

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

March 7, 1972

The Heisler two trunk gear-driven steam locomotive, sitting on the narrow gauge track on 13th Street, between B and C, is drawing attention from curious residents.

The locomotive was purchased by the Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration Inc., together with five flat cars.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 7, 1997

Northeastern Oregon's mountain snowpack didn't increase much during dry February, but it's still well above the long-term average.

As of March 1 at 13 sites in the region, the water content (the amount of water contained in the snow) was 120 percent of the 1961-90 average.

That figure was as high as 180 percent earlier in the winter.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 9, 2012

The optimism in the cattle industry is palpable these days.

Lore Thomas detected the rosy outlook Tuesday afternoon, when more than 100 ranchers congregated in Baker Valley to bid on some of the nation's most sought-after Angus breeding bulls.

"For the first time in a long time, cattle ranching is one of the most successful industries in agriculture," said Thomas, of the Thomas Angus Ranch, which put on its annual spring bull sale.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 9, 2021

The Baker City Council is planning to send a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking the governor to consider opinions from local residents when the state is imposing COVID-19 restrictions on businesses and other activities.

Councilors discussed the issue during their meeting on Feb. 23.

They asked Councilor Jason Spriet to draft a letter to the governor for the full Council to review.

Councilors will talk about Spriet's draft letter during their regular meeting this evening, March 9, at City Hall, 1655 First St. The meeting starts at 7 o'clock.

Spriet's draft letter notes that in 2020 the state "Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was directed to make Oregon a more equitable place for every Oregonian."

He goes on to write that one element of that strategy was to have state officials work with community leaders in making decisions.

"We do not currently feel that this element of the framework is being realized," Spriet wrote. "Our community is not currently being heard by our state leadership. We are asking for a seat at the table, a voice for our citizens, and an opportunity to provide input to restrictions that have a profound effect on our rural communities."

Spriet describes the harmful effects the pandemic and its restrictions have had on Baker City's small businesses, writing that they "have been forced to weather this monumental obstacle with very little assistance from the state or federal government. Regardless, our community has adapted a great deal to business and life with ever changing restrictions, closures, and uncertainty."

Spriet noted that business owners in rural areas are not as capable of withstanding the sorts of restrictions that the state has imposed during the pandemic.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, MARCH 5

8-10-14-34-37-40

Next jackpot: \$2.5 million

POWERBALL, MARCH 5

8-23-37-52-63 PB 13

Next jackpot: \$90 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MARCH 4

11-19-28-46-47 Mega 5

Next jackpot: \$126 million

WIN FOR LIFE, MARCH 5

18-47-59-65

PICK 4, MARCH 6

• 1 p.m.: 8-1-0-1

• 4 p.m.: 5-1-6-6

• 7 p.m.: 1-1-4-6

• 10 p.m.: 4-0-5-3

LUCKY LINES, MARCH 6

3-6-10-14-18-23-25-31

Next jackpot: \$24,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

MONDAY (March 14): Orange-glazed chicken strips, rice, broccoli, rolls, green salad, ice cream

TUESDAY (March 15): Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, peas and carrots, rolls, Jell-O with fruit, pudding

WEDNESDAY (March 16): Pork tips over noodles, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, lemon square

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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Trash

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Duby said the city needed a contractor capable of dismantling a homemade tower, made mainly of welded and bolted steel beams, that was standing behind the home on the property at 2239 Ninth St., between Baker and Church streets.

The structure was unsafe, Duby said, and although the city had sent the owners, Jason and Carol Dinger, multiple letters asking them to cease construction on the structure, it remained in place.

The city hired Weekend Warriors Junk and Hauling to take down the structure, which happened last week, Duby said.

Duby said the owners don't live on the property.

He said police officers have talked with the renters who live there, and they told officers that none of the material that was removed belongs to them.

Duby said the \$1,970 bill for abatement is about a third of the city's annual budget for such work.

The city will try to collect the amount from the owners.

Duby said he likely will ask the City Council to increase the budget for cleaning up properties that violate the property maintenance ordinance.

