

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

March 19, 1972

Coming off their worst track season in seven years, the Pine-Eagle thinclads will be relying on a freshman dominated lineup to regain lost prestige this year and to possibly begin a Spartan dynasty.

"Last year was the first time (in Sanders' seven years at Pine-Eagle) that we didn't score at the state meet," coach Bud Sanders said.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 19, 1997

The Baker School Board Tuesday night agreed to allocate up to \$12,000 to hire a student resource officer for the remainder of the school year.

The officer, who would come from the ranks of the Baker City Police Department or the Baker County Sheriff's Office, would serve a half day each day at Baker Middle School and the other half at Baker High School.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 19, 2012

Baker County officials will meet soon to discuss whether to appeal the Travel Management Plan the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest released to the public last week.

Concern has already surfaced because of the location of some of the approximately 3,800 miles of forest roads that are slated to be closed to motorized vehicles in June.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 20, 2021

After 18 months of planning, paperwork, and fundraising, the emerging Baker Relief Nursery is now open to help local families.

The start of relief nurseries dates to 1976 when women of the Junior League of Eugene created a childcare center "in response to a growing crisis of child abuse and neglect," according to the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN).

The model, which is now replicated by relief nurseries across Oregon, was to provide respite care and support to families.

The Baker location was spurred when Kim Mosier did some research on "childcare deserts," which refers to areas where the available childcare spots are fewer than the number of children who need care. Baker City is considered a childcare desert under that definition.

She also found data showing Baker County having high rates of child abuse and neglect, as well as higher rates of foster care than most other Oregon counties.

"That lead me to research what's proven to work to keep kids out of foster care. Relief nurseries are the only thing I found," she said.

She also learned that of the 35 relief nurseries in Oregon, only two are east of the Cascade Mountains.

The relief nursery model is for ages 0 to 5. It is a three-pronged approach that includes a classroom, home visits, and parent education.

"To support struggling families and give parents the tools to support their kids," Mosier said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, MARCH 16

3-14-21-35-41-48

Next jackpot: \$3 million

POWERBALL, MARCH 16

3-28-34-35-58 PB 17

Next jackpot: \$147 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MARCH 15

9-14-28-59-60 Mega 24

Next jackpot: \$29 million

WIN FOR LIFE, MARCH 16

36-38-41-44

PICK 4, MARCH 17

• 1 p.m.: 1-0-8-9

• 4 p.m.: 1-9-5-3

• 7 p.m.: 2-0-8-4

• 10 p.m.: 1-5-0-5

LUCKY LINES, MARCH 17

1-8-9-15-17-21-25-29

Next jackpot: \$35,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

THURSDAY (March 24): Baked ziti, garlic bread, peas, green salad, cookies

FRIDAY (March 25): Baked cod, clam chowder, capri

vegetables, rolls, coleslaw, lemon squares

MONDAY (March 28): Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, green salad, sherbet

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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Open Monday through Friday

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Telephone: 541-523-3673

Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker City since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101 (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are \$10.75 for print only. Digital-only rates are \$8.25.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid

at Pendleton, Oregon 97801

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Noxious weed of the week

BY JEFFREY PETTINGILL

The enemy

Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.)

This biennial plant grows in disturbed areas with compact soils. This plant's leaves are very pubescent (hairy) on long narrow leaves. The weed sends up a long cylindrical yellow-flowered seed head. The plant can grow up to 8 feet tall but is typically only 4 to 5 feet. Since it is a biennial, the first year rosettes are typically a silver green color that spreads out to about 2 feet in diameter. This plant is very rigid and can be seen sticking up through the snow and above the normal plants in the spring of the following year (almost resemble a cattail at this stage).

The attack

Because this plant likes open soils found in disturbed areas it can be found anywhere, even in hoof marks made by animals. The plant is troublesome in that it gets fairly thick, is undesirable as a food to animals, and competes for moisture and nutrients with desirable species. It is

especially effective at growing through cracks of rocks and disturbed mining and logging soils.

The defense

Mechanical control is very effective with this weed as with most biennial plants. Just ensure that you remove a few inches of the root below the soil surface. Disking and plowing are not very useful as this plant generally shows up on south-facing steep slopes. Although there has not been much biological insect research performed on this plant there a few native insects that can be found in the flowers eating their way through the seeds. Herbicides such as Escort XP, Telar XP, and Opensight are very effective on the plant, but the secret is to add a quality surfactant to help get the herbicide past all those soft fuzzy hairs and into the plant's cuticle where they can do some good. Proper identification is key so consult with your weed professional to manage this weed.

