

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

June 2, 1972

Statistics indicate that about 14.1 percent of all families in Baker County are living below the poverty level. That compares to 8.6 percent of the families in the state living in poverty, according to a report released by the Bureau of Governmental Research, University of Oregon.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 2, 1997

While other parts of the country battled high winds, thunderstorms and tornadoes during the weekend, Baker City and Baker County were spared for the most part. Linda Richards, owner of Weather Plus at Baker City Municipal Airport, said wind gusts of 30 knots, or approximately 35 miles an hour, were reported Saturday afternoon.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 1, 2012

The Baker City Budget Board gathered in late May to talk about the spending plan for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

One expense has received a lot of discussion: a big water tank. The tank would replace two tan-colored tanks that deliver water to nine homes on Scenic Vista Lane. The tanks were put up by a private developer in 2003, and the city took responsibility for maintenance of the tanks, as well as streets and other infrastructure in the subdivision, one year later.

One tank has visible rust on the outside and is failing internally. The tanks were expected to last much longer — at least 20 years.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 3, 2021

Noel Livingston and Joel McCraw ponder the coming fire season with not a small amount of dread. In this sense the pair shares something in common with people across Oregon, and indeed across the West, whose task it is to deal with wildfires.

The combination of the drought afflicting much of the region, and fresh memories of the fires that destroyed sections of several towns and killed 11 people in western and southern Oregon in September 2020, is a troubling concoction.

But Livingston and McCraw, though their general concerns are typical of those in their business at the cusp of another potentially fiery summer, have a perspective that's notably different, in one key respect, from some of their counterparts.

Livingston and McCraw work on the 2.3-million-acre Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Livingston is the Wallowa-Whitman's fire staff officer, McCraw the fire management officer for the Whitman District in the southern half of the forest.

When they consider the threats they'll likely deal with over the next three months or so, Livingston and McCraw worry more about what's going to happen thousands of feet up in the atmosphere, where electrical storms sometimes brew on hot summer afternoons, than what will transpire below, on the ground.

And they have a strong statistical reason to expect trouble from above.

On the Wallowa-Whitman over the past half century, lightning — not careless or intentionally destructive people — has sparked almost eight of every 10 blazes.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, MAY 30

9 - 17 - 26 - 38 - 40 - 46

Next jackpot: \$1.5 million

POWERBALL, MAY 30

27 - 28 - 51 - 68 - 69 PB 22

Next jackpot: \$168 million

MEGA MILLIONS, MAY 31

6 - 15 - 41 - 63 - 64 Mega 24

Next jackpot: \$189 million

WIN FOR LIFE, MAY 30

27 - 33 - 38 - 77

PICK 4, MAY 31

• 1 p.m.: 2 - 2 - 3 - 1

• 4 p.m.: 6 - 8 - 3 - 0

• 7 p.m.: 1 - 4 - 5 - 6

• 10 p.m.: 2 - 2 - 8 - 6

LUCKY LINES, MAY 31

4-5-9-13-18-21-27-32

Next jackpot: \$50,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

WEDNESDAY (June 8): Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, rice pilaf, green beans, Jell-O with fruit, cake

THURSDAY (June 9): Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, three-bean salad, pudding

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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Wyden announces first of 3 online town halls for veterans

East Oregonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon announced the first of three online town halls he secured just for Eastern Oregon veterans, their families and veterans service providers to ask top Veterans Administration officials health care questions is Saturday, June 4 at 10:30 a.m.



Wyden

The virtual town hall provides an opportunity to ask the VA health care questions, including concerns about its pro-

posals to reduce physical and mental health services.

This first veterans-focused town hall for Baker, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Morrow counties follows a letter Wyden wrote in May about VA recommendations that the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Walla Walla be reclassified to a community-based outpatient clinic and to move its 31-bed residential rehabilitation treatment program 180 miles north of Walla Walla to Spokane. The an-

nouncement from Wyden's office said that is an issue on the table during the town hall.

"The message I heard consistently at my recent town halls in Eastern Oregon made it clear that veterans have lacked a real opportunity to share their legitimate concerns about how these proposed changes will reduce access to both physical and mental health care," Wyden said. "Veterans deserve topnotch care here at home thanks to their service, and I'm committed to working with them and the VA through these veterans-only

town halls to brainstorm solutions to secure that quality and accessible care."

Veterans, their families and veterans service providers interested in participating with Wyden, Walla Walla VAMC Director Scott Kelter and Teresa D. Boyd, network director, VISN 20, in this online meeting, can submit questions at bit.ly/3LYF5TA. The link to watch the June 4 meeting is at bit.ly/3N2tkSW.

