

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

June 20, 1972

Lack of appreciation both figuratively and monetarily were the reasons city manager Vern Jacobson cited for turning in his resignation Monday to be effective July 15.

"It just is not worth it," Jacobson declared in a resignation letter to Mayor H.B. (Bard) Johnson and the city council.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 20, 1997

It seems safe to assume that Donald Fulcher and Damon Cox are the first Baker City residents to have a basketball game interrupted by a rattlesnake.

Fulcher, 12, and Cox, 19, were shooting baskets Sunday afternoon at Fulcher's home, 2290 Seventh St., when Fulcher heard a rattling noise.

The sound was coming from a juniper bush near the sidewalk at the corner of Sixth and Baker streets, he said.

Fulcher said he initially thought it was a rattlesnake. He quickly discounted the idea as ridiculous.

But as he and Cox approached the bush, a snake showed its head.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 22, 2012

When the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest returns to the public arena later this summer with the controversial plan to ban motor vehicles from some forest roads, officials will be listening more than talking.

"We need to listen and to figure out what are people's concerns with the plan," Wallowa-Whitman spokesman Mat Burks said on Thursday. "They can't just be presentations, but literally round-table discussions where everyone gets a chance to speak."

"We're coming to the table because we want to make it a better plan," Burks said.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 22, 2021

Jackie and Virgil Borger will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 23.

When the couple, who live in Baker Valley near Haines, were married, World War II had ended less than a year ago. Harry S. Truman was president.

To celebrate three-quarters of a century together, Jackie, 94, and Virgil, 96, were joined this past weekend at their home by their two daughters, five grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

"We have boneless pork ribs every year, and so the whole family looks forward to that," Virgil said. "And then we make umpteen dozen chocolate chip cookies."

Virgil's mother came up with the cookie recipe more than 100 years ago. For their 70th anniversary, the couple baked 35 dozen cookies, which were gone in five days.

The Borgers' family visits nearly every July. The kids love to attend the Fourth of July parade in Haines, and several family members have birthdays during that month. Jackie and Virgil have a decoration in their home that helps them keep track of all the birthdays and anniversaries in the family.

"If we live to 120, we could have six generations," Virgil joked in an interview at the couple's home on June 17.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JUNE 18

9 - 12 - 25 - 40 - 42 - 43

Next jackpot: \$2.3 million

POWERBALL, JUNE 18

10 - 19 - 40 - 45 - 58 PB 15

Next jackpot: \$296 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JUNE 17

20 - 36 - 53 - 56 - 69 Mega 16

Next jackpot: \$290 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JUNE 18

14 - 29 - 38 - 62

PICK 4, JUNE 19

• 1 p.m.: 6 - 2 - 9 - 8

• 4 p.m.: 9 - 7 - 3 - 1

• 7 p.m.: 5 - 6 - 4 - 9

• 10 p.m.: 9 - 3 - 3 - 4

LUCKY LINES, JUNE 19

2-8-9-16-20-21-27-30

Next jackpot: \$14,000

SENIOR MENUS

WEDNESDAY (June 22): Stuffed peppers, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, green salad, lemon squares

THURSDAY (June 23): Orange glazed chicken, rice, broccoli, rolls, green salad, cheesecake

FRIDAY (June 24): Barbecued ribs, baked beans, capri vegetables, rolls, coleslaw, apple crisp

MONDAY (June 27): Chicken strips, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit cup, cookies

TUESDAY (June 28): Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, rolls, three-bean salad, brownies

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

Open Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Publisher

Karrine Brogotti

kbrogotti@lagrandeobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Advertising email

ads@bakercityherald.com

Classified email

classified@bakercityherald.com

Circulation email

circ@bakercityherald.com

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Truck snags wire, knocks out power

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A snapping rubber band can deliver a brief sting to the skin.

But when the elements involved are rather more robust — a semi truck hauling a piece of heavy equipment and a length of wire pulled past its breaking point — the force is exponentially greater. And so is the damage, Charlie Tracy said.

Tracy is the director of engineering for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC).

He used the rubber band analogy to describe an incident that led to a power outage that affected all of Baker City and extended to Haines, North Powder and other surrounding areas around 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 15.

The outage lasted just a few seconds for most OTEC members.

About 1,000 were without power for about 38 minutes. OTEC crews rerouted power to isolate the outage to eight customers, near where a power pole was snapped. Those members were without power for about three and a half hours, said Joseph Hathaway, OTEC's communications manager.

The episode started when a semi truck hauling a piece of forestry equipment was driving on Myrtle Street near Eighth Street. That's part of the truck route that departs Highway 7 in south Baker City and bypasses downtown.

The equipment snagged a wire owned by Spectrum, the cable TV, internet and phone utility, Tracy said.

Those wires are attached to the power poles that OTEC owns and that also carry the cooperative's electric lines.

As the piece of equipment continued down the street, it pulled the Spectrum wire, stretching it tight and also putting



Joe Hathaway/Contributed Photo

An Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative power pole was snapped Wednesday morning, June 15, 2022. A passing truck hauling a piece of heavy equipment snagged a Spectrum telecommunications wire, pulling it taut and eventually snapping it. The force broke the power pole and led to a power outage.

considerable pressure on nearby poles, Tracy said.

When the wire snapped the force broke a wooden power pole on Eighth Street, just north of Myrtle.

The Spectrum wire also made brief contact with an OTEC transmission line on the opposite side of Myrtle Street, Tracy said.

