

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald  
May 26, 1972

Not to be outdone by the Oregon Education Association, the school board of District 5-J has requested its own investigation of conditions within the school district. This investigation will be conducted by staffers of the State Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. James Evans announced today.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 26, 1997

HAINES — Veteran memorial flags are on display at the Haines Cemetery. Seven veterans are being honored by their families this Memorial Day weekend. The families loaned their casket flags (flags that were draped on the casket during the funeral, folded and presented to the families) to the cemetery. Members of the Haines community also volunteered to place the 75 small veterans flags at the grave sites.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 25, 2012

HAINES — The Haines Elementary student body has come together to create its own short film to be premiered on the big screen Thursday, May 31. The film will be premiering at the Eltrym Theater in Baker City. This event is a Parent-Teacher-Community Organization fundraiser. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
May 27, 2021

When meat prices rose in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ken Olson wanted to help local consumers purchase products from local producers. Olson is the CEO of Old West Federal Credit Union, which has branches across Eastern Oregon including John Day, Baker City, La Grande, Prairie City, Union, Pendleton, Hermiston and Burns. "He has a big heart for our communities and rural areas," Bob Kavanaugh, vice president of business development and member experience at Old West, said of Olson. The USDA reports that, in 2020, supply of meat products was affected by temporary closures of meatpacking plants due to COVID-19. The low supply in turn drove up prices in the grocery store. Kavanaugh said Olson challenged an Old West team to brainstorm a solution that would make local beef more accessible — especially when money is tight. "Food insecurity is a real thing," Kavanaugh said. "We came up with a strategy to help our local communities purchase meat in bulk." The program is called the Farm to Table Loan. Loan amounts are available from \$500 to \$4,000. When someone inquires about the loan, Kavanaugh said they meet with an Old West staff to discuss the loan amount and pay-back details. Storing meat can be a challenge for some families, too, so a freezer can be financed into the loan as well. The 12-month loans are interest-free. Kavanaugh said Old West introduced the program several months ago, and will relaunch it around June 1. To initially promote the program, Old West held a raffle for "Get a Freezer, Give a Freezer Full of Beef."

## OREGON LOTTERY

**MEGABUCKS, MAY 23**  
2-3-4-20-33-38  
Next jackpot: \$1.2 million

**POWERBALL, MAY 23**  
1-33-37-39-42 PB 26  
Next jackpot: \$135 million

**MEGA MILLIONS, MAY 24**  
3-5-6-63-68 Mega 25  
Next jackpot: \$157 million

**WIN FOR LIFE, MAY 23**  
20-29-42-55

**PICK 4, MAY 24**

- 1 p.m.: 5-1-9-1
- 4 p.m.: 6-2-1-8
- 7 p.m.: 8-9-5-4
- 10 p.m.: 0-1-9-7

**LUCKY LINES, MAY 24**  
1-6-9-15-19-21-26-31  
Next jackpot: \$43,000

## SENIOR MENUS

**FRIDAY (May 27):** Clam chowder, Caesar salad, rolls, peach crisp  
**MONDAY (May 30):** Closed for Memorial Day  
**TUESDAY (May 31):** Pork tips over noodles, peas, rolls, ambrosia, sherbet  
**WEDNESDAY (June 1):** Burger steak with onions, baked beans, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, brownies  
**THURSDAY (June 2):** Chili cheese dogs, tater tots, corn, coleslaw, lemon squares

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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# Two stranded boats return safely to Hewitt Park near Richland

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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Four people in two separate boats made it safely back to Hewitt Park, on the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir near Richland, after both vessels had fuel problems on Monday afternoon, May 23.

The incident started around 1:17 p.m. when Baker County Dispatch received a cellphone call from a boater, said Ashley McClay, public information officer for the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

The caller said the 21-foot boat had run out of gas and lacked oars. It was in the middle of the river near Brownlee Dam.

(McClay said there is no report on the incident and she hadn't confirmed the names of any of the four people involved.)

There were two people and one dog aboard, McClay said. While Marine Deputy



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Holcomb Park is on the north shore of the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir about three miles east of Richland. Baker County owns and operates the park along with its neighbor, Hewitt Park.

Wayne Paxton and Deputy Brian Harvey were en route to the scene in a patrol boat, the Dispatch Center received a second call.

A woman from La Grande said she had spoken by cellphone with her husband and son about 12:58 p.m., and that the motor in their boat,

in the same area of the reservoir, would not start.

The woman told a dispatcher that the call ended and she couldn't reach her husband and son again.

Then Dispatch received a third call, this one from one of the people on the first stranded boat.

The caller said another boat was towing them back toward Holcomb Park.

The dispatcher asked the caller to describe the people on the second boat, and it became clear that the rescuers were the father and son from La Grande, McClay said.

But the problems weren't over.

While the La Grande father and son were towing the other boat, their own boat, a 1978 Marlin Sidewinder, also stopped running.

When Paxton and Harvey arrived later in the afternoon, they poured fuel into the first boat, which started.

