

# Little League reports break-in at Wade Williams

## Thief or thieves stole candy, empty soda cans

BY IAN CRAWFORD

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Wade Williams Field is no stranger to the occasional breakout home run, but between 7 p.m. Sunday, May 15, and 3 p.m. the next day, someone broke in.

A thief or thieves equipped with boltcutters snapped two padlocks to gain entry to the concession stand and equip-

ment storage at the baseball complex in south Baker City between Myrtle Street and the Powder River.

The larcenous tastes were singular, however, and no umpire gear or other equipment was taken, said Jason McClaughry, president of the Baker Little League, which maintains Wade Williams.

(The facility, which includes a regulation baseball field and two smaller fields that host tee-ball games, is owned by the Baker Elks Lodge.)

“What they stole was four boxes of candy and a couple garbage bags of pop cans,” McClaughry said.

Even some kinds of candy went unpilfered, suggesting the thieves might be bigger fans of chocolate than baseball.

“Twix, Snickers, M&Ms, those are our most expensive candies,” McClaughry said.

He said losses, with the locks, candy and cans, are estimated at about \$300.

Baker City Police investigated on Monday, May 16,

and took note of what all was stolen, but had little evidence to work with.

No cash is stored on the premises.

McClaughry said this week's break-in wasn't the first.

There has been at least one similar episode each season for the past three to four years, he said.

If you have leads on a suspect, such as someone with a sudden glut of candy, call the Baker City Police Department at 541-523-3644.



Kelly Tanzey/Contributed Photo

A thief or thieves stole candy and soda cans from the concession stand at Wade Williams Field late Sunday, May 15, 2022, or early the next day.

## Salmon

Continued from Page A1

Two years later, when the juvenile fish are known as smolts, workers release them so they can migrate downriver to the Pacific.

Most of the hatchery salmon make the return journey two years later, as four-year-olds, Bratcher said. Each year's run also includes fish three or five years old as well. The younger fish are known as “jacks.”

With so few adult spring chinook returning to the trap at Hells Canyon Dam in 2018, officials from the ODFW, the Idaho Fish and Game Department, in consultation with Native American tribes, decided not to release any spring chinook smolts below Hells Canyon Dam in 2020.

And that means that in 2022, the year when the majority of the surviving smolts, now four-year-old adults, would return to the Snake, the number of hatchery spring chinook moving upriver from Dug Bar is projected to be low, Bratcher said.

“While we aren't expecting a lot of fish, there is a healthy public interest in this fishery and we have decided to open so people can take advantage of that opportunity,” Bratcher said.

He said anglers are much more likely to catch jack salmon than adult fish this year.

The daily bag limit is four hatchery chinook per day, of which only one can be an adult, longer than 24 inches. Anglers must stop fishing for salmon once they have kept one adult hatchery chinook or four hatchery jack salmon.

Barbless hooks, an angling license, a combined angling tag, and a Columbia Basin Endorsement are required when angling for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Snake River.

The late spring chinook season, and the prospect for fewer fish to show up than usual, is disappointing for Dan Brassard, a longtime salmon angler from Baker County.

Although Brassard said he understands that the lack of smolt releases below Hells



Darin Oswald/The Idaho Statesman via AP, File

In this Jan. 25, 2006, file photo, fisherman Larry McBrom works along the Snake River shoreline below Hells Canyon Dam.

Canyon Dam in 2020 means relatively few adult chinook will return this year, he has been following the robust return of salmon on the Columbia River this year.

As of May 15, the adult chinook count passing Bonneville Dam, downriver from Hood River, was 114,663 fish. That's more than double both the total for the same period in 2021 (50,706) and the five-year average (42,971).

With so many fish available, Brassard wishes ODFW would revive its program, which started in 2004 but hasn't happened since 2016, of releasing adult hatchery spring chinook in the Powder River in Baker City and below Mason Dam.

Salmon runs were eradicated in the upper Powder River in 1932 when Thief Valley Dam, which lacks fish ladders, was finished.

The salmon releases that started in 2004 weren't intended to create a salmon run in the Powder River. The goal was to give anglers an opportunity they hadn't had in the upper reaches of the river for decades.

Brassard said he enjoyed the opportunity to fish for, and catch, salmon in the Powder River.

## Smolt releases resumed at Hells Canyon Dam in 2021

The 2022 situation should not be repeated at least for the next couple years.

Sven Berg, a spokesman for Idaho Power, said the company did release spring chinook smolts below Hells Canyon Dam in 2021 and again this year.

That means there should be enough returning four-year-old spring chinook in 2023 and 2024 to return to the customary fishing season starting in late April.

All the smolts raised from eggs collected in 2018 were released at Rapid River and migrated down the Salmon River to the Snake and then the Columbia, Bratcher said.

Rapid River is the priority release site for smolts, he said, so in years, such as 2020, when the number of smolts is unusually low, there aren't enough to also have a release at Hells Canyon Dam.

Those priorities were established as part of the United States vs. Oregon court case, a continuing federal case, dating to 1968, that is intended to preserve threatened and endan-

gered salmon and steelhead and also balance sportfishing and Tribal fishing rights.

## Threatened salmon

Although wild spring/summer chinook were listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1992, limited sportfishing seasons have been allowed because most of the salmon caught are hatchery fish, not wild (non-hatchery) salmon.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency that manages anadromous fish, has determined that those limited seasons pose a low risk to wild salmon.

