

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
February 14, 1972

UNITY — Giving up a flabby 36 free throw shots to the enemy while being slapped with their worst gunning from the line in recent games, the Burnt River Bulls were victimized by North Powder in the final seconds Saturday night, 51-46.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
February 14, 1997

Burnt River had little trouble eliminating Spray from the District 4-1A girls basketball tournament Thursday morning.

The Lady Bulls built a 20-8 halftime lead on the way to a 43-23 victory in the consolation semifinals at Baker High School.

The Lady Bulls increased their margin to 30-10 after three quarters. Mandi Anderson led Burnt River with 12 points. Jenni Anderson added 11.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
February 15, 2012

Baker City councilors showed no further interest in merging the city police department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office during a discussion about consolidation efforts that was on the agenda for their meeting Tuesday night.

Councilors recently expressed curiosity about whether it would be viable to consolidate the two departments.

The Sheriff's Office is located in Baker City.

City Manager Mike Kee, the former police chief of Ontario, gave councilors a report that listed several issues to keep in mind if they had continued to pursue the idea, such as community opinion, quality of service and cost.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
February 16, 2021

Baker City's snowplowing fleet has awakened from its winter hibernation.

A Presidents Day snowstorm interrupted what had been a tranquil winter during which the city's public works department has salted and sanded slippery streets several times but had little use for its plows.

"It's been pretty good for snow and ice control," Tom Fisk, the department's operations supervisor, said on Monday morning, Feb. 15.

A city crew plowed snow around Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City and the Sheriff's Office Saturday, but there was barely enough to justify the job, Fisk said.

The situation was quite different Monday morning.

With about 4 inches of new snow accumulating overnight, and heavy snow still falling as dawn broke, Fisk summoned a four-person crew, with two graders and two backhoes, around 8 a.m.

The team focused on priority streets and areas including around the hospital, and heavily traveled sections of several streets, including Cedar, Campbell, 10th, Auburn and Broadway.

Because school wasn't in session due to the holiday, crews didn't need to clear streets around schools as early as they would on a school day, Fisk said.

Even earlier Monday, around 4 a.m., a three-person crew started salting busy intersections, sanding downtown streets and plowing the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway, he said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, FEB. 12

9-14-25-32-37-41

Next jackpot: \$1.6 million

POWERBALL, FEB. 12

8-10-21-41-62 PB 7

Next jackpot: \$183 million

MEGA MILLIONS, FEB. 11

11-16-23-24-30 Mega 24

Next jackpot: \$53 million

WIN FOR LIFE, FEB. 12

4-17-23-59

PICK 4, FEB. 13

• 1 p.m.: 9-3-4-6

• 4 p.m.: 6-0-7-9

• 7 p.m.: 6-0-2-6

• 10 p.m.: 2-4-4-3

LUCKY LINES, FEB. 13

2-8-11-14-20-24-27-32

Next jackpot: \$26,000

SENIOR MENUS

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 16): Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, peas, broccoli-and-bacon salad, cake

THURSDAY (Feb. 17): Orange-glazed chicken strips, rice,

Oriental vegetables, rolls, green salad, apple crisp

FRIDAY (Feb. 18): Barbecued ribs, scalloped potatoes, mixed

vegetables, Jell-O with fruit salad, tapioca

MONDAY (Feb. 21): Closed for Presidents Day

TUESDAY (Feb. 22): Chicken and broccoli fettuccine, mixed

vegetables, garlic bread, cottage cheese and fruit, peach crisp

WEDNESDAY (Feb. 23): Pork roast, red potatoes, carrots, rolls,

applesauce, birthday cake

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 Brogotti
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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Uganda

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Mulopi's plan, Sarno said, is to "design food forests for other orphanages, extending self-reliance into Uganda's orphan population and giving orphans useful food-producing skills so they become valuable to their community rather than a burden."

