

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald  
May 12, 1972

The city budget board last night voted to recommend to the city council that basic ambulance fees be hiked from \$15 to \$30 plus cost of material used, and the golf board also announced fee increases.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 12, 1997

The calendar says May, but the weather the past few days in Baker City more resembled August, complete with pine smoke that adds a gorgeous red hue to sunsets but also spreads a fragrance that offends some noses.

The smoke is from prescribed fires on national forests across Northeastern Oregon, said John Szymoniak of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 11, 2012

Five teenagers and wet cement — and no handprints or initials in sight.

Five students from Baker Middle School spent a couple hours Thursday afternoon shoveling and smoothing cement at a house in South Baker.

The project, now in process for four years, began with a couple grants and an afterschool building group led by Tom Brock.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 13, 2021

Flowers are brightening Main Street this year thanks to a pilot project by Baker City Downtown (BCD).

"We're jealous of all the other downtowns and their big beautiful flower baskets," Kate Reid said.

Reid and Tom Novak headed the project by the BCD design committee.

A grant from Transient Lodging Tax enabled BCD to buy brackets — fabricated by Baker Welding — to go on the concrete lamp posts along Main St.

Baker City Public Works installed two brackets on each post.

As for the flowers, Novak talked to business owners, who committed to watering their own basket throughout the summer season.

Once she had a number, Reid placed orders for flower baskets in the fall of 2020 from Rock Garden Greenhouse and Eagle Cap Nursery.

"We wanted big, bold baskets," Reid said. "And our goal is to keep the money local."

Each business paid for the basket or baskets. Thirteen were delivered last week.

"They look amazing," Reid said.

For locations that do not have a lamp post, brackets were installed on the buildings along Main Street, as well as First and Resort streets. Those flowers — another 40 baskets — will be delivered this week.

Reid said the design committee wants to continue the flower basket project, but needs to raise funds for a dedicated watering system. This could be either a four-wheeler or golf cart equipped with a water tank. As for the watering, that could be done by a volunteer or possibly be a paid part-time position, Reid said.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, MAY 9

7-13-15-21-32-43

Next jackpot: \$5.3 million

### POWERBALL, MAY 9

18-30-35-52-56 PB 5

Next jackpot: \$68 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, MAY 10

15-19-20-61-70 Mega 9

Next jackpot: \$99 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, MAY 9

39-40-47-67

### PICK 4, MAY 10

• 1 p.m.: 2-8-4-5

• 4 p.m.: 9-4-0-7

• 7 p.m.: 0-7-4-2

• 10 p.m.: 3-3-1-5

### LUCKY LINES, MAY 10

2-6-11-15-18-22-27-31

Next jackpot: \$29,000

## SENIOR MENUS

**FRIDAY (May 13):** Pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas, rolls, applesauce, tapioca

**MONDAY (May 16):** Spaghetti, green beans, Italian vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, ice cream

**TUESDAY (May 17):** Beef stew, baby carrots, rolls, green salad, brownies

**WEDNESDAY (May 18):** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, bread pudding

**THURSDAY (May 19):** Chicken and broccoli fettuccine, green beans and tomatoes, garlic bread, cottage cheese with fruit, cookies

**FRIDAY (May 20):** Barbecued ribs, baked beans, peas and carrots, rolls, coleslaw, apple crisp

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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## Local Briefing

### P.E.O. Foundation awards four \$500 scholarships

Four Baker County women have received \$500 scholarships from the Chapter CJ P.E.O. Foundation.

Emma Baeth, Emrie Osborn and Katie Wilde of Baker High School, and Viri Rodriguez-Medrano of North Powder are the recipients.

Baeth will attend Southern Oregon University and major in nursing with a minor in biology.

Rodriguez-Medrano will use her scholarship to study business at Eastern Oregon University with a goal of becoming an accountant.

Osborn will attend Montana State University and major in elementary education.

Wilde will also attend Montana State University, and study nursing.

Information about P.E.O. scholarships is available by writing to Helen Marsh, 13501 Big Creek Lane, Haines, OR 97833.

### Baker High School presents 'SHOUT!' the musical this weekend

Baker High School will present "SHOUT! The Mod Musical" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14, and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15. Admission is free but tickets are required. Donations will be accepted. Tickets are available at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Sweet Wife Baking and the front office at BHS.

### Free tour of local tree farm set for May 14

The Northeast Oregon chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association has scheduled a free tour of a local tree farm on Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided for free as well.

The event will also serve as the annual meeting for the Northeast Oregon chapter.

Participants will tour the Valerio family's Eccoci Ranch and Tree Farm near Medical Springs, between Baker City and Union.

For the past 30 years the Valerios have been working to improve their property. Topics that will be covered include:

- Reforestation and tree transplanting

- Management planning
- Silviculture and density management
- Small woodland operations
- Fuels reduction and forest health

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://beav.es/wub>.

The tour will be outdoors, regardless of weather, so participants should dress accordingly and wear sturdy shoes or boots suitable for moderate walking and hiking.

To reach the Valerios' property, drive north of Baker City on Interstate 84 and take exit 298, Medical Springs. Drive on Highway 203 for 22 miles and look on the right for a pole fence and signs, announcing the tour, on a double metal gate.

## Council

Continued from Page A1

Mayor Kerry McQuisten said Wednesday morning that, with the City Council deciding to submit a proposal to the county, "it's up to the county to select a provider, which they have to do by statute. Much rests on that process."

### Firefighters dispute city's financial claims

Among the people who addressed councilors Tuesday was Casey Johnson, a firefighter/paramedic and president of the local union chapter that represents department staff.

"This 50% proposed cut in services and elimination of the ambulance is unheard of in Oregon," Johnson said. "This

Chicken Little financial exposure over ambulance costs are fanning the flames of political will at the cost of citizens' safety. Not only is this policy dangerous, it does in fact not put the city in a better financial position."

At the request of Councilor Kenyon Damschen, Casey Husk, a firefighter/paramedic with the city fire department, also spoke to councilors.

Husk said he and other officials from the firefighters' union have reviewed the city's financial records.

"I don't see a financial crisis at all," Husk said.

He said the fire department, which is the second most expensive department in the city's general fund — the police department's budget for the current fiscal year is

\$2.56 million, the fire department's is \$2.32 million — has spent less than its budgeted amount in five of the previous seven fiscal years.

In the two other years, fire department spending ex-

ceeded budget by 3.5% and 1%, Husk said.

He said the city's reserve funds have increased by 34% from last year.

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