

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

February 17, 1972

A breakdown of new laws governing solid waste management was given yesterday to local government officials and civic leaders during an all-day seminar.

House Bill 1051, passed into law by the 1971 Oregon Legislature, provides for establishment of a statewide comprehensive solid waste management program.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 17, 1997

Congressman Bob Smith, R-Ore., has introduced a bill to reopen to motorized vehicles a 6 1/2-mile section of the Hells Canyon Rlm Road that's been closed since 1989.

Smith said H.R. 799 corrects an oversight that forced the U.S. Forest Service to close the dirt road on the Oregon rim of Hells Canyon about 35 miles northeast of Halfway.

It is the second such bill to be introduced in the past 15 months. Smith's predecessor, Republican Wes Cooley, introduced similar legislation on Nov. 30, 1995.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 17, 2012

Baker City Police are investigating a rash of vandalism this week along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway.

Police Chief Wyn Lohner and City Manager Mike Kee received reports of graffiti markings at Central Park on Tuesday morning. Similar "tagging" was discovered Wednesday by Joyce Bornstedt, the city's technical administration supervisor, during a routine parkway inspection.

"None of this has any significance to gangs that we can identify," Lohner said, but he wants his department to be prepared should gang tagging show up in the community.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 18, 2021

Behind the glass of beer, with its photogenic bubbles and foamy white head, there are Tom Hutchison and his bags of Eastern Oregon barley.

Hutchison's place in the brewing business isn't the most prominent.

Yet aside from the typical odes to pure spring water and to hops, the dried flowers that infuse beer with its mouth-puckering bitter bite, the building blocks for a pint of ale or lager are stacked in Hutchison's building near the railroad tracks just off Broadway Street in Baker City.

And when it comes to malting barley, a key ingredient in beer as well as many distilled spirits such as whiskey and vodka, Hutchison occupies a lofty place among his peers.

Hutchison, who started Gold Rush Malt in 2016, swept three awards at the annual Craft Malt Conference put on by the Craft Maltsters Guild Feb. 10-12.

Hutchison won gold medals for both his pilsner and pale malts during the online awards ceremony that took place Feb. 12.

He'll also be caretaker of the traveling Malt Cup Trophy for the next year as recipient of the best of show award.

Hutchison said he knew he had won at least one award. Officials from the Guild told him that in advance to ensure he would be watching the awards ceremony, which, like the rest of the annual conference, took place remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, FEB. 14

3-15-22-24-26-35

Next jackpot: \$1.7 million

### POWERBALL, FEB. 14

16-25-27-49-55 PB 17

Next jackpot: \$20 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, FEB. 15

2-4-15-21-63 Mega 19

Next jackpot: \$64 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, FEB. 14

32-55-68-72

### PICK 4, FEB. 15

• 1 p.m.: 8-2-0-9

• 4 p.m.: 7-8-0-4

• 7 p.m.: 2-7-9-6

• 10 p.m.: 8-0-8-7

### LUCKY LINES, FEB. 15

3-8-12-16-20-23-25-30

Next jackpot: \$28,000

## SENIOR MENUS

**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

**THURSDAY (Feb. 24):** Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, fruit cup, lemon squares

**FRIDAY (Feb. 25):** Spaghetti, garlic bread, broccoli, 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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# Idaho Power goes to court to gain access to private property

BY ERICK PETERSON

East Oregonian

Richard and Jean Hemphill can look out the window of their Pilot Rock home and see where massive towers will stand and carry the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.

Those towers will stand 100-140 feet tall, according to Idaho Power Co., the primary force behind the 500-kilovolt line that would stretch almost 300 miles from a substation in southwestern Idaho to Boardman.

The Hemphills traced the route with their hands. They said they felt bad about a line they believe will mar the beauty of the area.

"I love it," Jean Hemphill said. "In the summertime, I sit out on the deck in the evenings and enjoy this beautiful view all the way around. I'm always sorry when winter comes and I can't do that anymore. I truly love it."

She and her husband are the respondents in a petition for precondemnation that attorneys for Idaho Power filed. The petition, if a judge grants it, would allow Idaho Power to enter and survey their property.

The petition is one of seven Idaho Power filed in Umatilla County to gain access to private property, according to state court filings. The company has filed six petitions in Morrow County and about two dozen more in Malheur, Baker and Union counties.

Jean Hemphill said her family moved to a nearby property in 1942, and she has lived there all of her life. She and her husband moved into their home after its construction in the early 1970s.

"For us, who have lived here all our lives, we cherish our lands and our views," Jean Hemphill said.

While many areas nearby have grown a great deal, they said their own view has changed little, by comparison, since they moved in roughly half a century ago.

The region means a great deal to them, they said. Both Hemphills trace their family tree to ancestors who farmed the land with their hands.

The land also is meaningful to the Hemphills because of their dreams for the future.

"My granddaughter's starting a sheep herd," Jean Hemphill said. She said it would be nice to have this land available for her granddaughter and future generations.

