

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

March 4, 1972

HERMISTON — Baker has the secret for top heavyweight watchers: displace the weight downward.

The Bulldogs put a reluctant Hermiston on the diet and this was the immediate results:

"There were four teams, but now there are just three," a smiling Gary Hammond said as his Bulldogs put Hermiston out of the playoff picture 57-55 Friday night.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 4, 1997

Baker City has scheduled a public meeting Wednesday evening to discuss its proposal to either dump dirt in the gully beneath the steep Indiana Avenue hill to reduce the grade, or build a new street that bypasses the dangerous slope.

The city closed the hill in early December, saying snow and ice made the gravel road too hazardous for traffic.

It remains closed while city officials decide what to do with the street

The grade on the east slope is 16 percent; that means the road rises (or drops) 16 vertical feet for every 100 feet of road. That's the steepest section of street the city maintains.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 2, 2012

Pine Eagle played Condon/Wheeler toe to toe for most of the game Wednesday, but it was a two-minute period in the second quarter that did the Spartans in.

Condon/Wheeler used a 13-2 run midway through the second period to build a 10-point lead on the way to a 71-56 win in the quarterfinals at the Class 1A state girls basketball tournament at Baker High School.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 4, 2021

The Class 1A state tournaments don't just bring exciting basketball to Baker City.

They bring business.

The influx of hundreds of visitors who arrive from across Oregon to watch their sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, compete at Baker High School also fills motels and restaurants during late winter, an otherwise sluggish period for the area's tourism economy.

"Economically it's huge," said Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce. "Each one of those folks, they're dining out, they're shopping downtown."

In a report after the 2020 tournaments, Kathy Taylor, co-director of the events, wrote that "the motels reported that they were full from Wednesday evening through Saturday morning. Some teams stayed Tuesday night and some stayed Saturday night depending on their games."

Total attendance at the tournament over the four days was 9,493.

Cutler pointed out that many of the teams that play in the state tournaments hail from towns much smaller than Baker City. For some visitors, then, the trip to the "big city" offers shopping opportunities they don't have close to home.

"That's a big deal," Cutler said. "I get calls from families weeks in advance, when they think they might qualify (for the tournament), asking where they can stay, eat, what they can do. People are excited to be here."

That's a cultural piece that we miss too."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, FEB. 28

7-8-11-13-37-42

Next jackpot: \$2.3 million

POWERBALL, FEB. 28

7-21-39-47-55 PB 19

Next jackpot: \$73 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MARCH 1

18-22-38-39-50 Mega 18

Next jackpot: \$113 million

WIN FOR LIFE, FEB. 28

31-42-47-55

PICK 4, MARCH 1

• 1 p.m.: 5-4-4-4

• 4 p.m.: 2-6-3-8

• 7 p.m.: 7-6-4-6

• 10 p.m.: 6-2-8-8

LUCKY LINES, MARCH 1

1-5-12-14-20-22-26-31

Next jackpot: \$19,000

SENIOR MENUS

FRIDAY (March 4): Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn, rolls, coleslaw, cinnamon rolls

MONDAY (March 7): Lasagna, garlic bread, green salad, cheesecake

TUESDAY (March 8): Baked ham, candied yams, peas and carrots, rolls, fruit cup, cinnamon rolls

WEDNESDAY (March 9): Turkey sandwich, turkey noodle soup, potato salad, pudding

THURSDAY (March 10): Sweet and sour chicken, rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, beet-and-onion salad, ice cream

FRIDAY (March 11): Pork roast, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, bread pudding

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

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Weed of the week: Bur buttercup

BY JEFFREY PETTINGILL

Baker County Weed Control Supervisor

The Enemy

Bur buttercup (*Ceratocephala testiculatus*) (*Ranunculus* spp.)

This plant is worth an annual update and is probably starting to grow already. This is a low-growing annual that emerges very early in the spring. This is the plant that we get phone calls on in spring when it is too late to do anything about it. It is a very short-growing plant, usually 1 to 4 inches, which has a yellow flower and succulent looking deeply lobed leaves. When the plant dries up in early spring it develops short spines that aggravate bare feet and animal's paws. It shows up in those areas of bare ground near driveways, minimally disturbed roadsides, and wastelands.

The Attack

Because this plant germinates late in the fall or early spring (sometimes under the snow) it is up and growing before the desirable plants have the chance to germinate. This weed generally does not bother people until the pinecone like flower starts to dry out and becomes very prickly. This weed is very toxic to sheep and is a relative to the tall buttercup that kills cattle in the high country.

The Defense

Because this plant is a very short-lived annual plant, mechanical control can be very effective.

