

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

March 14, 1972

Members of the Civic Improvement Committee of the Chamber of Commerce were told yesterday that they were on the right track in pursuing a mall for Main Street.

City manager Vern Jacobson told the group that the mall would alleviate a parking problem which presently exists and it would provide a logical solution to bringing traffic back into the downtown area.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 14, 1997

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management today announced a fee schedule for the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

The BLM will begin charging fees at the center June 1. Admission has been free since the center opened May 23, 1992.

Fees will be higher during what the BLM calls the "full-service" season — Feb. 1 through Nov. 30. During that 10-month period, the basic admission fee will be one of the following, whichever is less: \$10 per private, non-commercial vehicle with 10 or fewer people, or a per-person fee based on age.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 14, 2012

Efforts to sell one of the Baker School District's surplus buildings is getting an assist from the city's Economic Development Council.

School Board member Andrew Bryan and Doug Dalton, the district's chief financial officer, have met twice with Greg Smith, Baker County Economic Development director, to solicit advice and support about how to proceed toward finding a buyer for the historic school building.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 16, 2021

A Missoula, Montana, man is in the Baker County Jail on multiple charges after he drove the wrong way on Interstate 84 and collided with an Oregon State Police trooper who was trying to find the wrong-way driver Friday afternoon, March 12.

Sr. Trooper Andrew McClay was evaluated at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City and released, according to an OSP press release.

The driver, Logan Raye Clinkenbeard, 28, sustained minor injuries and was treated at the hospital.

Clinkenbeard is charged with second-degree attempted assault, reckless driving and reckless endangerment.

The incident started just before 2 p.m. on March 12 when OSP dispatch received multiple 911 calls about a car traveling west in the freeway's eastbound lanes at Milepost 342, near Huntington about 38 miles east of Baker City.

In his report, McClay wrote that he was just passing Milepost 327 in the eastbound lanes when the vehicle, a gray Toyota Camry sedan, "was traveling towards me at a very high rate of speed."

McClay wrote in his report that he "rammed the vehicle to get it off the roadway."

Both Clinkenbeard's car, and the OSP Ford SUV McClay was driving, sustained significant damage from the collision, and both were towed, according to McClay's report.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, MARCH 12

12 - 27 - 33 - 34 - 40 - 41

Next jackpot: \$2.8 million

### POWERBALL, MARCH 12

19 - 20 - 37 - 39 - 61 PB 8

Next jackpot: \$124 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, MARCH 11

24 - 28 - 39 - 44 - 66 Mega 25

Next jackpot: \$22 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, MARCH 12

30 - 37 - 52 - 64

### PICK 4, MARCH 13

• 1 p.m.: 8 - 5 - 5 - 0

• 4 p.m.: 7 - 9 - 9 - 4

• 7 p.m.: 3 - 4 - 2 - 1

• 10 p.m.: 4 - 0 - 2 - 2

### LUCKY LINES, MARCH 13

2-5-9-14-20-24-26-31

Next jackpot: \$31,000

## SENIOR MENUS

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

**THURSDAY (March 17):** Corned beef and cabbage, red potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, pea-and-onion salad, tapioca

**FRIDAY (March 18):** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls, green beans, coleslaw, cheesecake

**MONDAY (March 21):** Hot turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, green salad, cookies

**TUESDAY (March 22):** Ground beef steak with onions, au gratin potatoes, green beans and tomatoes, rolls, ambrosia brownies

**WEDNESDAY (March 23):** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, carrot-raisin salad, 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.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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

Telephone: 541-523-3673

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# Gas prices soar as Russian invasion in Ukraine continues

BY ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Gas prices are soaring to record highs amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, sparked by fears that NATO countries may begin enacting additional sanctions against Russian crude oil.

In the United States, President Joe Biden announced a ban on Russian oil on Tuesday, March 8.

Crude oil prices briefly skyrocketed to more than \$130 a barrel on March 8, the highest it's been since 2008, and nearly doubling since December.

Oregon has seen gas prices rise to more than \$4.50 a gallon, while some areas of Portland have sold gas as high as \$6 a gallon. Diesel prices have risen above \$5 a gallon.

"I just came from Arizona, and this is the highest price I've seen for diesel," said Diane Miller, a competitive barrel racer who was traveling home to Moses Lake, Washington, after a three-week trip to Arizona.

Miller paid more than \$140 to fill up half a tank of diesel at the Chevron station in Island City on March 10. She said that she's able to afford the increased costs at the pump, but she knows several people who aren't. Miller said she will have to pay for more expensive diesel prices all summer as she competes in barrel racing competitions.

"It's definitely hard on America," Miller said. "It's a bad deal, and I don't think it would be this way if (President Donald) Trump would have stayed in."

### Geopolitical risk

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the geopolitical risk related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has contributed to higher and more volatile crude oil prices. But Russia's oil footprint on the U.S. market is minimal; less than 10% of the U.S. demand for oil is filled by Russian suppliers, or approximately 600,000-800,000 barrels per day, according to J.P. Morgan. In comparison, the U.S. produces nearly 12 million barrels per day domestically, according to the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers trade association.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Diane Miller replaces a diesel fuel pump nozzle Thursday, March 10, 2022, at a Chevron gas station in Island City. Miller paid more than \$140 to fill up half a tank. She said she was lucky to be able to afford the fuel and noted many people she knew would not be able to pay for the increased prices.

tion. Still, the U.S. is a net importer of oil.