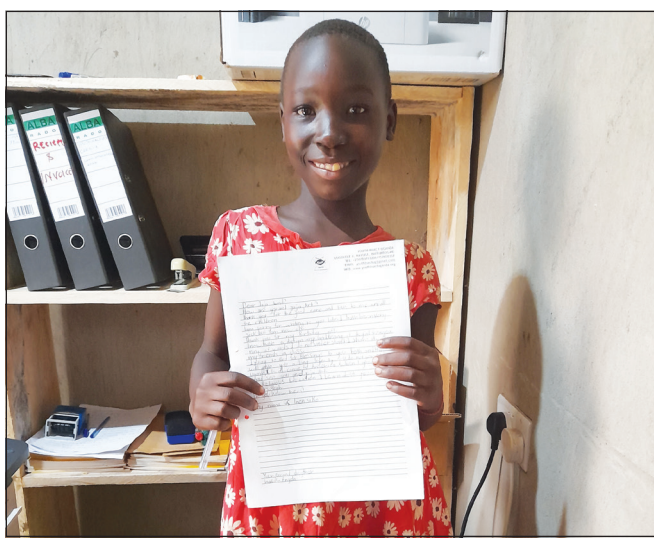
How to help

Sarno is encouraging church groups and service organizations to learn more about His Grace Children's Home, and to consider sponsoring a child.

She said an easy way to donate is through the website www.snakerivermusicgardens.org.

Sarno said donors receive monthly updates and annual reports. Sponsors receive photos and messages from child.

Another way to help is to fi-



Lindianne Sarno/Contributed Photo

Angella, an orphan in Uganda sponsored by Lindianne Sarno and Arthur Sappington of Baker City, holds the letter she recently wrote to them.

nance the purchase of musical instruments for the orphanage's music garden. Sarno said that Kasagga Grace, the or-

phanage music teacher, created a budget of \$2,500 for musical instruments.

"Ten musicians times \$25

times 10 months and the music garden would be off and running," Sarno said.

She said Snake River Music Gardens' weekly video conference often features music, and interested supporters could tune in to hear the children sing.

Other donations could help finance school fees and develop a school at the home, or support the development of a neighborhood medical clinic.

Contact

For more information about how to be involved, attend the March 4 First Friday event, or contact Snake River Music Gardens by calling 541-519-9321 or emailing lindianne@snakerivermusicgardens.org.

To learn more about Art Roamers, visit www.artroamers.com or check the Facebook page.

Hall

Continued from Page A1

Hall, a retired chef, is also chairman of the Baker County Democratic Party and a recent member of the board for the League of Oregon Cities.

His bid for the Democratic nomination in the May 22 primary is not Hall's first foray into politics.

He ran unsuccessfully to represent Baker County in the Oregon Legislature in 2006 and in 2014.

Hall said in a phone interview on Thursday, Feb. 10, that he was motivated to enter the governor's race in part because he wants voters to understand that not all Democratic candidates are urban residents from the Willamette Valley who might tend to be more liberal than he is.

Hall said he disdains what he terms "magic wand thinking" among some Democratic politicians.

He describes this approach as the belief, and one he considers misguided, that government regulations can fix any societal problem.

"I want to break through the idea that they can fix everything with a regulation or by spending money," Hall said.

He said he favors what he considers more pragmatic and flexible approaches to issues than what he calls "one size fits all."

As an example, Hall said he was a proponent of Oregon's multi-tiered minimum wage law, which reflects the range in living costs from, say, Eastern Oregon to the Portland area.

Hall, who was born in Seattle and earned a bachelor's degree in German and Political Science from the University of Washington, believes the state

should use the same approach to determining poverty levels, using as criteria cost of the living as well as income.

Climate change

Hall said he wants to see Oregon look at new options for dealing with water shortages for farms and ranches due to drought.

He points out that although much of Oregon's surface water, especially in arid Eastern Oregon, is claimed by property owners with water rights, in many years there isn't nearly enough water to satisfy all those owners, which harms agriculture.

Hall advocates for the government potentially buying, from willing sellers, properties with water rights and converting the land to other uses.

That, combined with an emphasis on more efficient use of water, would make more water available to the existing farmers and ranchers, he said.

"We can't make water magically appear," he said. "We need to focus on the reality of our water crisis."

Hall emphasizes that such a program would depend on farmers and ranchers working together to get the most out of the limited water supply.

He believes drought is only one effect from climate change.

Another that has affected all of Oregon is wildfire. Hall said in some places, and in particular east of the Cascades, some forests are overcrowded and need to have some of the fuel removed.

Hall said commercial logging "could be a component" of that effort.

"There are areas where it's perfectly appropriate," he said, although he cautions that logging needs to be done carefully

to avoid leading to even worse environmental problems.

Supporting 'responsible Republicans'

Although Hall is a member of the party that has dominated Oregon politics for the past four decades — seven of the state's members of Congress are Democrats — he said he would have no objection to Republicans filling more of those seats.

But not what he considers extremist Republicans who support Donald Trump.