If you see the small light-green plants growing now or



Rich Olds/Contributed Photo

Bur buttercup is one of the first noxious weeds to appear in the spring.

in the early spring, you can simply rake them out of the ground. Their roots only extend into the soil just a few inches. There are certain herbicides such as Telar XP and Escort XP that are very effective at controlling the plant. Spraying the product in late fall or very early spring will leave just enough residual in

the soil so when the plants continue to grow they will absorb the herbicide and die off.

Prevention is one of the best tools for control of this weed. If the plant is growing in your lawn areas, simply plant grass into those areas in the fall or early spring (after you remove the weeds)

as this plant does not like any competition. This is one weed you want to get a jump on so call your County Weed Superintendent for proper identification.

Jeffrey Pettingill, supervisor of the Baker County Weed District, can be reached at 541-523-0618 or 541-519-0204.

News of Record

FUNERALS PENDING

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

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Fernando Robles Tizcareno, 33, Baker City, 1:02 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, on Interstate 84 near Milepost 301, westbound. ATTEMPT TO ELUDE (Baker County warrant): Cory Dennis Deshirlia, 44, Huntington, 6:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in Huntington; jailed. THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Zachary Aron Carter, 24, Baker City, 10:36 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at the sheriff's office; cited and released.

Oregon State Police

Arrests, citations

PAROLE VIOLATION: Austin Duane Dunham, 25, Umatilla, 4:11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Campbell and Second streets; jailed and later released.

Oregon bans sale of Russian vodka

BY ALEX WITTEW

EO Media Group

The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission banned the sale of Russian vodkas in all Oregon liquor stores on Monday, Feb. 28, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Independent operators of liquor stores were directed to take Russian vodkas off their shelves, aligning Oregon with other states that have acted to ban the sale of Russian made products as a part of economic sanctions against Russian operated businesses, according to a press release from the OLCC. In Oregon, the OLCC effectively owns the supply of alcohol in the state, serving as a state-run monopoly for the industry.

"The state controls all the liquor that is in the store," said Liberty O'Dell, manager at La Grande Liquor and Smoke Shoppe. "In fact, they are still the owners of the liquor. We're beholden as agents of the state to follow their guidance. We don't take steps ahead of the OLCC when they make guidance like that. It's similar to a library in that we don't actually own the product. The liquor is owned by the state."

Customers in and out of the liquor store commented

in passing about the banning of Russian vodka from store shelves. La Grande Liquor, however, only had two bottles of Russian-made vodka — Russian Standard Vodka — and O'Dell said it was "an item that doesn't sell very well in the first place."

Customers were understanding, according to O'Dell.

"I think everybody understands why we're doing it," he said. "The questions we've been getting is 'what's Ukrainian vodka — and how do I get some?' So my next order, that's what I'll be doing, is ordering some Ukrainian vodka."

Eastern Oregon produces several vodkas, including Glacier 45 vodka distilled in Baker City, and 276 Vodka produced by Oregon Grain Growers Distillery in Pendleton. Both are quality vodkas, according to O'Dell.

Across the state, about 5,000 bottles of Russian-made liquor were for sale in 281 liquor stores, according to the OLCC. Those vodkas have since been removed from store shelves. Oregon liquor stores also are prohibited from fulfilling any customer "special order" requests for Russian manufactured liquor.

Vodkas with Russian sound-

ing names such as Smirnoff and Stolichnaya that are produced outside of Russia and aren't subject to the ban, according to the OLCC press release. Stoli Group, the distillery that makes Stolichnaya in Latvia, offered up a statement on its website that said "Stoli Group has had a long history of fighting oppression from the Russian regime," and condemned the Russian military actions in Ukraine. Stoli is produced in Latvia, while Smirnoff is produced in Illinois.

The move to ban Russian vodkas can be seen as largely symbolic as very few Russian vodkas are imported to the United States. A small number of bars have gone viral online for pouring out Stoli brand vodkas, despite the vodka being produced in Latvia, a NATO member country.

A list of the vodka brands that have been pulled from the shelves can be found on the OLCC website.

But even if the OLCC didn't outright ban the sale of Russian vodka, O'Dell said it would be something he personally would have liked to see pulled from store shelves.

"I would be advocating to do it," O'Dell said. "Me, the person, would be advocating to do it."

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★ March 4-10 ★

THE BATMAN (PG-13)
Friday 3:45, 6:45
Sat & Sun 1:00, 3:45, 6:45
Mon-Thurs 6:45

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

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

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www.eltrym.com (541) 523-2522

COME MEET DAN!

Please join us for a Meet & Greet
Thursday March 3, 2022
6:30 p.m. - Event Center
Baker County Fairgrounds

During this informational evening you will hear from Dan and also have the opportunity to ask questions and support him throughout his campaign. If you are unable to make this event, you may support Dan now!

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