

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

June 25, 1972

A land exchange program for public benefit and to simplify administration has been launched by the State of Oregon and the Bureau of Land Management.

Scope of the land exchange program encompasses nearly all of Eastern Oregon, where state lands are intermingled with BLM lands.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 25, 1997

A Baker City man on Tuesday urged the City Council to install stop signs or take other steps to slow traffic on the Indiana Avenue hill.

David Densley, who lives on 11th Street near the east crest of the hill, said it is much more dangerous now than it was during the winter, when the city closed the hill to traffic because vehicles have trouble climbing the 16-percent grade when the street is snow- or ice-covered.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 25, 2012

About a dozen firefighters stopped a probable lightning-sparked wildfire near Sumpter on Sunday evening that, though relatively small, spread more quickly than crews expected for the first weekend of summer.

The Larch fire burned about four acres on a ridgetop about four miles west of Sumpter, said Willy Crippen, fire management officer for the Willowa-Whitman National Forest's Burnt-Powder Fire zone.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

June 26, 2021

A heatwave that's underway this weekend and will extend well into next week could break multiple temperature records in Baker City, including one that's stood for more than half a century.

The intrusion of scorching air from the desert Southwest might also make this June the hottest on record here.

Based on forecasts from the National Weather Service, the hot spell is likely to break daily high temperature records on at least four consecutive days, starting Monday, June 28.

Sunday's record is in jeopardy as well.

Here are the daily records from June 27 through July 1, and the forecast highs at the airport:

- June 27 — record high, 99 (2015), forecast high, 98
- June 28 — record high, 99 (2015), forecast high, 100
- June 29 — record high, 98 (1976), forecast high, 104
- June 30 — record high, 95 (2008), forecast high, 104
- July 1 — record high, 97 (2013), forecast high, 102

But this heatwave isn't threatening daily records only.

If the forecast proves accurate for either June 29 or 30, and the temperature eclipses 102 on either day, that will set a new all-time heat record for June.

Since 1943, the temperature has topped 100 degrees at the airport on just two days during that month. Those happened to be consecutive days in June 1961, when the temperature reached 102 on June 17, and 101 on June 18.

June 1961 claims another steamy superlative that could be erased next week.

Helped considerably by those two triple-digit days, June 1961's average high temperature was 84.1 degrees — the hottest on record for the month.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JUNE 22

1-4-12-23-31-44

Next jackpot: \$2.5 million

POWERBALL, JUNE 22

6-10-31-48-56 PB 12

Next jackpot: \$335 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JUNE 21

8-13-18-32-42 Mega 20

Next jackpot: \$312 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JUNE 22

36-40-65-68

PICK 4, JUNE 23

• 1 p.m.: 9-0-3-0

• 4 p.m.: 2-8-2-1

• 7 p.m.: 8-1-7-9

• 10 p.m.: 5-9-3-5

LUCKY LINES, JUNE 23

2-7-12-13-17-24-27-30

Next jackpot: \$18,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

WEDNESDAY (June 29): Pork roast, stuffing with gravy, baby carrots, rolls, applesauce, birthday cake

THURSDAY (June 30): Chef salad, cheesy breadsticks, tapioca, fruit cup

FRIDAY (July 1): Beef stew, broccoli, biscuits, green salad, peach crisp

MONDAY (July 4): Closed for Independence Day

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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Theater

Continued from A1

The film was originally scheduled to be released in the summer of 2020.

It was one of several major movies postponed due to the pandemic. The lack of new releases, combined with extended closures of theaters and occupancy limits even when they reopened, devastated the industry.

The Eltrym was closed for much of 2020, and it had to limit the number of patrons for a few months after reopening in March 2021.

McQuisten said in July 2021 that the theater's revenue had dropped 94% during the pandemic.

That made the Eltrym eligible for a federal grant.

McQuisten also submitted written testimony in support of a bill in the Oregon Legislature that would have offered grants to theaters. That bill didn't pass, however.

In her letter to the Legislature, McQuisten wrote: "We are determined to survive this pandemic. It has been a year, though, and we are now beginning to make payments on (loans). In effect, we've taken out loans to pay loans. All the while, we've been doing our best to adapt to provide a safe environment for our guests by investing in air scrubbers for our HVAC and devoting more staff time to cleaning."

