Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

June 6, 1972

For the second time in two weeks, someone "turned off" the city of Baker's water supply and Vern Jacobson, city manager, is a little upset.

The stoppage didn't affect city residents, however, since the turn off valve is located between the reservoir and the city's watershed in the Elkhorn Mountains but the reservoir pool dropped six feet during the halt, and "that's bad," according to Jacobson.

"Another six feet and we'd be running short of water," he said yesterday.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 6, 1997

A state committee has begun a process that could end with the State Historic Preservation Office removing the Baker Hotel from a property tax relief program.

The three-member Historic Assessment Review Committee voted unanimously Wednesday to determine whether the owners of the 10-story building are still eligible to participate in the state's special assessment program.

Under that voluntary program, which is open to buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the property's assessed value is frozen, for purposes of local property taxes, for 15 years. The state added the Baker Hotel to the program in 1993. Last year its owners, Jim Olson of Bend and Tom Donnell of Scottsdale, Ariz., saved \$1,391 in property taxes because of the program.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 6, 2012

Early June downpours aren't exactly rare in Baker County.

But Monday's was.

The torrents that sluiced down starting around midafternoon and continued well past nightfall added up to a rainfall total than more than doubled the previous record

By midnight, 1.03 inches of rain had splashed into the gauge at the Baker City Municipal Airport.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 8, 2021

Grey skies, sprinkles of rain and chilly winds had no effect on the cheers that erupted at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium Sunday afternoon, June 6.

Baker High School's class of 2021 was joined by friends and family to celebrate what they achieved despite having their final two years of high school greatly affected by the pandemic.

Commencement speaker Nicole (Butler) Sullivan, a science teacher at BHS, recalled how she taught many of the graduates when they were first-graders, then later while teaching at Baker Middle School and to her current position.

"I'm so thrilled I get to see your faces without masks on one last time before you guys go out there," Sullivan said.

She offered the graduates several points of advice, including the importance of traveling. She encouraged students to go places, learn, and experience new things, and to be excited in the moment during "these precious

"If you can't travel, experience culture from people that you come across from other walks of life, states, countries," Sullivan said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS. JUNE 4

1-4-6-25-33-44 Next jackpot: \$1.7 million

POWERBALL, JUNE 4

14-16-36-52-60 PB 16 Next jackpot: \$198 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JUNE 3

Next jackpot: \$207 million

11-16-22-48-59 Mega 11

WIN FOR LIFE. JUNE 4 15 - 34 - 43 - 52

PICK 4, JUNE 5

• 1 p.m.: 5-2-7-5

• 4 p.m.: 4-3-6-6• 7 p.m.: 2 - 9 - 5 - 5

• 10 p.m.: 3-9-8-0

LUCKY LINES, JUNE 5

3-8-10-13-18-24-25-29

Next jackpot: \$55,000

SENIOR MENUS

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 FRIDAY (June 10): Clam chowder, Caesar salad, rolls, apple

MONDAY (June 13): Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, pudding TUESDAY (June 14): Roasted turkey with gravy, stuffing, carrots, rolls, macaroni salad, cookies

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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The Observer

BY ANDREW CUTLER

LA GRANDE — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's already mostly carbon-free power supply is about to get a little greener.

The Baker City-based cooperative will begin work this fall on a 500-panel community solar project near the cooperative's Gekeler Lane substation outside La Grande. Construction on the project is expected to take just one month to complete and put into service, according to the cooperative, which serves about 23,000 customers in four Eastern Oregon counties

"Our highest priority is to serve our membership so we put together this project," said Charlie Tracy, the cooperative's director of engineering. "It's on property here in Union County. It's in La Grande. So we're excited about it. That's also the district where we've seen the most interest, so we're excited to be able to have it be local and have a member be able to drive by the place that they know that their power is coming from."

This is the utility's first solar project.

"You can't really say you're an expert in solar farms until you build one, right? So a big part of it is to gain expertise and become experts in the changing landscape," Tracy said. "In another year, we'll really know quite a lot about it. This is part of that learning process.'

Oregon Trail members will have the option of helping finance the project by buying



Joseph Hathaway/Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative

This field along U.S. Highway 30 outside La Grande will be home to Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's 500-panel community solar project. The project is slated to be operational by fall 2022.

subscriptions. When the solar project begins generating clean energy, members will start receiving a credit on their utility bill for their portion of the electricity generated.

"We meter it just like we would a house or a load, and then we divide the output, so the energy that's generated within a given month, we divide it up into portions," Tracy said. "Those portions are sold to a member as a subscription. So essentially, they pre-purchase the output of the array and that output is then applied to their bill to subtract off, essentially, their usage."

Subscriptions, which are on a first-come, first-served basis, will cost \$250 per share and are available to anyone living or doing business in the OTEC service area, which includes Baker, Union, Grant and Harney counties.

"We broke it up into what we think are affordable, small portions because one of the things we've heard from members is roof-top solar has an extremely high upfront cost," Tracy said. "What the com-

munity solar project brings to people is the ability to buy into it at smaller increments — \$250 per portion."

The 500 panels will generate approximately 200 kilowatts of electricity that will be distributed along OTEC's system.

'We're hoping that if shares sell quickly that we can expand it," Tracy said. "Ultimately, we'd like to have one in each of our service territories."