The original abatement order, signed by Brent Kerns, Baker County Justice of the



Wayne Chastain/Baker City Police Department

Baker City hired a contractor to dismantle a structure on the property at 2239 Ninth St. earlier this month.

Peace, has been in effect since June 14, 2020.

Sgt. Wayne Chastain of the Baker City Police Department said the city removed trash and other material from the property in 2020, but the removal of the steel tower remained on hold.

In the meantime, Chastain

said significant amounts of refuse accumulated again on the property.

The contractor this month filled five 20-cubic-yard dumpsters with material, he said.

The tower was a potential hazard, Chastain said. It was held up on one side by a hydraulic lift.

Since the contractor was on the property earlier this month, Chastain said a homeless couple with an RV have moved onto the site.

The abatement order remains in effect, and Chastain said the contractor will be removing a school bus that is filled with trash.

BMS principal moving to job in district office

Baker City Herald

A longtime Baker School District administrator will serve as interim principal at Baker Middle School through the end of the school year.

Betty Palmer, who retired last year as assistant superintendent, will take over as BMS principal.

Jodi Thew, the current middle school principal, moved to a job in the district office to replace a retir-

ing employee on March 7.

"Dr. Thew is such an asset to the District," Superintendent Mark Witty said in the press release. "We are thankful for her willingness to step into new roles when she is needed, and we are also very grateful to have the support of Betty Palmer to make this transition possible."

The district is now advertising the principal position for the 2022-23 school year.



Thew

News of Record

DEATHS

James M. Cazone: 79, of Baker City, died on March 2, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande. A full obituary will be published at a later time. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Oval M. McBride: 61, of Irrigon, died March 2, 2022, at his home. Oval was born Sept. 3, 1960, in La Grande and was raised in La Grande, living there until moving to Baker City in 1992. He moved to Irrigon in 2006. A celebration gathering will take place later. You can share memories of Oval with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

FUNERALS PENDING

James 'Jim' Allison: Celebration of life will take place Saturday, March 12, at 3 p.m. at the Harvest Christian Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Jim, the family suggests either the Powder River Rural Fire Department or the Sumpter Valley Railroad through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

James 'Jim' 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 City Police

Arrests, citations

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO MOTOR VEHICLE, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER, RESISTING ARREST: Jane Doe, unknown age, 5:56 p.m. Sunday, March 6, in the 2600 block of Oak Street; jailed.

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED: Frank Nathan McNair, 42, Baker City, 5 p.m. Sunday, March 6, in the 2100 block of Falling Avenue; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: Kathy Sue Hoffman, 52, Baker City, 4:56 p.m. Saturday, March 5, in the 1700 block of Cherry Street.

RECKLESS DRIVING, DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE A POLICE OFFICER (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Robert Anthony Rigsby, 37, Baker City, 12:13 p.m. Friday, March 4, at Campbell and Birch streets; jailed

Death

Continued from Page A1

paramedics, search and rescue teams from the Baker and Union County sheriff's offices, USFS law enforcement and additional ski patrol personnel were waiting.

Tracked utility vehicles and snowmobiles were used to reach the base of the peak, but the slope of the peak itself was accessible only by foot due to hazards and steepness of the terrain. Paramedics confirmed that Carr had died at the scene from her injuries.

Carr had gone up to Gunsight Mountain by using backcountry ski equipment, which included skis that had a fabric which allows skiers to go uphill, Vora said.

"Gunsight Mountain is a fairly popular place for people to ski," Vora said. "It is not uncommon for people to traverse up the mountain."

Vora credits members of

the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol and the Anthony Lakes Ski Area's staff with quickly getting to the accident site, which is outside the ski area's boundaries. Vora said without their help it would have taken at least an hour longer for rescue personnel to reach Carr.

"I can't thank them enough," he said.

Vora said it was fortunate the skier who was with Carr had cellphone service, as many places in the Anthony Lakes area do not. Vora said the man was likely able to make the call because Gunsight, which tops out at 8,342 feet, is about 1,300 feet higher than Anthony Lake itself.

"If he had been lower he might not have been able to get cellphone service," Vora said.

Vora said weather in the area at the accident site was cold but good overall for rescue operations because no snow was falling.

"Overall there was good visibility," he said.

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