It has left many at the pump wondering why exactly gas prices have risen so dramatically.

"The U.S. does not get a lot of oil from Russia," said Marie Dodds, director of government and public affairs at AAA Oregon/Idaho. "Only about 3% of our imported oil (8% of our imported oil and refined products) last year came from Russia, but Europe gets a lot of oil from Russia, roughly 25%, so any time you take a big chunk of supplies away, it sends prices higher. It's basically supply and demand, as we learned back in economics 101. When you have a major global producer of oil, Russia, and its product is taken off the global markets, all of the sudden you have to look around and figure out where that oil is going to come from."

### Two records, two years

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, oil prices fell to their lowest price in history, reaching negative values in April 2020. That spurred producers to cut output as oil tankers sat outside ports, unable to offload their oil shipments. In the U.S., thousands of oil workers were laid off, and the number of ac-

tive drilling rigs plummeted from 700 in January 2020 to approximately 200 rigs according to reporting by The New York Times.

Prices for gas in spring 2020 went down drastically, with gas prices falling below \$2 a gallon nationally for the first time in decades.

"In the spring of 2020 it was incredible; we saw demand for oil and gas fall to dramatically low levels that we hadn't seen since the 1960s," Dodds said. "And now here we are, two years later, and people are returning to their normal routines, going back to work, going back to school. We are consuming more gas around the globe, but the production is not back where it was pre-pandemic. Production hasn't kept up, so that's the main driver of higher prices."

As the price of gas rises, manufacturing businesses are faced with the tough choice of having to increase prices to offset transportation costs. Patrick Raimondo, plant manager for Behlen Country in Baker City, said the company is waiting for a few weeks to decide how to handle the cost increases.

"As of right now we're holding off on doing any surcharges for our customers," Raimondo said. "As these prices increase,

### Baker County prices below state average

Baker County's average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas was \$4.57 on Monday, March 14. That was about 18 cents per gallon below the statewide average of \$4.73, according to AAA of Oregon/Idaho, and the fifth-lowest among Oregon's 36 counties. Morrow County had the lowest average at \$4.40, followed by Umatilla at \$4.41, Malheur at \$4.44 and Gilliam at \$4.49. The national average on Monday was \$4.32.

it is going to affect us down the road, just from the additional costs. We're just trying to see how it goes over the next couple of weeks and having conversations and open communications with our customers just to make sure we're all on the same page."

### A global economy

The U.S. has continued to bring oil rigs back online. By January 2021, 374 rotary rigs were operating in the United States, according to the EIA. By Dec. 31, in response to rising prices, that number rose to 586. That's still a far cry from the 700 rigs operating pre-pandemic.

## News of Record

### DEATHS

**Florence (Flo) Marks:** 96, of Halfway, died peacefully on Jan. 27, 2022, after a brief illness. A celebration of Flo's life will take place Thursday, March 17, at 2 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 45875 Highway 12 spur in Halfway, with a reception to follow. Donations in Flo's memory can be made to the Halfway VFW through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

**Jimmy Dale Evarts:** 79, of Baker City, died March 13, 2022, at his residence. He will be interred at Mount Hope Cemetery in the Veterans section, and a celebration of life with military honors will be held, the date and time to be announced soon. To leave an online condolence for Jimmy's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

### FUNERAL PENDING

**Agnes Bird:** A celebration of Agnes' life and graveside service will take place Saturday, May 21, at 1 p.m. at Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway. A reception will follow immediately at the Halfway Lions Hall. Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Agnes can do so at the Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police

#### Arrests, citations

**FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT:** Joshua Michael Francis, 27, Haines, 10:39 a.m. Sunday, March 13, at the police department; cited and released.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant):** Chris David Goodnature, 46, Baker City, 12:02 a.m. Sunday, March 13, at Campbell and Grove streets; cited and released.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT, PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County warrants):** Kyle Ryan Bork, 22, Baker City, 3:18 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the 700 block of Campbell Street;

**PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant):** Maria Everson Collard, 22, Baker City, 9:58 a.m. Saturday, March 12, at 10th and H streets; jailed.

**FAILURE TO APPEAR (out-of-county warrant):** Barry Leon Richards, 58, Chinook, Washington, 10:40 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the 200 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant):** Stacy Lee Lindstrom, 42, Baker City, 9:34 a.m. Friday, March 11, at the police department; cited and released.

**CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant):** Trevor James Heath, 26, Baker City, 8:53 a.m. Friday, March 11, at 13th and K streets; cited and released.

#### Baker County Sheriff's Office

#### Arrests, citations

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF**

**INTOXICANTS:** Heather Dawn Torres, 45, La Grande, 10:55 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in Halfway.

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS:** Morgan Marie Johnson, 29, Baker City, 11:09 p.m. Friday, March 11, in Haines.

## St. Stephen's Preschool

### Registration for 2022-23

2177 First St.  
Baker City

Enter on parking lot side

Friday, April 8, 4-7 p.m. and  
Saturday, April 9, 9-noon

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