The subscription will be good for 20 years and can be moved around within the cooperative's service territory or can be gifted to someone. "Let's say you move out of

territory, you can gift it to your friend, neighbor or kids," said Joseph Hathaway, the cooperative's communications manager. "That share will still continue up until 20 years." Tracy said members will see

no increase in their monthly bill to pay for the cost of the solar farm, because the costs are covered by the members who purchase subscriptions.

More than 94% of the power Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative receives from Bonneville

More Information

For more information on the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's solar farm, visit the cooperative's website at otec.coop.

Power Administration is carbon-free, with about 85% of it being from hydroelectric.

"We've got a phenomenal, enviable power supply, as good or better than anywhere in the world in terms of its low environmental impact and climate change carbon impact," Tracy said. "So we feel really good about that and really positive about it. But beyond that, we're working on this project to supply an even more local and even more renewable power supply that a lot of our members have asked for."

Hathaway said the solar project came from some of the surveying the cooperative has done over the years.

"I think the last survey we saw, it was around 20% said that they would like to have that solar option," he said.

Five cited after fight outside Club 41

BY JAYSON JACOBY jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Five Baker City residents have been cited on misdemeanor charges from a fight that started when one of them threw a beer bottle, nearly hitting another person in the parking lot of Club 41 on April 29.

Baker City Police responded to the incident that evening, but the people involved gave conflicting accounts, Baker

County District Attorney Greg Baxter said.

He said the charges, which were filed last week, are based on video from a surveillance camera at Baker Vision Clinic, just west of Club 41, which is at 2129 Second St. According to a probable

cause affidavit Baxter filed, Daniel Isaac Stone, 44, his wife, Marianne Hope Stone, 43, and sons, Gavin Rea Stone, 18, and Graison Stone, were walking to dinner at a nearby restaurant on the evening of April 29. Jeremy Michael Bender, 31,

who works at Club 41, threw a beer bottle that "narrowly misses" Graison Stone's head, according to the May 27 affidavit Baxter wrote describing the incident and listing the charges. Baxter said Bender claimed

someone from the group had kicked a Club 41 sign, but Baxter said the video didn't show that.

After Bender threw the bottle — Baxter said he didn't know how much liquid it contained — Daniel, Marianne and Gavin Stone "and several other individuals quickly aggressively approach Jeremy Bender." In the ensuing altercation,

Daniel and Gavin Stone were seen on video punching, kicking or pushing Bender, according to Baxter's affidavit.

See, Club/Page A3

News of Record

Donna Pohl: 80. of Baker City, died June 5, 2022, at Settler's Park Assisted Living in Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www. tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Merrilyn Seal: 74, of Halfway, died June 4, 2022, at her home, surrounded by her family. A celebration of Merrilyn's life will take place on Friday, July 1 at 10 a.m. at Richard and Merrilyn Seal's residence. For those who would like to make a donation in Merrilyn's memory, the family suggests the Halfway/Oxbow Ambulance 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.

FUNERALS PENDING

Charles Richard 'Dick' Kirby: Celebration of life will take place

Wednesday, June 8 at 1 p.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7, with a reception following. Pastor Jesse Whitford will officiate. A private family urn burial will follow the reception at Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. To light a candle in Dick's honor, or to offer online condolences to his family, go to www.grayswestco.com. Donna Jean Jackson Forsea Terrell:

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Saturday 8 am - 5 pm

Closed Sun

Graveside service, Thursday, June 9 at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. A reception will follow the service at the Eagle Valley Grange. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Best Friends of Baker or Eagle Valley Grange through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www. tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com. Carol Bouchard: Graveside military

service will be Friday, June 10 at 3 p.m. at the North Powder Cemetery. A celebration Carol's life will follow at 4 p.m. at the Wolf Creek Grange in North Powder. For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Carol, they may do so a charity of their choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www. tamispine valley funeral home.com.

Robert Isaac Watson: Graveside service Monday, June 20 at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Pastor Jesse Whitford of the Baker City Christian Church will officiate. Memorial contributions can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project

through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Robert's memory, or to offer online condolences to his family, go to www.grayswestco.

Bob Pollock: A celebration of Bob's life will take place Saturday, June 11 at 11 a.m. at the Pine Valley Fairgrounds in Halfway. Please come and join us as we share good food and stories. For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Bob, they may do so a charity of their choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www. tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com. William Jackson: A celebration of

William's life will take place Saturday, June 11 at 2 p.m. at the Halfway Lions Hall. Donations to Community Connection in his honor would be greatly appreciated, and can be made hrough Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www. tamispine valley funeral home.com.

Samuel F. Orr: Celebration of life, June 18 at 1 p.m. at the Haines city park. David G. Cherry: Graveside service will be Friday, June 17 at 2 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Bill Rompa will officiate the service. To leave an online condolence for David's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Larry Merl Barker. 41, Baker City, 8:48 p.m. Sunday, June 5 at Indiana Avenue and Highway 7; cited and released.

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO A MOTOR VEHICLE, THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Coty Daniel Hanson, 26, Baker City, 8:39 p.m. Sunday, June 5 in the 200 block of Foothill Drive; cited and released. PROBATION VIOLATION: Sammy Garcia Jr., 37, Baker City, 7:51 p.m. Sunday, June 5 in the 2200 block of 10th Street; jailed. PAROLE VIOLATION: Robert John Wagner, 33, Portland, 9:36 p.m. Friday, June 3 at D and Main streets; jailed.





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