

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

February 5, 1972

ONTARIO — Popping in nine of their last 13 free throw attempts, the Baker Bulldogs spurted away 69-59 from the rugged Tigers here Friday night to regain sole possession of the Intermountain League's number one slot.

Pendleton, the IC's former top squad, ran aground in Hermiston 60-48.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 5, 1997

The Baker City Golf Board on Thursday will discuss the possibility of selling 1.6 acres south of the site where the city has proposed to expand its municipal golf course from nine to 18 holes.

If the city sells the land, which is part of a 60-acre parcel south of Indiana Avenue and west of the existing course, it would use the money to help build the new nine holes.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 6, 2012

The Baker County Zoning and Subdivision draft ordinance is ready for public review.

Planning Commissioners and the county staff spent about five years working on the draft and have held numerous hearings, said Mark Bennett, planning director.

"We hope it's more user friendly," Bennett said of the draft, which will update the current ordinance written nearly 30 years ago in 1983. "The (planning) commission believes we've reached that balance between (property owners') legal rights versus the needs of the community."

Easier-to-understand explanations should make the permitting process simpler for people who want to subdivide, develop or purchase property in the county's unincorporated areas.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 6, 2021

Monday, Feb. 1, marked a new day for Oregon to stand in the national spotlight.

This time the state is gaining attention as the first to decriminalize multiple drugs under the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act.

The new law was passed by voters in November 2020 as Ballot Measure 110.

Baker County's top law enforcement officers say that although they didn't support the measure, they hope it results in people who use drugs getting treatment.

As explained in the ballot statement, the measure "eliminates criminal penalties for possession of specified quantities of controlled substances by adults and juveniles."

Those amounts are:

- Heroin, 1 gram or less
- Cocaine, 2 grams or less
- Methamphetamine, 2 grams or less
- MDMA (commonly known as ecstasy), less than 1 gram or five pills
- LSD, less than 40 user units
- Psilocybin, less than 12 grams
- Methadone, less than 40 user units
- Oxycodone, less than 40 pills, tablets or capsules.

The ballot measure was approved statewide by a vote of 1,333,268 (58.46%) in favor and 947,313 (41.54%) opposed.

In Baker County, meanwhile, voters soundly rejected the measure by a margin of 5,956 (62.4%) to 3,590 (37.6%).

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, FEB. 2

2-12-16-19-24-30

Next jackpot: \$1.2 million

POWERBALL, FEB. 2

18-29-33-62-63 PB 15

Next jackpot: \$137 million

MEGA MILLIONS, FEB. 1

11-24-38-62-66 Mega 1

Next jackpot: \$22 million

WIN FOR LIFE, FEB. 2

8-9-25-26

PICK 4, FEB. 3

• 1 p.m.: 2-8-5-6

• 4 p.m.: 9-3-7-1

• 7 p.m.: 1-9-0-3

• 10 p.m.: 0-0-8-3

LUCKY LINES, FEB. 3

4-8-12-14-17-21-25-31

Next jackpot: \$16,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 9): Chicken fried steak mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, green beans, ambrosia, cookies

THURSDAY (Feb. 10): Sweet and sour chicken, rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, tapioca

FRIDAY (Feb. 11): Beef pot roast, red potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, coleslaw, cherry cheesecake

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.

CONTACT THE HERALD

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Open Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Fax: 541-833-6414

Publisher

Karrine Brogoitti

kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email

ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email

classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email

circ@bakercityherald.com

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'Please donate blood. Now.'

Red Cross reports serious blood shortage

BY ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

EASTERN OREGON —

Blood doesn't last long. Platelets last only five days, according to the American Red Cross, while red blood cells will last up to 42 days. Plasma can last up to one year if frozen. Nor can blood be manufactured; the supply of blood relies entirely on donors rolling up their sleeves.

The American Red Cross, which held a nationwide blood drive in January including in Baker City and at several other blood donation stations in Eastern Oregon, reports it is facing a blood crisis. The organization's website stated its blood supply is at the lowest levels in more than a decade. The alarm was sounded last month during National Blood Donor month.

"While some types of medical care can wait, others can't," said Dr. Pampee Young, chief medical officer of the Red Cross. "Hospitals are still seeing accident victims, cancer patients, those with blood disorders, like sickle cell disease, and individuals who are seriously ill who all need blood transfusions to live even as omicron cases surge across the country. We're doing everything we can to increase blood donations to ensure every patient can receive medical treatments without delay. We cannot do it without more donors. We need the help of the American people."

Local hospitals react to shortage

The national blood shortage has hit uneven ground in Eastern Oregon, with area hospitals reporting their blood supply falling below critical levels.

Most hospitals are handling it well, given the circumstances, while others have begun to feel the effects. Most blood that is donated goes to local hospitals, according to Caitlin Cozad, marketing and communications director for Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston.

"Community support of American Red Cross blood drives is essential to return our blood supply to pre-COVID minimum stocking numbers," she said. "We especially need O-negative donors. This is one way you can serve



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald, File

Dan Lyon donated blood on Nov. 9, 2021, in Baker City.

your community and help ensure a stable blood supply for local hospitals."

It is unclear to what degree the pandemic has affected the amount of blood donations. Some areas, such as La Grande and Baker City, have experienced an uptick in donations this year in comparison to other areas in the region. Still, the American Red Cross noted that nationwide blood donations have gone down 10% since the beginning of the pandemic.

"We have experienced critical blood supply issues in the past months. We have had no units of O-negative on the shelf two times and zero O-positive one time," said Ronda Reisdorph, a laboratory manager at Hermiston's Good Shepherd Medical Center. "We have been running with less than minimum thresholds in the past few months and no chance for restocking even with emergent cases."

