

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

February 24, 1972

High on the list of alternatives that the District 5-J school board faces in providing room for overcrowded conditions in the city schools is adding space to the senior high school.

The preliminary plan calls for relocation of the 9th grade into an addition which will be built at the high school plant.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 24, 1997

Tiny amounts of water are seeping from Baker City's 4.5-million-gallon reservoir, and city officials are considering spending about \$50,000 to fix the problem.

The loss of water is inconsequential; more water escapes the reservoir from evaporation than is seeping out, said Randy Jones, the city's public works director.

But he's concerned that the chlorinated water, over decades, could corrode the steel that reinforces the reservoir's concrete walls, and shorten the structure's life.

The capacity of the reservoir, which is on a hill at the city's southwest corner, was expanded from 3 million gallons in 1992.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 24, 2012

Gas prices in Baker City have risen over the past two weeks, but they remain well below the statewide and national averages.

The average price here for a gallon of regular unleaded was \$3.30 on Thursday.

The average price is \$3.828 in Oregon and \$3.647 nationally. The highest gas prices are along coastal regions, including the Gulf Coast, while drivers tooling around the Midwest and Rockies are paying the lowest prices, according to AAA.

Some local businesses were selling regular unleaded near \$3.25 a gallon Friday morning.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

February 25, 2021

A move by the Baker School Board to eliminate the 5J District's pay-to-participate activity fees, which have been in place for the past 10 years, is expected to open opportunities for students who might have been excluded from participation by the expense in the past.

The Board voted unanimously to rescind the requirement at its Feb. 18 meeting.

"This is a win-win decision," Superintendent Mark Witty stated in a press release. "Studies demonstrate a strong connection between student participation in extracurricular activities and improved graduation rates."

Under the prior system, each student was charged \$75 per sport or activity up to a maximum of \$150 per year, said Buell Gonzales Jr., the District athletic director. Families with more than one child paid a maximum of \$250 per year.

The fees were charged for students in Grades 7-12.

Full scholarships were available to students unable to pay the charge, to be repaid by working in concession stands during an off season or during the annual district and state 1A basketball tournaments that have been scheduled annually for years at Baker High School in the spring prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But some families, for whatever reason, haven't taken advantage of that option, Gonzales said.

Studies he's seen state that between 15% and 35% of students who might otherwise participate in extracurricular activities don't get the opportunity because of the fees, Gonzales said.

"This is definitely a move by the District to be more inclusive," he said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, FEB. 21

8-16-28-31-38-45

Next jackpot: \$2 million

POWERBALL, FEB. 21

2-36-37-45-69 PB 3

Next jackpot: \$45 million

MEGA MILLIONS, FEB. 22

6-17-22-57-62 Mega 3

Next jackpot: \$87 million

WIN FOR LIFE, FEB. 21

20-24-48-61

PICK 4, FEB. 22

• 1 p.m.: 2-3-0-5

• 4 p.m.: 2-9-1-0

• 7 p.m.: 1-7-2-6

• 10 p.m.: 2-2-9-7

LUCKY LINES, FEB. 22

3-5-9-14-19-22-26-32

Next jackpot: \$12,000

SENIOR MENUS

FRIDAY (Feb. 25): Spaghetti, garlic bread, broccoli, green salad, cookies

MONDAY (Feb. 28): Baked ham, candied yams, mixed vegetables, rolls, green 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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HB 4087 would change news coverage of Oregon wildfires

BY ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

Oregon wildfire coverage in the news might look a lot different next fire season.

House Bill 4087, which would allow news media professionals to enter the scene of wildfires and natural disasters, passed 48-4 on Thursday, Feb. 17, marking a turning point in wildfire coverage that will allow Oregon journalists to document wildfires similar to the way California journalists have for years.

"My aye vote was representative of transparency," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner. "I think we need to make sure the media has access to those types of generational situations, both for informing the public as to what's going on in their state, and also to capture history. For me, it's a pretty simple aye vote."

Previously, news and media organizations often have had to rely on press releases and submitted photos from government agencies. Often, coverage would come in the form of photos of road closures, barricades, or a distant glow from a wildfire. A prior bill that would have changed the laws regarding wildfire access died in committee during the 2021 session.

