

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

March 21, 1972

Former Baker Bulldog Blair Sturgill will be returning to the state tournament scene, only this time it will be as a member of Roseburg's Paul Jackson Wholesale basketball team, an AAU powerhouse.

Sturgill led Paul Jackson to three state wins in the District-5 AAU "town team" playoffs to gain state berth. He pumped in 68 points, including a 32-point barrage in his team's opener.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 21, 1997

An Oregon State Police captain will be on duty in Baker City during an investigation of the city police department to interview people who have information about alleged misconduct by police officers.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 21, 2012

The national surge in gasoline prices has swept into Baker City.

The average local price for regular unleaded is \$3.79 a gallon.

That's still one of the lower averages in Oregon, but it's up almost half a buck from a month ago.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

March 23, 2021

The organizer of the Baker City Bull and Bronc riding competition, one of the signature local summer events, has added the two-night contest to his list of rodeo events for 2021.

The bull and bronc riding, which traditionally happen at the Baker County Fairgrounds arena in Baker City during the same July weekend as Miners Jubilee, were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virus spoiled what would have been the first year of the events as part of the Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions Tour.

That's the series of rodeo competitions that Jason Mattox, a former bull rider who lives in Roseburg, puts on.

Mattox was prepared to assume responsibility for organizing the Baker City events from the group of volunteers, led by Ken McPheron, who had overseen them for the past 25 years under the nonprofit Baker City Bronc & Bull Riding Inc.

Mattox had announced in January 2020, less than two months before Oregon began to impose restrictions on events due to the pandemic, that the Baker City events were not only part of the Challenge of Champions Tour, but that they would be televised for the first time.

In a Friday, March 19 post on the Baker City Bronc and Bull Riding Facebook page, Mattox wrote that "we are excited for 2021 and bringing Bulls & Broncs back to the great community of Baker City."

"We know life is so unpredictable but we are focused and ready to bring the biggest Bulls & Bronc Riding back to the Northwest after a one year delay. Both events will have a total of \$25,000 for the top contestants around to compete for."

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, which organizes Miners Jubilee, said she's excited about the prospect of the bull and bronc riding events returning.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, MARCH 19

3-5-32-38-45-46

Next jackpot: \$3.1 million

POWERBALL, MARCH 19

8-9-18-48-52 PB 6

Next jackpot: \$156 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MARCH 18

2-6-25-40-45 Mega 6

Next jackpot: \$39 million

WIN FOR LIFE, MARCH 19

9-59-68-71

PICK 4, MARCH 20

• 1 p.m.: 4-8-2-3

• 4 p.m.: 7-0-6-4

• 7 p.m.: 1-2-3-9

• 10 p.m.: 9-2-9-9

LUCKY LINES, MARCH 20

1-8-9-15-18-22-28-31

Next jackpot: \$38,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

TUESDAY (March 29): Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, rolls, ambrosia, brownies

WEDNESDAY (March 30): Spaghetti with beef sauce, garlic bread, broccoli, green salad, birthday cake

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.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County 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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Controversial animal rights measure likely won't make ballot in November

BY ALEX WITTEW

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A controversial proposal on animal cruelty laws appears to be off the table, for now, but proponents of the initiative say their campaign isn't over yet.

"We just submitted the initiative for 2024 and are waiting for confirmation from the state," an organizer with the Yes on IP13 campaign said. "At this point, it does not look like we will gather enough for 2022. I believe the plan is to shift gears to the newly numbered initiative as soon as we have it."

Initiative Petition 13, otherwise known as the Abuse, Neglect and Assault Exemption Modification and Improvement Act, would remove exemptions to the Oregon animal abuse laws that protect hunters, farmers and anglers from abuse violations. That means hunters could possibly be prosecuted for killing and harvesting wild animals, as could farmers who send their livestock to slaughterhouses.

David Michelson, the author of the initiative and the lead organizer for the campaign, acknowledged the proposal's long road, and said that like other social justice reforms throughout history, it will take time.

"This is asking for quite a shift from the norm, and I think, like with any social change, it's controversial," he said. "But every social justice movement in history has been met with controversy, unfortunately."

Michelson noted a petition to allow women to vote in Oregon faced similar political headwinds in the early 20th century, but the story of how women fought for suffrage in Oregon has been inspirational to the Portland-based activist, who said he would "like to see this (initiative) as being part of that history of progressive ballot measures that push us forward."

But even if the initiative fails to muster the signatures necessary to reach the ballot this November, Michelson has his eyes set on 2024.

"We are planning, as we have always planned, to submit our initiative for 2024 with the anticipation that even if we qualify for 2022, it is unlikely that it'll pass on the first attempt," Michelson said. "Speaking back to the initiative that gave women the right to vote, it was voted on in six consecutive election cycles before it finally passed. It was voted down five times. If our initiative does not pass this November, we want to make sure it's on the ballot again in 2024."