That contact tripped a circuit breaker at OTEC's Elm Street substation, causing the blip that affected the entire city.

Because the Spectrum wire touched the OTEC transmission line for just an instant, the power was restored almost immediately, Tracy said.

The system is designed to reenergize a power line if the "fault" that caused the problem no longer is present, he said.

The outage lasted longer for about 1,000 customers whose power was supplied by the distribution line — which is separate from the transmission line —

that includes the snapped power pole on Eighth Street.

OTEC workers routed power around the section of line on Eighth Street, limiting the outage to eight or nine members who are served by the transformer that was on the pole.

OTEC crews replaced that pole — at an estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 — later Wednesday, Tracy said.

Baker City Police Sgt. Mike Regan said on Wednesday that the highest point of the equipment the truck was hauling was measured at 13 feet, 2 inches.

Kandi Young of the Oregon Public Utility Commission wrote in an email to the Herald that the National Electric Safety Code, which Oregon follows, requires communications cables to be at least 15 feet, 6 inches over a roadway, and power lines to be at least 16 feet.

Tracy said the investigation was continuing to try to determine whether the Spectrum wire was at the proper height.

He said high-voltage power lines generally are placed above other lines, such as Spectrum's, since the danger posed by electric lines is much greater.

"We're always doing everything we can to make sure there's proper clearance," Tracy said.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission requires OTEC and other utilities to inspect their lines regularly, he said.

The outage affected the refrigerated sections at the Baker City Safeway store, prompting its closure on Thursday, June 16.

"The store employees are working hard to get the store back where it needs to be!" Jill McGinnis, director of communications, public affairs & government relations, wrote in an email to the Herald on Friday morning, June 17. The store was open on Friday.

Pine Eagle's Will Seggerman wins scholarship

Baker City Herald

Will Seggerman, a 2022 graduate of Pine Eagle High School in Halfway, is one of four Oregon high school students to win a \$1,000 college scholarship through the OnPoint Community Credit Union Scholar Program.

OnPoint, which partners with the Oregon School Activities Association, awarded two \$5,000 scholarships and four for \$1,000 each.

Seggerman is the only Eastern Oregon graduate to be awarded.

OnPoint's Scholar

Program honors graduating Oregon high school seniors who have earned a 3.50 or higher unweighted cumulative grade point average, and have earned a varsity letter in an OSAA-sanctioned sport or competed in an OSAA-sanctioned activity. Winners were selected based on letters of recommendation and personal essays that described their community



Seggerman

leadership, classroom success, and how participating in OSAA activities helped them achieve their goals.

Seggerman was valedictorian of his class after making the honor roll for seven straight semesters while taking 14 college-level courses and earning almost 50 college credits before graduating.

He competed in wrestling, qualifying for the state tour-

namment this year. He was also captain of the Spartan football team and participated in Future Farmers of America, band, speech and class leadership activities.

For his senior project, Seggerman organized and led a project to maintain the 10-mile Lake Fork trail in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest northeast of Halfway.

He plans to attend the University of Idaho and major in wildlife and fisheries biology.

Chip sealing planned on Blue Mountain Byway

Baker City Herald

PENDLETON — Contractors are preparing to chip seal about 33 miles of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway on the North Fork John Day Ranger District between Ukiah and the boundary between the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman

national forests.

Work is scheduled to begin soon, and last about four weeks. The project will result in delays, with flaggers and pilot cars. Signs will be posted at each end of the work zone.

Money for the chip seal project is part of a \$285 million investment on national

forests through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, established in 2020 by the Great American Outdoors Act.

Blue Mountain, Hells Canyon byways open

Both the Blue Mountain and the Hells Canyon Scenic

Byways are fully open after sections were blocked by lingering snow during the cooler than usual spring.

A section of the Elkhorn Drive byway, however, remains closed due to snowdrifts, from near Anthony Lakes to around the lower Crawfish Lake trailhead.

News of Record

DEATHS

Mitchel Trent Thomas: 47, of the Wingville area near Baker City, died June 17, 2022, at his home. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., To light a candle in Mitchel's memory, go to www.coletributecenter.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Theodore Edward 'Ted' Dockweiler: Graveside service Friday, June 24 at 2 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Please bring your fondest memories of Ted to share with family and friends.

Judith Lee 'Judy' Folkman: A celebration of her life will take place Saturday, June 25 at 11 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 1734 Third St. in Baker City, with Pastor Ian Wolfe officiating. A reception will follow in

the church fellowship hall. Memorial contributions can be made to the First Lutheran Church through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Judy's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Wade Dahlen: Interment will be Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. at the Rock Creek Cemetery. A luncheon will follow for family and friends at the Dahlen home.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Union County Circuit Court warrant): Christina Jean Hinkley, 31, La Grande, 10:46 p.m.

Sunday, June 19 at 13th and K streets; jailed.

THIRD-DEGREE THEFT: Chloe Taylor Virginia Stoffelson, 25, Baker City, 8:36 p.m. Sunday, June 19 at Auburn Avenue and

Birch Street; cited and released. **VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER:** Sean Dean Taylor, 31, Baker City, 7:06 p.m. Sunday, June 19 at Valley Avenue and East Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

HARASSMENT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Jensen Rose Longden, 30, Baker City, 3:52 p.m. Sunday, June 19 near 10th and Pochontas; cited and released.

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