

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

May 30, 1972

The State Highway Department request for \$75,000 to complete Campbell St. can be paid out of the 1972-73 budget, reported city recorder George Hiatt at last night's budget meeting.

Hiatt said \$25,000 would be taken from contracted services of the state tax street fund, and \$50,000 out of the street construction fund.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

May 30, 1997

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has postponed by at least one week its plan to charge admission fees for the first time at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

The agency was scheduled to begin charging fees Sunday. Admission has been free since the center opened May 23, 1992.

But that changed because the booth where workers will collect fees isn't finished, said center director Dave Hunsaker.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

May 30, 2012

Bill Ward's computer room is now a study in world history, from photographs of United States presidents to the historic Alnwick Castle that became Hogwarts for the Harry Potter films.

And he can trace his connection to it all — 33 presidents, the Roayl family, Abraham Lincoln, Judy Garland. He can follow his roots back thousands of years.

"All the way to the time of Christ," he says.

This all started three years ago when Ward, 65, needed something to do during the long winter.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

May 29, 2021

Jason Yencopal concedes that it seems a bit unusual for Baker County officials to urge residents who feel fine to be tested for COVID-19.

But more tests could be the key to the county remaining at the lowest risk level, with the least stringent restrictions on businesses and gatherings.

It's a matter of math, said Yencopal, the county's emergency management director.

Specifically, it's a matter of what percentage of COVID-19 tests are positive in the county.

The positivity rate is one of two criteria the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) uses to determine the county's risk level (the other is the number of COVID-19 cases).

The county returned to the lowest risk level on Thursday, May 27. To stay there, the county needs to have a positivity rate below 5%, based on two-week periods (the current measuring period is May 16-29).

The problem, Yencopal said, is that although the county's number of new cases has plummeted during May, so has the number of tests.

And that means even a moderate increase in cases could push the positivity rate above 5%.

To cite a recent example, for the period May 23-27, the county had five new cases, an increase from two new cases from May 16-22.

But because the total tests dropped from 133 (May 16-22) to 113 (May 23-27), the positivity rate rose from 1.5% to 4.4%.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, MAY 28

11-13-15-35-47-48

Next jackpot: \$1.4 million

POWERBALL, MAY 28

2-39-50-61-66 PB 15

Next jackpot: \$157 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MAY 27

3-14-40-53-54 Mega 8

Next jackpot: \$170 million

WIN FOR LIFE, MAY 28

18-26-49-72

PICK 4, MAY 29

• 1 p.m.: 0-6-0-7

• 4 p.m.: 9-5-1-9

• 7 p.m.: 8-7-7-8

• 10 p.m.: 0-7-3-2

LUCKY LINES, MAY 29

1-6-12-14-19-24-28-32

Next jackpot: \$48,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

FRIDAY (June 3): Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian vegetables, garlic bread, salad, tapioca

MONDAY (June 6): Chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, green salad, ice cream

TUESDAY (June 7): Beef burgundy over fettuccine noodles, broccoli, rolls, green salad, fruit cup

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

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101

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Publisher
Karrine Brogotti
kbrogotti@lagrandobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email
circ@bakercityherald.com

Wolves kill two calves in Grant County

BY STEVEN MITCHELL

Blue Mountain Eagle

GRANT COUNTY — A rancher on the Middle Fork of the John Day River has become Grant County's second producer to lose livestock to a confirmed wolf depredation.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported Monday, May 23, that wolves in an area known to be used by the Desolation Pack killed two calves in the evening hours of May 19.

Additionally, the ODFW report noted that a GPS collar placed wolves at the kill site around the suspected time of death of the second calf.

The report noted that the location of the bite marks and injuries to the calves was consistent with wolf attacks on live calves. The depredation, the report said, has been attributed to the Desolation Pack.

According to the report, on Saturday, May 21, a livestock producer witnessed a wolf feeding on the carcass of a 1,000-pound cow. ODFW officials estimated that the cow died the previous night and that, due to the absence of pre-mortem bite marks or hemorrhaging, the cow was found not to have been attacked while it was alive.



The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife attributed the confirmed depredation of two calves on the Middle Fork of the John Day River to the Desolation Pack.

"The cause of death was not wolf-related and so our determination was 'Other,'" the report concluded.

The first confirmed wolf depredation in Grant County occurred in May 2021 on Roy Vardanega's Fox Valley Ranch. Vardanega reported that five of his cattle were at-

tacked and killed, although only one of the deaths was confirmed by ODFW as wolf-related.

According to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management 2021 Annual Report, the Desolation Pack increased from five wolves to nine this year.

A pack is defined as more than four wolves traveling together in the winter. The Desolation Pack also met the criterion of having a breeding pair. A breeding pair is an adult male and adult female with at least two pups that survived to Dec. 31 in the year of their birth.