News of Record

DEATHS

Clarene Rohner: 97, of Baker City, died March 18, 2022, at her home. The date and time for her graveside service will be announced soon. To leave an online condolence for Clarene's family, to go www.coletributecenter.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

FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Juan Pablo Burgos, 60, Baker City, 7:27 p.m. Saturday, March 19, in the 1200 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

MALHEUR COUNTY WARRANT: Tyler Joseph Anders, 32, Baker City, 2:36 p.m. Friday, March 18, at the Baker County Jail, where he was in custody on other charges.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM, UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Riky Lee Carter, 38, Haines, 10:07 p.m. Sunday, March 20, in Haines; cited and released.

PAROLE VIOLATION, CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Brandy Dawn Arthur, 29, Baker City, 12:44 a.m. Sunday, March 20, in the 2600 block of 17th Street; jailed.



Baker City Herald, File

An initiative that could potentially limit when ranchers can slaughter cattle won't make the November 2022 ballot, but proponents say they plan to keep the effort going.

Their hearts are in the right place

Farmers balked at the proposal, stating it wouldn't be worth the effort or the ink to do a story about the initiative. Prominent La Grande hunter Steve West, of the TV show "Steve's Outdoor Adventures," said the proposition likely would fail to gather enough signatures to make it on the ballot.

"The people who come up with this, their hearts are in the right place because they're so attached to animals," he said. "The reality is they will never get enough votes to pass something like this. I just don't see any chance in hell that they even get 100,000 signatures to even get it to a ballot. It's just so out there."

West said proposals like these have an unintended side effect of uniting groups that are opposed to similar initiatives.

"If anything, my bet is this is something that would solidify and unite the ranchers, farmers and hunters," he said. "It's probably going to unite the other side just to stamp it out once and for all."

Officials from the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation said they're not worried about the initiative, citing treaties that would supersede the law. They are, however, watching closely in the event the tribes need to take a reactionary approach to the proposal.

"We're continuing to watch and see how far it goes, and see what happens in July to see if they get their initiative fulfilled with the required signatures," said Jiselle Halfmoon, interim communications director for CTUIR. "Then, of course, we'll readress it, but at this time we're pretty secure in our situation."

Law experts say proposal is misunderstood

Russ Mead, a professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, said what the proposal says it will do and what the two opposing factions for the proposition say it will do differ greatly.

"Oregon's animal cruelty laws have a long list of exceptions," he said. "For example, hunting and killing livestock is exempt from Oregon's animal cruelty laws. IP13 removes these exemptions. The result is not that hunting and killing livestock will be illegal if IP13 passes, it is just that when you hunt, you need to be humane. When you kill livestock, you need to be humane."

The website for IP13 states its goal is to enact legislation that would make it so that "animals on farms, research labs, exhibitions and in the wild would no longer be allowed to be intentionally injured or killed." However, Mead disagrees with the drafters of IP13 and their proposed mission statement on the IP13 webpage. The law as it is proposed, he said, would need to be considered in courtrooms to find the exact limitations and framework.

"Anyone who says any activity will become illegal with the passage of IP13 is just flat wrong," he said. "With the animal cruelty exemptions removed, the Oregon courts will need to decide what animal cruelty is."

How animal cruelty is defined in the law, Mead said, is open-ended.

"Animal cruelty statutes seldom define what is cruel and what is humane," Mead said. "For example, statutes do not specify that beating a dog to

death with a baseball bat is cruel. Or that killing a dog by lethal injection is humane."

Mead stated if the proposal did muster up the signatures, and passed in the November ballot, the proposal wouldn't turn hunters into criminals overnight.

"The Oregon courts will need to decide what, if any, hunting and fishing practices violate Oregon animal cruelty laws," he said. "I could well see the courts finding leg-hold traps are cruel. But, I would be shocked if the courts found a father and daughter fishing with a cane pole animal cruelty."

Michelson said one of the secondary goals of the proposal is to help draw attention to exemptions in Oregon statutes regarding animal abuse, and how the animal abuse laws give protections to pets but not to livestock.

"We're one of the few states that acknowledges that animals are sentient in our state statutes," Michelson said. "Yet our animal cruelty laws largely only protect our companion animals. All the other animals, whether they're in farms or in research labs or in the wild, or in rodeos and exhibitions, they're exempt from those same protections."

Michelson noted the ultimate goal of the campaign would be to ensure all animals in Oregon have the same rights and protections that companion animals enjoy.

As of Tuesday, March 15, the IP13 Facebook page had 344 followers, and its postings attract more negative comments than supportive ones. If the proposal passes — either now or in 2024 — it likely would face lengthy legal scrutiny, according to Jacob Mannis, the deputy district attorney for Oregon who handles animal cruelty cases.

"It would require a lot of things to happen before it would become the law," he said. "I assume that there would be a round of lawsuits before anything gets enforced, and then there would have to be a law enforcement agency that would investigate, a prosecutor that would prosecute and ultimately a jury that would convict, because anybody in Oregon who's been accused of a crime has a right to a trial by jury."

St. Stephen's Preschool Registration for 2022-23

2177 First St.
Baker City

Enter on parking lot side

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Saturday, April 9, 9-noon

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