While the medical center expects to receive an increased supply over the coming weeks to supplement its stockpile, there's no indication that the national blood shortage will improve in the near future.

The American Red Cross supplies approximately 40% of the nation's blood supply, according to the organization, and some hospitals might receive as little as 25% of their requested blood supplies in the coming weeks. Hospitals normally keep a steady supply of blood for routine procedures but can request more in the event of a mass casualty or injury event.

Since much of the blood that arrives in hospitals comes from the arms of local community members, due to the large turnout for Union County blood drives, some local hospitals have fared better in the national crisis.

Mardi Ford, director of communications at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, credited the work of husband and wife duo Linda and Sheldon Strand, who run La Grande's American Red Cross blood drives, as a key factor in ensuring Grande Ronde Hospital has an adequate blood supply. Ford said the hospital works closely with the American Red Cross and has an internal system that is used to track blood supply levels.

Ford said the hospital had only a couple instances in the past few years where blood supplies reached critical levels.

"We are proactive in making sure that we have what we need to serve our patients," she said. "That's one of the beauties of being small and independent. We have options on how we're able to do things."

Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise recently received shipments where the requested blood supply was not provided.

"Fortunately, we work with the Red Cross on a blood rotation to keep us at optimal levels and have held on to a supply of the shorted products," said Brooke Pace, director of communications and public relations. "We do this to ensure that nothing is wasted because of outdated. We can still transfer units to regional hospitals in our area if dating becomes a concern."

Stefanie Davidson, Wallowa Memorial Hospital's lab director, urged residents to donate blood amid the growing national shortage, even as local supplies remain steady.

"Even though we still have an above critical supply, the national shortage is a concern, and we would like to encourage anyone who can to get out and donate," she said.

Pendleton's CHI St. Anthony

Hospital fared better than other hospitals in the region, according to the hospital's president, Harold Geller, who noted the hospital was well stocked.

"There is always a concern, pandemic or not," he said. "We here at St. Anthony have taken steps to be prepared as best as possible."

Even still, Geller did not mince words about the national shortage.

"Please donate blood," he said. "Now."

Changing the rules

The blood crisis has renewed an effort by lawmakers to change rules regarding donations by those in the LGBTQ community.

Senators from across the nation signed a letter on Jan. 14 urging the Food and Drug Administration to change the rules to allow men in same-sex relationships to donate blood. In total, 22 senators signed their names to the letter, including Democratic Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

"In light of the nation's urgent blood supply crisis and to ensure that Americans have access to life-saving blood transfusions during the pandemic, we urge you to swiftly update your current blood donor deferral policies in favor of ones that are grounded in science, based on individualized risk factors, and allow all potentially eligible donors to do so free of stigma," the senators wrote Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and FDA Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock.

In 1983, the federal government placed a lifetime ban on gay men from donating blood, at the height of the HIV/AIDS scares of the 1980s. Those rules were relaxed in 2015 by requiring one year of abstinence, and then reduced further to three months in 2020.

The letter noted that advances in testing technologies would allow for gay and bisexual men to safely donate blood, and criticized the time-based guidelines that perpetuates stereotypes.

"It is critical that all patients have access to the health care services they need during this pandemic, and for many, the availability of blood and blood products is a necessary component of care," the letter said.

"Unfortunately, a significant drop in the number of donations during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a serious shortage of available blood."

Author to discuss 'The Salem Clique'

Monthly lecture series at Baker Heritage Museum resumes Feb. 8

BY LISA BRITTON

lbrifton@bakercityherald.com

Barbara Mahoney spent about six years researching and writing her book, and

next week she will share its story during a talk at the Baker Heritage Museum.

Her visit is part of the museum's monthly lecture series. It begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the museum, 2480 Grove St.

The talk will be based on Mahoney's book, "The Salem Clique: Oregon's Founding Brothers."

In addition to "The Sa-

lem Clique," Mahoney wrote "Dispatches and Dictators," a biography of Oregon native Ralph Barnes who was a foreign correspondent in Europe in the 1930s. This book won the Oregon Book Award for Literary Nonfiction in 2003.

She's also contributed entries to the Oregon Encyclopedia. Her books are available at osupress.oregonstate.edu.

Following Mahoney's talk, at 7 p.m., the museum will have treats to celebrate Oregon's 163rd birthday, which is Feb. 14. Visitors will also get a sneak peek at the new Oregon Trail Experience exhibit designed by the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, which will have a presence at the museum while NHOTIC is closed for a multi-year renovation.

News of Record

DEATHS

James LeRoy Yankey: 72, of North Powder, died Feb. 2, 2022, at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To leave an online condolence for James' family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Daniel R. Doucette: 68, of Baker City, died Jan. 30, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. At his request, cremation was held, and services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center. To light a candle in Daniel's memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

Barbara L. Sherman: 80, a lifelong

Baker City resident, died Jan. 31, 2022, at Settler's Park. A memorial service will take place in April. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center. To light a candle in Barbara's memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Andrew Jay Culley, 33, Baker City, 9:11 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at Campbell and First streets; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Juanita Marie Kasinger, 55, Baker City, 3:27 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, in

the 2300 block of Washington Avenue; cited and released.

Oregon State Police

Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Luis Mario Coronado Escamilla, 43, Pendleton, 11:43 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, on Interstate 84, Milepost 331 eastbound; jailed.

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Happy 50th Anniversary
Gary and Pat Young!
Come help us celebrate their 50 years with an open house!

Saturday, February 12th
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Veteran's Memorial Club
2005 Valley, Baker City

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