## Idaho Power claims surveys necessary

Sven Berg is Idaho Power's communications specialist. He said permitting on the project will conclude sometime this year, and geotechnical, cultural and biological surveys are underway now. These surveys will reveal important information, he said, such as area wildlife and archaeological sites.

"We're working with landowners along the route to try

## News of Record

### DEATHS

**Norma Goertzen:** of Baker City, died on her 88th birthday, Feb. 13, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center with her family at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Raiden Monges:** 19 months old, of Baker City, gained his wings on Feb. 15, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, surrounded in love. A celebration of life will take place later, with the place and date to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police

**Arrests, citations**  
PROBATION VIOLATION: Kyle Allen Brown, 34, Caldwell, Idaho, 12:46 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, in the 3600 block of Midway Drive; jailed.

#### Baker County Sheriff's Office

##### Arrests, citations

Derrick Allen Payton, 36, Baker City, 9:27 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Baker County Jail, where he was in custody on other charges.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Jean Hemphill flips through a folder of information on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at her home near Pilot Rock.

to negotiate rights of entry to their property and easements," he said.

These easements would give Idaho Power and its partner on B2H, PacifiCorp, rights to land use on properties where they may someday build a structure, Berg explained.

He said there are 98 parcels that 47 landowners own where the companies need right of entry. These include not just properties on the route but ones providing access to other lands, public and private.

There will be hundreds of towers, and the entire line will be over ground, Berg said. He described them as steel lattice and H-frame structures. The steel lattice structures average 140 feet tall with a 40-foot-by-40-foot footprint. The steel H-frame towers are, on average, 100 feet tall, he said.

These are large structures, he said, but landowners will be able to farm under and around them. He added there are no safety concerns from electromagnetic frequencies, as long as you are not "right up on them."

The power companies would make one-time payments to the landowners as compensation, he said.

### Importance of the project

"From our perspective, we see this as absolutely crucial to what we call the future and maintaining our tradition of reliable and affordable energy," Berg said.

He said the country will require "greater and more robust" transmission connec-

tions between regions and intra-regionally. He said this will be necessary if we are to increase the amount of clean energy moving from producers to users.

Power, he said, will connect to other grids, extending as far as Arizona.

"That energy can move far and wide, and it can go the other way, too," Berg said.

And B2H could be the transmission line that allows power from Phoenix, Arizona, on a sunny day, to reach Portland when it is needed.

The line will take roughly three years to build, Berg said. Construction could start in 2023, and will bring new jobs and business to areas all along the route. He added it will increase cash property revenue to counties on the route.

### B2H affects ranchers but helps data centers

Jim Doherty, chair of the Morrow County Board of Commissioners, expressed mixed feelings about the line. He said he has spoken with landowners, including cattle ranchers, to hear their anger. For himself, he said, he also has negative feelings.

"Generally, I'm kind of opposed to it," he said.

Adding tons of steel and wires across Mother Earth is not ideal, he said, but the construction of the Longhorn substation, starting point for the line, is an \$80-\$100 million project and would make possible new data centers and other area businesses.

"There are a lot of things

looking for that power and needing it, and there's a shorter and shorter supply down here all the while," Doherty said.

He could get behind the project, he said, if the route could be altered to do less harm to local landowners.

"We're taking one for the team, and those cattle ranchers on the century farms that built Morrow County, they're really taking one for the team," the commissioner said.

He said the county board, at this point, lacks leverage in this situation. He said he would like to see the route changed or landowners receive a larger payout for easements, but the county does not have power over this. He said a previous Morrow County Board of Commissioners may have been able to do something, but the opportunity has passed.

### Feeling powerless in face of power line

On the land Idaho Power soon will survey for the transmission line, the Hemphills farm wheat. That property alone is 1,000 acres, they said. Jean Hemphill said her family has owned that particular piece of land since 1917.

One family member died of the flu epidemic of the early 20th century, she recalled, and others lived on the land without indoor plumbing. This is a land that has a lot of history, she said. Some of the history even predates her family's ownership. One landmark on the property is a stone structure, which may have been made during conflicts with Native Americans, she said.

And though the Hemphills have many more acres in the area, they said they are far from royalty. Just as the land has a history of people struggling, the Hemphills said they have their own concerns. Rising costs for seed, fuel and chemicals have made business difficult, they said.

The planned construction of B2H has added to their worries. They said they are upset about work disrupting their farming. Another concern is the possibility that towers will trouble farming and wildlife, long after they receive their one-time payment.

"It's been really, really hard," Jean Hemphill said.

She said she believes the line is inevitable, and she and her husband are powerless in comparison to much more powerful groups that are set on the line.

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**DOG** (PG-13)  
Friday 4:20, 7:20  
Sat & Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20  
Monday 4:20, 7:20  
Tue-Thurs 7:20

**DEATH ON THE NILE** (PG-13)  
Friday 4:00, 7:00  
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
Monday 4:00, 7:00  
Tue-Thurs 7:00

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