The language of the bill gives incident commanders the final discretion to bar news me-



Inciweb/Contributed Photo, File

A silhouette of a firefighter against the backdrop of the Bootleg Fire in 2021.

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— Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner

dia from access to wildfires or natural disasters, as well as the ability to deny access to fires without an escort. If granted access, it is at their own risk and without promise of rescue.

That media escort, at times, can prove a hindrance to getting the stories from the front lines of the fire.

East Oregonian photojour-

nalist and visuals editor Ben Loneragan knows from firsthand experience how public information officers can err on the side of caution and prevent those front-line stories from being told. In the summer of 2021, Loneragan was on assignment to get photos of the Elbow Creek Fire in Wallowa County.

"On that fire, I had an escort, and we went in their vehicle, and they took us to all the areas of the fire that they deem safe to have us in," Loneragan said. "And we ran into some issues with that. We never made it to any spot where there was active firefighting. The only access we're given was to the peripherals. They drove us around and we never saw a crew on a fire line over there. In one case, they drove us to where some hot shots were staging, but they had already left, so the access we were given was very restricted."

Still, the bill would go a long way toward fostering good will between media organizations and emergency services, and ensuring it is done safely.

Media personnel would be required to provide their own personal protective equipment, such as fireproof clothing and breathing equipment, and would be expected to complete the same basic wildfire fighting training that firefighters go through. The law would only apply to public land.

"I'm shocked that we had limitations," Smith said. "I just assumed those opportunities did exist, and so it feels like we're correcting a wrong here."

The bill will go on to the Senate for consideration. A hearing has been set for 3:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24.

Grant County woman hurt in crash near Unity

Baker City Herald

A Grant County woman was seriously hurt in a one-vehicle rollover crash near Unity on Sunday, Feb. 20.

Kacy Miranda Pogue, 25, of Kimberly, was driving a Ford pickup truck. There were no passengers.

Pogue crashed at the junction of Highways 26 and 245, about 2 miles north of Unity, according to a report from Oregon State Police.

Pogue was taken by ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City, and later transferred to Saint Alphonsus in Boise.

Pogue was in serious condition in the Boise hospital on Wednesday morning, Feb. 23, hospital spokesman Mark Snider said.

News of Record

FUNERALS PENDING

Rhonda Culley: A celebration of her life will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. at the Community Connection Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., in Baker City. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Rhonda, the family suggests Heart 'N Home Hospice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

James Bacon: Memorial service with military honors will take place Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m. at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. Memorial donations in Jim's name can be made to the Powder River Sportsmen's Club rifle range, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Gage Michael Niehaus, 22, Baker City, 4:46 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, on Highway 30; cited and released.

Oregon State Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Levi James Logsdon, 30, Baker City, 1:55 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at 10th and D streets; cited and released.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANNUAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION: Juan Pablo Burgos, 60, Baker City, 9:26 a.m. Friday, Feb. 18, at the Baker County Jail, where he was in custody on other charges.

Wolf found shot near Cove

Police believe wolf was killed the morning of Feb. 15

Baker City Herald

A dead wolf found in a field south of Cove on Feb. 15 had been shot, Oregon State Police said.

On that day, employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) reported to OSP fish and wildlife officers that the wolf, which was fitted with a tracking collar, was at the end of Haggerty Lane off High Valley Road about 3.5 miles south of Cove.

The black wolf, a female designated OR 109, probably was shot the morning of Feb. 15, according to OSP.

Anyone with information regarding this case is urged to contact OSP through the Turn in Poachers (TIP) line



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

The carcass of this female wolf was found on Feb. 15, 2022, in a field about 3.5 miles south of Cove. Oregon State Police said the wolf had been shot.

at 1-800-452-7888 or by email at TIP@osp.oregon.gov.

Reference case # SP22039030.

The reward for information leading to an arrest in the case was up to \$22,000 on Tuesday, Feb. 22, according to OSP.

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UNCHARTED (PG-13)
Friday 7:10
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon-Thurs 7:10

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

DEATH ON THE NILE (PG-13)
Friday 7:00
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon-Wed 7:00

OPENS THURSDAY 3/3:
THE BATMAN (PG-13)

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