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



Rich Olds/Contributed Photo
Common mullein, which can grow as tall as 8 feet, produces yellow flowers.

Wolves

Continued from Page A1

Six wolves — three from each pack — are fitted with GPS tracking collars, but Ratliff said that in the past week or so two of those collars, one from each pack, ceased working.

The collars don't allow anything approaching real-time information about the wolves' location, Ratliff said.

(He said that uploading data from the collars to satellites uses a considerable amount of the collar's battery power, so if they reported the location frequently the collars wouldn't last long.)

The collars typically report their location once a day although some collars can report more often — the time varies to give a wider range of data — which is usually enough to allow Ratliff to spot trends and, when necessary, to alert ranchers that wolves have been frequenting a specific area.

That's been the case recently in the north end of the Eagle Valley, north of Richland, Ratliff said.

Ranchers have frequently been hazing wolves in that area. Ratliff said he has hazed wolves there as well.

So far there have been no reports of wolves attacking livestock in that area, he said on Thursday, March 17.

The fatal attack on the working dog, a 40-pound heeler, happened across the Halfway Grade in the south end of Pine Valley, near Pine Town Lane.

The dog's owner found the animal by its kennel the morning of Tuesday, March 15, Ratliff said.

The dog died later, after being treated by a veterinarian, and Ratliff said the owner, after burying the animal, called ODFW.

Ratliff said the dog was disinterred and, after he and another biologist examined its wounds on Wednesday, March 16, they confirmed that it had been attacked by a wolf or wolves.

He said it's not certain where the attack happened, but he doesn't think the dog, given the severity of its injuries, could have traveled very far after the attack.

According to the ODFW depredation report, the dog had "pre-mortem bite punctures to the head and throat with associated muscle tissue trauma. Bruising of the hide and muscle trauma were found on the back, hips, and groin. The location and size of the tooth marks are consistent with wolf attack injuries on dogs."

According to the report, GPS collar data from a yearling male wolf from the Cornucopia pack placed that wolf a half-mile from the ranch where the dog lived, at 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. on March 15.

(Ratliff said those locations weren't uploaded to the satellite, from which they're available to ODFW, until several hours later.)

Ratliff said the rancher told him that another of his dogs died on Christmas Day after showing up with severe injuries. Although ODFW biologists didn't examine that dog, Ratliff said he looked at GPS collar data from that day and a wolf was near the ranch then, and it's possible a wolf or wolves also attacked that dog.

Ratliff said he's concerned about a pit, which is one mile from the ranch, where cattle carcasses are dumped.

He said wolves have roamed near that pit occasionally over the past several years, and he worries that it will continue to lure the predators.

Ratliff said ranchers who use that pit have partially buried and in some cases burned carcasses, but the site continues to remain a potential attractant for wolves.

Burying carcasses is the best way to avoid that problem, he said.

"I know it's a lot more work for producers," Ratliff said. "I don't have a perfect solution. Sometimes even when carcasses are buried there's still scent there. But burying carcasses is the best option."

Wolves from two packs mingling

Ratliff said wolves from the Keating and Cornucopia packs have been mingling, and at times traveling together recently.

That's uncommon, he said. Wolves from the Keating

pack, which numbers at least 10 animals, including five pups born in the spring of 2021, had spent much of the winter around the north side of Keating Valley.

But recently at least five Keating wolves had moved east into the Low Hills country southeast of Halfway. That's an area where wolves from the former Pine Creek pack attacked cattle repeatedly during the spring of 2018, killing four and injuring at least seven.

Wolves from the Cornucopia pack, meanwhile, have moved west and have been lingering in the north part of Eagle Valley.

The Cornucopia pack consists of at least five wolves, but the pack has no breeding male, and Ratliff said it's possible the pack's breeding

female won't have a litter of pups this spring.

On Friday morning, March 18, wolves from the Cornucopia pack had moved back across the Halfway grade and were in the northern part of Pine Valley, Ratliff said. He alerted ranchers in that area about the wolves' latest movements.

The pack's breeding male was illegally shot and killed in late September 2020 near Eagle Forks campground. A second wolf, a subadult female, was shot and killed in late October 2020 northeast of Halfway. It's not clear whether that wolf was a member of a pack.

More recently, a 2-year-old male wolf from the Cornucopia pack was hit by a car and killed along Highway 86, about 5 miles west of Richland, in April 2021.

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Those that donated to classroom baskets, bought raffle tickets and frequented participating restaurants, helped us raise over \$7,000 that will go towards field trips, artists in residence & more!

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