The issue with the second boat was that it hadn't automatically switched from the empty tank to a tank that still had fuel. The boat owner fixed that issue and all three boats, with the Sheriff's Office vessel in the rear, returned to Hewitt Park, McClay said.

# School district hopes to give bonuses to workers who stayed through pandemic

BY IAN CRAWFORD  
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Baker School District teachers and other employees who have worked throughout the pandemic could receive a bonus payment of \$860 if they stay on through the 2022-23 school year.

Employees who worked for one year during the pandemic and stay for next year could get \$430.

The money would be from a state

grant program designed to reward school employees who stayed during the pandemic and encourage them to continue in their jobs.

The Baker School Board voted on May 19 to apply for \$242,000 from the state program.

The district filed the grant "in an effort to retain our contracted teachers, classified, and confidential staff on our payroll who worked during the pan-

demic and will continue with us," said Lindsey McDowell, the district's public information and communications coordinator.

"To my knowledge, there was no significant staff exodus during the pandemic, even when the vaccination mandate went into place," McDowell said. "Although we won't know probably until August, I am told that we do expect most staff to return next year."

## Teacher

Continued from Page A1

"I bet my mom and dad won't guess," he said with a grin. "I'm only giving them one clue!"

Ratterman is quick to smile at the antics of the preschoolers, but these last few weeks of her career are a bit sad.

"It's bittersweet. I love this job," she said.

She's retiring as director and head teacher of the YMCA preschool.

Although she'll miss the daily interactions with the children, she says retiring will allow more time with her own grandchildren. She also wants to direct more plays for Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, and volunteer to spend time with memory care patients. She'll also help the new

Y preschool teacher transition into the role, and plans to substitute at the preschool when needed.

### Perfect for preschool

Ratterman's teaching career started in Wyoming.

"I started out teaching art, then they added PE and then science," she said.

Then they asked if she would teach preschool.

"I said no," she said with a laugh. "But they said 'you can do it.' So I tried it."

She didn't regret her choice.

"I loved it," she said. "I loved teaching preschool. The kids are amazing. They make you laugh every day."

She taught preschool for five years, then moved to Baker City where she worked at Eastern Oregon Medical Associates.

But she didn't forget those preschoolers.

"She kept talking about opening a preschool," said Diny Michel, who worked with Ratterman at EOMA and is now retiring from her role as a Y preschool aide.

For a year, after leaving EOMA, Ratterman had her own day care and preschool.

"Then the Y wanted to start a preschool," she said.

The first class was in 2011. With only Ratterman teaching, the first class numbered 14.

The next two years she expanded to two classes — 30 kids total — and then a second teacher was added in 2014. Since then, every year has seen 60 students.

"And a lot on the waiting list," Ratterman said.

The "littles" (ages 3 and 4) attend Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the "bigs" (ages 4 to 5) have school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In addition to classroom activities and outdoor time on the playground Ratterman helped design, the Y provides swimming lessons and also introduces the young students to skiing at Anthony Lakes.

"Everything is still a wonder to them," Ratterman said. "It's magical."

Megan Davis, who has taught at the preschool for several years, will take over as director and head teacher.

"She's going to be amazing," Ratterman said.

Over the years, she's taught multiple sets of siblings, and gotten to know quite a few families in Baker City.

"They're family friends now — they're like family," she said.

For information about the YMCA preschool, visit [www.bakerymca.org/preschool-at-the-y](http://www.bakerymca.org/preschool-at-the-y) or call 541-523-9622.

## News of Record

### DEATHS

**Bonnie Kimry:** 82, a former longtime Baker City resident, died May 22, 2022, at her son's home in Turner. A celebration of her life, for family and friends, will take place later at Pilcher Creek Reservoir.

**Abel Coronado:** 68, of Baker City, died May 21, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. To light a candle in Abel's honor, or to offer online condolences to his family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Gloria Wilson:** Memorial service and celebration of her life will take place Friday, May 27 at 2 p.m. at the Pine Baptist Church in Halfway. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**John Crow:** Memorial service with military honors will take place Saturday, May 28 at 10 a.m. at the Lions Community Hall in Halfway. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Marge Harris:** Memorial service will take place Saturday, May 28 at 2 p.m. at the Pine Valley Presbyterian Church in Halfway. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Ivan Harry Bork:** A celebration of his life and potluck will take place Saturday, May 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the ballroom at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St. For those who would like to make a donation in honor of Ivan, the family suggests Hunt of a Lifetime through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

**Georgia and Larry Wells:** Graveside memorial service will take place May 31 at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Community Connection through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online

condolence for the family, go to [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Aaron La Varr Daniels, 43, Baker City, 10:41 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at Valley and Court avenues; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Juan Pablo Burgos, 60, Baker City, 1:56 p.m. Monday, May 23, at the Baker County Jail, where he was in custody on other charges.

**Oregon State Police Arrests, citations**  
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Andrew Sean Hoffman, 24, Baker City, 6:33 p.m. Monday, May 23, at 12th and Campbell streets.