Oxbow hatchery closing for renovation

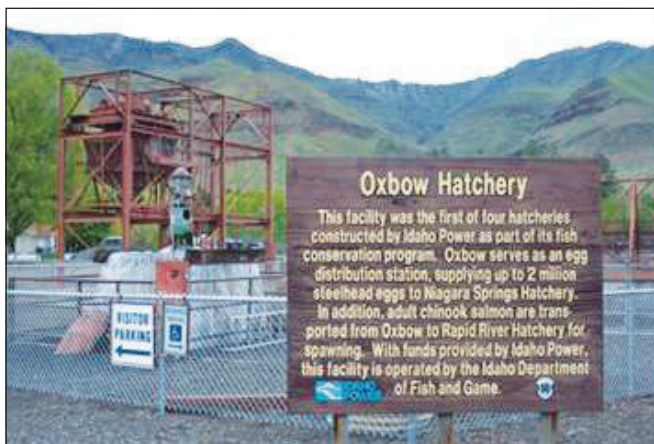
Baker City Herald

OXBOW — Idaho Power Company's Oxbow Fish Hatchery in Hells Canyon will be closed to the public beginning June 1 to allow workers to upgrade the hatchery's water intake system.

Pending approval from federal regulators, an extensive remodel and expansion of the hatchery itself will begin later this summer, extending the facility's closure through the summer of 2024, according to the Boise company.

Fish spawning and egg collection at the hatchery will continue during construction. The small campsite adjacent to the hatchery will be closed, but the hatchery work will not impact Copperfield Campground or other facilities in the area. Visitors should expect periods of increased construction traffic.

The hatchery, at the mouth



Idaho Power Company/Contributed Photo

Idaho Power Company built its fish hatchery at Oxbow, about 70 miles east of Baker City in Hells Canyon, in 1961.

of Pine Creek downstream from the Oxbow Dam powerhouse, was built in 1961 and is a holding and spawning facility for adult steelhead migrating up the Snake River, above its confluence with the Salmon River. Oxbow was the first hatchery Idaho Power

built as part of its hatchery mitigation program.

Adult steelhead are collected in a trap at Hells Canyon Dam and held to maturity at Oxbow Hatchery where they are artificially spawned by hatchery staff. More than 1 million eggs

are fertilized and go through their first stages of development here.

Eventually, the eggs are delivered to Niagara Springs Hatchery south of Wendell, Idaho, to hatch and grow for approximately 11 months before they are ready for release into the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam.

Idaho Power also traps adult spring chinook salmon from the Snake River for use as broodstock at Rapid River Hatchery near Riggins, Idaho. Fish are trapped at Hells Canyon Dam, temporarily held at Oxbow Hatchery and then transferred to Rapid River Hatchery.

Oxbow Hatchery is owned and financed by Idaho Power and operated and staffed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. For additional information about Idaho Power's hatchery programs, visit idahopower.com/fish.

Oregon faith leaders demand gun legislation

BY CATALINA GAITAN

The Oregonian

As a bell at Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church rang 21 times Thursday, May 28 — once for each victim in the Texas school shooting — faith leaders demanded the state's elected officials enact legislation to help prevent future mass shootings.

The group, members of gun-advocacy group Lift Every Voice Oregon, also asked for volunteers to help collect signatures to put Initiative Petition 17 on November's ballot. The initiative would require people to get a permit and pass a background check before buying a gun, and it would stop the sale

of gun magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

The Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church, one of the chief petitioners for the initiative, said the campaign has collected 30,000 signatures and needs a little over 112,000 by July 8 to get it on the November ballot. The group hopes to get 140,000 signatures as a "cushion," he said.

Knutson said the campaign began shortly after the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and staff were killed. The group attempted to get bills reflecting its initiatives heard in the Leg-

islature in 2019, but "nobody wanted to touch it," he said. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented volunteers from gathering signatures.

Things this year are different, however, Knutson said. A legislative team reviewed the constitutionality of the initiative, and volunteers between the ages of 12 and 94 are collecting signatures for it across the state.

"We have to take sensible gun actions for public health right now," Knutson said. "If people in offices of power won't, we will."

More than a dozen people spoke during the news conference, taking turns at a podium placed in front of a banner covered in 440 "soul boxes" — each representing a child under the age 12 who had been killed or injured by guns in the United States this year, said Rabbi Mi-

chael Cahana of Portland's Congregation Beth Israel.

Cahana said Initiative Petition 17 is an opportunity for those who own guns and those who oppose owning them to feel united.

"There is no need to own weapons of war," he said. "And the people who are responsible gun owners know this."

During his speech, Cahana read from a statement provided by Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, who said he had "fought long and hard to pass common sense reforms" to reduce gun violence in Oregon.

"I said (Wednesday) on the Senate floor that if Republican senators don't have the moral courage to act — to at least try to prevent more of these massacres — that they ought to go home and let someone else

See, Guns/Page A3

FUNERAL PENDING

Carol Bouchard: Celebration of life, Friday, June 10 at 4 p.m. at the Wolf Creek Grange in North Powder.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Thomas Allen Talbott, 25, Baker City, 4:17 a.m. Saturday, May 28 in the 100 block of Bridge Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Shyla Dawn Melchior, 33, Halfway, 3:23 p.m. Sunday, May 29 in Halfway; cited and released.

THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Pearl Naomi Adair, 41, Baker City, 7:42 a.m. Sunday, May 29 at the Baker County Jail, where she was in custody on other charges.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Dale Rex Taylor, 81, Baker City, 12:27 p.m. Saturday, May 28 in the 2900 block of Walnut Street; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION, FAILURE TO APPEAR: Aubrey Scott Fryman, 35, Baker City, 5:01 p.m. Friday, May 27 in the 3400 block of 13th Street; jailed.

U.S. Forest Service law enforcement

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County

Circuit Court warrant): Joshua David Givens, 28, Halfway, 3:23 p.m. Sunday, May 29 on Fish Lake Road; jailed.

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