"I want responsible Republicans, centrist, pragmatist, old school Republicans," Hall said, citing as two examples Oregon's former U.S. senators, Mark Hatfield (who also served as governor) and Bob Packwood.

Hall said another factor that motivated him to file as a candidate was Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten's announcement in late June 2021 that she was seeking the Republican nomination in the governor's race.

Hall said he wants to show voters that Republicans, and specifically McQuisten, doesn't represent the beliefs of all of rural Oregon.

He contends that he would be more effective at bridging what he called the "east-west divide" in Oregon than McQuisten would be.

Masks and mandates

Hall said he has been upset by people who decry Gov. Kate Brown's executive orders regarding face masks as "tyranny and dictatorial."

"I find that absolutely insulting to the people around the world who actually suffer under real oppression, tyranny and dictatorships," Hall said. "There's a difference."

Hall said the governor's

mask mandate was "probably overreach," although he's more concerned about the lack of enforcement and compliance than about the basic idea of encouraging residents to wear face masks, in indoor situations where social distancing isn't possible, to curb the spread of COVID-19.

He also believes the governor and other state officials have done a poor job of explaining the mask mandate.

Hall said that were the decision his to make, he would have made it explicit that the state would support any business or venue that chose to strictly enforce a mask requirement, but that businesses could also choose whether, or how, to enforce it.

He admits that's essentially the situation that has prevailed for many months in parts of Oregon, including Baker City.

Too much big — government and business

Hall said he finds onerous the common complaint among Republicans that government regulation is stifling businesses, including agriculture.

"The real regulations you've got to worry about, especially from a farmer's standpoint, is big corporations, which basically act like a government," Hall said.

He said corporations have too much control over the marketplace, including prices paid to the people who produce our food.

"The problem isn't big government or big business — it's just big," Hall said. "Big business is controlling big government. But (Republicans) don't talk about that part."

Hall's website — www.peterhallgovforall.com/ — has more of his policy positions.

COVID

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The mask mandate for schools will end March 31.

Staten said that as cases decline, it's still important to try to protect the people most vulnerable to COVID-19, including the less virulent micron variant. That group includes the elderly and people with compromised immune systems.

"How do we manage this going forward?" Staten said.

News of Record

DEATHS

Louis Tholen: 91, of Baker City, died Feb. 8, 2022, in Payette, Idaho. His memorial service will take place later, with date and time 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.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FAILURE TO APPEAR (2 Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Robert Michael Goodwin, 34, Baker City, 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the 2900 block of Walnut Street; jailed.
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Jeremy James Broyles, 39, Baker City, 1:32 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, in the 1100 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.
FAILURE TO APPEAR (out-of-county warrant): Paul Adam Heller, 50, transient, 12:56 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at First Street and Valley Avenue; jailed.
FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (domestic): Derrick Payton, 36, Baker City, 8:01 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in the 1000 block of Place Street; jailed.
PAROLE VIOLATION: Dewey Harrison Richardson, 30, Pendleton, 3:03 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in the 2500 block of Broadway Street; jailed.
Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Daniel Adam Smeltzer, 59, Baker City, 3:03 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the 2400 block of Broadway Street.

"Time will tell."

The Health Department is distributing home COVID-19 test kits to county residents. Staten said the department handed out 31 boxes, each including two tests, during a one-hour drive-thru event Saturday, Feb. 12, in Baker City.

Staten said residents who have potential COVID-19 symptoms can call the Health Department at 541-523-8211 and arrange to pick up a test kit. Staff will bring the kits to people waiting in their cars.

Staten encourages people to take the home test, which yields results in about 15 minutes, and for those who are positive, to take precautions to

avoid infecting others.

"We want to get (the test kits) out to the community," she said. "We all have a responsibility to limit the spread."

Although Staten noted that people who take home tests aren't required to report the results, whether negative or positive, to the Health Department, she believes the information can influence residents' decisions regarding quarantining.

According to OHA, Baker County's rate of positive tests has dropped along with the number of cases over the past three weeks.

The weekly test positivity rate has dropped from 33.2%

(Jan. 16-22) to 24.6%, then to 23.9%, and to 18.6% for the most recent week, Feb. 6-12.

Statewide, the test positivity rate for that week was 13.7%.

On Friday, Feb. 12, the OHA announced details about the most recent COVID-19-related death in Baker County resident.

An 82-year-old woman died Jan. 29 at her residence after testing positive on Jan. 11. She had underlying medical conditions.

Hers was the county's second COVID-19-related death in Baker County during February. There were four during January. The county's total during the pandemic is 44.

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