That's particularly so for the reach of the Snake from Dug Bar to Hells Canyon Dam, Bratcher said. Dug Bar is upriver from the mouths of the Imnaha and Salmon River, and most wild spring chinook return to those river systems rather than continuing upstream to Hells Canyon Dam, which blocks any further passage as there are no fish ladders at the dam.

Anglers are allowed to keep only hatchery fish during the spring chinook season.

## Fall chinook changes

That's not the case with the fall chinook season on the Snake River, Bratcher said.

During the fall chinook season — which starting this year has a standard period of Aug. 18 through Oct. 31, and is no

longer set each year based on the timing of salmon returns — anglers can keep one wild chinook per day. Wild fish have an intact adipose fin, as do about 60% of hatchery fall chinook, according to ODFW.

The daily bag limit during the fall chinook season, which extends from the Washington border upriver to Hells Canyon Dam, is three adult fish per day, with no limit on jacks.

Bratcher said fewer fall chinook are returning to the reach of the Snake between the Salmon River and Hells Canyon since the release site for smolts was moved to the Salmon River in 2018, although he didn't have an estimate of the change in numbers.

Brassard, who said he used to be a regular fall chinook angler below Hells Canyon Dam, said he doesn't intend to fish there this year because it's “fruitless” based on the few chinook that return.

He thinks it's misleading for ODFW to make it a regular season for fall chinook starting this year, even though the number of salmon available has actually declined since the release site was moved to the Salmon River.

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## Fred LeRoy Riggs

May 21, 1926 - May 13, 2022

Fred LeRoy Riggs passed away peacefully May 13, 2022, in his daughter's home, surrounded by those who loved him. A graveside ceremony with military honors will be held at Eagle Valley Cemetery on May 20, 2022, at 1 p.m. followed by a celebration of life at the Eagle Valley Grange.



He was born on May 21, 1926, in Turner, Oregon, to his parents, Clarence Ruben and Mary Elisa Porter-Riggs. The Riggs family lived in many places throughout the years including North Powder, Medical Springs, Telocaset, Pondosa, Baker, and Oxbow. He lived and worked for Walt and Lizzie Saunders of Richland until he graduated from Eagle Valley High School in 1944.

On February 26, 1944, at the age of 17, he married his school mate, Jennie Jean Ashby. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted into the US Army where he served in the South Pacific during WWII with the 322nd Infantry Division for two years.

Fred and Jennie raised three children: Frank, and twins Merrillyn and Marlyn. In 1984 they moved back to Richland where he lived until 2019. This was when he relocated to Halfway to live with his close family.

Many jobs were held throughout his life. He worked for the Holcomb Sheep Ranch, logged, and drove log truck. In 1964, Idaho Power hired him as an inspector on Hells Canyon Dam. He retired from Idaho Power in 1985 as a mechanic.

Fred was a very active member in the community and volunteered many hours of work to various clubs and organizations. In 1976 he joined the Snowmobile Club where he drove the groomer for 25 years. He was on the Eagle Valley Cemetery board for 15 years, served on the Richland City Council for 18 years, and was mayor of Richland for 4 years. In addition, he drove the Richland ambulance for 25 years, was an active member in the Eagle Valley Grange where he mowed the park for 20+ years. He worked for the Baker County watermaster out of Eagle Valley for 15 years. He was a proud lifetime member of the NRA.

Fred enjoyed spending time with his good friend, Pat. Hobbies included hunting, fishing, mushrooming, picking huckleberries, snowmobiling, attending rodeos, and he especially loved camping and spending the majority of his time with his granddaughter, Teena, and his sidekick, Vegas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Jennie; brothers, Paul, Bob, and Coy; sister, Hazel; son, Marlyn, and great-granddaughter, Brandie.

Fred is survived by his son, Frank (Roseanne) Riggs; his daughter, Merrillyn (Richard) Seal; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

Those who would like to make a memorial donation may do so to the Eagle Valley Ambulance Fund or the Eagle Valley Grange through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon, 97834. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## Marvin Lee Cassidy

August 20, 1950 – May 8, 2022

Beloved brother Marvin Lee Cassidy, commonly known to all as “Buzz”, died of pancreatic cancer on May 8, 2022 at his home.

Born August 20, 1950 in Klamath Falls, Oregon he is survived by his mother Martha Jane Cassidy and brothers Larry, Kelly and Garry.

Buzz, a retired electrician, is fondly remembered by many Bakerites as smart, fun loving, ready to help others and a good friend to all.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



## Sharon Lee Keaton

July 21, 1942 – May 12, 2022

Sharon Lee Keaton, 79, of Meridian, Idaho, passed away peacefully on May 12, 2022, at Creekside Transitional Care and Rehab in Meridian, Idaho. There will be a private interment at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City, Oregon, in the near future.

On July 21, 1942, Sharon was born in Ontario, California, to Burt and Shirley (Anderson) Turner. She attended and graduated high school in Chino, California. In 1963, Sharon married Tom Keaton in Ontario, California, and together they had two daughters, Linda and Julie.

With Tom, she owned and operated the Leaning Tower of Pizza in Southern California. She also owned and operated the Burrito Construction Company in Baker City, Oregon.

Sharon also loved animals. Sharon is survived by her daughters, Linda (Todd) Powell of Meridian, Idaho, Julie (Fred) Hertel of Dallas, Oregon, and her granddaughters, Mallory (Dana) Parker of Avon Lake, Ohio, and Amanda (Ritter) Warren of Dallas, Oregon.

To leave an online condolence for the family of Sharon, please visit [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).



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- Rural Fire Department Training

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