Dates, formats and times for the next two veterans-focused town halls in Eastern Oregon will be announced soon.

COVID cases rose a bit during May

Numbers still well below most months during pandemic

Baker City Herald

COVID-19 cases increased in Baker County during May, mirroring state and national trends, but the county's numbers remained well below levels during most of the pandemic. The Baker County Health

Department reported 44 cases during May.

That's up from 13 in April and 14 in March.

Except for those two months, however, May's total was less than any other month since June 2020.

The number of tests in the county has been relatively steady, ranging from 139 to 147 over the past three weeks.

Baker County had a record 646 cases during January 2022, the peak of the omicron surge.

Case totals dropped rapidly thereafter, to 230 during February, before the even more precipitous decline during March and April.

Statewide, case rates rose for eight straight weeks before declining by 13% for the week ending May 30, according to statistics from the Oregon Health Authority.

The number of people in Oregon hospitals who have tested positive for COVID-19 has increased from 89 on April 12

to 303 on May 31. Of those, 29 were being treated in an intensive care unit.

The number of COVID-19-related deaths statewide dropped from 626 during February 2022 to 69 in April. May's total was 71 deaths through May 26.

Baker County has reported only one COVID-19-related death since mid March — on April 23. There have been 49 deaths in the county related to the virus during the pandemic.

Fire destroys Jeep, doesn't spread

Baker City Herald

A Jeep Cherokee was destroyed in a fire, but no one was hurt and the flames didn't spread into the nearby forest on Saturday, May 28 on the Marble Creek Pass road about 9 miles west of Baker City.

The fire happened a little before 8 a.m.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, who responded to the 911 call from the Jeep's owner, Pat Thomas, said Thomas was alone in the vehicle.

Ash said Thomas, who was planning to go for a mountain bike ride, noticed smoke coming from the engine compartment of the early 1990s vehicle.

Thomas parked in a turnout beside Marble Creek, about a mile before the road leading to the picnic area.

Flames had melted the hood latch, Ash said.

The cause of the fire isn't known, he said.

Thomas called 911 at



Baker County Sheriff's Office/Contributed Photo

A fire that started in the engine compartment destroyed a Jeep Cherokee along Marble Creek Pass road on Saturday, May 28, 2022. The driver, who was alone in the vehicle, was not hurt.

7:54 a.m., according to the Baker County Dispatch Center.

Ash said that when he arrived the Jeep was "fully engulfed" in flames, and it wasn't possible to douse the fire with a handheld extinguisher.

Sean Lee, chief of the Baker Rural Fire District, ar-

rived with a tanker truck and was able to control the fire, Ash said.

Ash said it was fortunate that the fire happened now, after a period of cool, rainy weather, rather than later in the summer, when the flames might have spread into the forest.

"We're lucky it's early in the season, and it was really wet out there," he said.

News of Record

DEATHS

Orlowna 'Lony' Smith: 60, of Baker City, died May 29, 2022, at her home with family at her side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

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

Samuel F. Orr: Celebration of life, June 18 at 1 p.m. at the Haines city park.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

PROBATION VIOLATION: Jason Richard Harris, 39, Baker City, 3:19 a.m. Wednesday, June 1 on Campbell Street at Geiser-Pollman Park.

OFFENSIVE LITTERING: Tanner Lynn Snodgrass, 51, Baker City, 4:19 p.m. Tuesday, May 31 on W. Sutton Creek Road; cited and released.

UNION COUNTY WARRANTS: Taylor Gordon Morris, 30, La Grande, 8:22 p.m. Monday, May 30 at David Eccles Road and Highway 7; cited and released.

Oregon State Police

Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Jason Boyd Broadfoot, 49, Island City, 1:59 p.m. Monday, May 30 on Highway 7, Milepost 25; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING: Denise Andrea Spacal, 72, Portland, 5:02 p.m. Sunday, May 29 on Interstate 84, Milepost 306 westbound; cited and released.

Rachel Pregnancy Center

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★ JUNE 3-9 ★

TOP GUN MAVERICK (PG-13)

Friday 4:00, 7:00

Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00

Mon-Thurs 7:00

DOWNTON ABBEY

A NEW ERA (PG)

Friday 4:10, 7:10

Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10

Mon-Thurs 7:10

DR. STRANGE

MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS (PG-13)

Friday 4:15, 7:15

Sat & Sun 1:15, 4:15, 7:15

Mon-Wed 7:15

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