Gladstone at Community Stadium in La Grande on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. After months of speculation and an in-depth investigation by a third party, OSAA ruled on Jan. 11 that allegations of racist language used during the game could not be verified.

addressed the findings regarding his officiating crew involved in the game.

"In my opinion, the private investigator did a very good job of portraying the fact that nothing really happened," Caldwell said. "One of the referees did indeed call a coach Black, but that was because he was the only Black coach on the staff. If they were all Black and there was one white coach, he probably would have identified him as the white coach."

OSAA's statement on the findings revealed that the organization is working with the Northeast Oregon Football Officials Association to conduct implicit bias training and the OSAA's racial equity training. Caldwell said he saw no immediate need for repercussions to his specific officiating crew.

"They didn't do anything wrong, so there shouldn't be extra training for just us," Caldwell said. "I don't disagree with the fact that every official and association in the state probably needs to have that training, but to single my association out I don't agree with."

Caldwell also noted that the officials association has not yet been contacted about the training.

Under the spotlight

For the La Grande football team and athletics community, the end of the investigation is a relief after being under suspicion and in the statewide spotlight. On Nov. 12, leading Democrats in the Oregon House of Representatives issued a statement condemning the alleged actions of the La Grande football team.

"I think all of us try to do the best job that we can. For people to judge us and point fingers, I have to laugh because nobody's perfect in this world. When people start pointing fingers, they need to question who they are, too," McIlmoil said. "Unless they know the whole situation, they probably need to just watch and let the process play out."

The coach expressed no animosity toward Gladstone after the investigation concluded, noting that it's time to move on.

"At this point in time, I just look at it like it is what it is," he said. "Obviously they were disgruntled about something. What that was, I have no idea."

Caldwell differed on this point of view, stating that the allegations against La Grande should be met with repercussions.

"It was very clear that the private investigator found no wrongdoing. For one person to cry foul and make it look so bad for La Grande, the community and my officials is totally wrong," Caldwell said. "Quite frankly, I think that Gladstone School District needs to sanction the parent in one way or another. To make an allegation like that, that's totally false and unfair."

Since the allegations occurred in November, both school districts have made strides to mend the relationship between teams and schools. Both schools conducted elements of OSAA's S.T.A.R. Initiative, which promotes equality and sportsmanship in sporting events. Prior to the game's cancellation due to inclement weather, both schools' boys basketball teams planned a dinner and shaking of hands at half court before a matchup on Dec. 20.

The OSAA findings also stated that both La Grande and Gladstone plan on implementing a point of contact to welcome opposing schools that are visiting home venues for athletic contests. These ideas and more are included in the plans to heal relations between both schools.

"I can say with confidence that we have good kids," McIlmoil said. "We have kids that care about each other and they do respect people's beliefs, ideas and who they are as individuals. Even though people may think otherwise, we do have great kids and families in this town."

Legislature prioritizes affordable housing, tax cuts

BY SARA CLINE

Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — As Oregon lawmakers return to the Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 1, for the 2022 legislative session, their priorities include affordable housing, bolstering the state's workforce, a \$500 million cushion for the next biennium, tax cuts and limiting the emergency power of the governor.

But how much money legislators are envisioning spending has yet to be determined, as lawmakers await an updated revenue and economic forecast for Oregon that will be presented Feb. 9.

During the last revenue forecast, in November, state economists predicted general fund and lottery revenues would come in \$1.5 billion higher than they expected when lawmakers finalized the current, two-year \$27 billion budget.

"There's obviously a revenue forecast that's going to come up here shortly that will change what the numbers are, you know, plus or minus," said Democratic Rep. Dan Rayfield, the House Speaker designate. "In terms of what we want to spend is also a derivative of how much we want to maintain and our ending fund balance."

However, majority Democrats and Gov. Kate Brown have suggested approving \$1

billion to \$2 billion in spending during the five-week session.

During the annual Associated Press Legislative Preview, Brown said she wants lawmakers to set aside a significant amount of money — at least \$500 million — to save for the next biennium. The Democrat said it "is very likely that we're going to see a challenging budget cycle" if the state revenues weaken. Last year, the governor and legislative leaders discussed saving as much as \$1 billion to hedge against a downturn in the next budget cycle.

Among other priorities, one of the largest proposed spending packages is \$400 million for affordable housing, homelessness prevention and rental assistance.

"We know too many Oregonians who are struggling to make rent or buy a home," House Majority Leader Julie Fahey said. "This session we will pass additional investments and policies to address housing and homelessness."

Brown is also proposing \$200 million for a workforce development plan, which aims to prioritize key populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and existing disparities — including Oregonians of color, women, low-income individuals, rural communities, veterans

and those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated.

The plan would include \$95 million to solve problems that keep people out of the workforce, such as covering the cost of tuition and fees for school and training programs, transportation, housing, food and childcare.

"The goal is to give Oregonians the tools, the resources and, frankly, create career pathways that are sustainable," Brown said.

Other spending packages include \$120 million to relocate Harriet Tubman Middle School in Portland from along Interstate 5, more than \$120 million to permanently protect the Elliott State Forest, \$100 million to expand childcare and raise provider pay, \$30 million for college grants to students who are members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Native American tribes and \$38 million to help small businesses.

Among the major policy proposals, that lawmakers could consider during the 35-day session, are setting campaign contribution limits, a bill requiring police officers to inform a stopped person of right to refuse consent to search and a bill that allows Oregonians to pump their own gas.

News of Record

DEATHS

Wayne Arthur Erickson: 74, of Baker City, died on Jan. 26, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. His funeral will be Friday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane. A reception will follow the service in the church's Fellowship Hall. Memorial contributions can be made to the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center or the Baker City Nazarene Upward Sports through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave a condolence for Wayne's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Union County warrant): Sunnie Jean Moore, 24, Baker City, 2:05 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31, at Wade Williams Park; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Union County warrant), UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO A MOTOR VEHICLE, ESCAPE: Steven Michael McBride, 40, Baker City, 4:28 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Kenzie Renee Sherman, 21, Baker City, 1:49 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Walnut and Campbell streets; cited and released.

INTERFERING WITH POLICE: Gage Michael Niehaus, 22, Baker City, 1:49 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Walnut and Campbell streets; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Loren Dean Alexander Prevo, 29, Baker City, 5:55 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in the 500 block of

Campbell Street; jailed.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, THEFT OF SERVICES: Tracy Blaze Crum, 21, Baker City, 12:06 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in the 1600 block of Fourth Street; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (domestic): Jonathan Dale Fields, 37, Baker City, 5:43 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in the 1700 block of Valley Avenue; jailed.

IMPROPER USE OF 911: Joshua Gerald Vanderpool, 41, Baker City, 10:39 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in the 800 block of Second Street; cited and released.

UMATILLA COUNTY WARRANT: Eliannah Elise Banister, 24, Baker City, 8:43 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in the 800 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER, CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County warrants): Austin Lakota Reese, 26, Baker City, 5:52 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, in the 2700 block of Cedar Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office
Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION, DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED: Cory Aaron Breeding, 38, Baker City, 12:10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31; cited and released.



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