A little more than a year later, buoyed by the blockbusters and the prospect of more to come, McQuisten is seeing the industry turn from diving to thriving, even with competition from online streaming services.

"I've always had confidence



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Eltrym Theater owner Terry McQuisten is considering expanding the mural on the outside wall now occupied only by "Movie Mouse."

"We've been having our busiest June since 2004. We were hoping to get to 80% of our sales projections, but we're far over that for the month of June. It's been really uplifting for everybody."

— Terry McQuisten, Eltrym Theater owner

in the industry, we saw what happened with streaming and it never really hurt us," McQuisten said. "What people get out of the theater is getting out of the house and getting an experience."

McQuisten said she was concerned about whether the movie industry, after shifting to streaming services during the first stage of the pandemic, would return to a more tradi-

tional release schedule.

"What I didn't have confidence in is what the movie studios would do with their streaming, like Disney+," she said.

McQuisten's business isn't immune to inflation, but thanks to the grant and to the recent influx of moviegoers, she hasn't had to raise ticket prices.

"We haven't changed prices

since before the pandemic," she said, although she noted that supply chain issues have been a problem.

"It has me chasing down popcorn bags online, they're actually pretty difficult to find," she said.

McQuisten said her next move might involve lending space for public art.

She'd like to have custom posters installed in the show-case displays on the south side of the building, and she's also interested in having a mural painted by a local artist.

The art would likely complement the Banksy "Movie Mouse" anonymously stenciled on the alley wall on the west side of the Eltrym 13 years ago.

OREGON

Crime lab error led to incorrect blood alcohol levels in DUI cases

BY GARRETT ANDREWS

The Bulletin

Hundreds of Oregon DUI cases were given incorrect blood alcohol levels, according to a discovery by the state crime lab, which said the levels were off by fractions of a percent due to incorrectly calibrated equipment.

Law enforcement officials say the errors show a defendant's blood alcohol level as slightly lower than it actually was. The legal limit for blood alcohol content in Oregon is 0.08% for drivers.

The faulty equipment affected 652 cases in Oregon, according to a June 17 email to law enforcement agencies around the state from Brian Medlock, the director of the Oregon State Police forensic services division.

"This letter is to inform you of a number of analytical reports that contained incorrect blood alcohol values for work performed from July 14, 2020, through March 22, 2022," Medlock wrote.

Medlock said on March 22, OSP employees identified an error in the calibration of an instrument in the Portland crime laboratory. The calibration error was corrected the next day.

According to the email, all casework that utilized the Portland instrument between July 14, 2020, and March 22, 2022, was reprocessed by OSP



Garrett Andrews/The Bulletin file

In this December 2021 file photo, Bend officer Zach Childers enters information into an Intoxilyzer breath test machine at the Bend Police Department. The Oregon State Police crime lab said incorrectly calibrated equipment led to incorrect readings of blood alcohol content in hundreds of cases.

using the correct calibration parameters.

All cases analyzed after March 23 are unaffected, Medlock wrote.

In Deschutes County, two of the 652 cases were flagged as having incorrect results, according to the Deschutes County District Attorney's office.

One is a Bend Police case with a blood alcohol level originally tested at 0.147%, and that was adjusted to 0.146%. The other instance was a medical examiner's investigation where the blood alcohol level was originally 0.294% and was adjusted to

0.292%.

Every other local blood alcohol level reading was erroneously low by 0.001 or 0.002%.

So far, no known defendant in Deschutes County has filed a motion to undo a DUI conviction, District Attorney John Hummel told The Bulletin.

"I'm aware of the issue, and we are addressing it," Hummel said. "Fortunately, the vast majority of erroneous results were lower than the person's actual blood alcohol level."

Bend defense attorney and DUI specialist Bryan Dona-

"I think the concerning thing about this is, this was going on for almost two years? That's so many cases."

— Bryan Donahue, Oregon defense attorney and DUI specialist

hue said some of Medlock's wording minimizes the problem of inaccurate test results.

"I think the concerning thing about this is, this was going on for almost two years?" Donahue said. "That's so many cases."

Donahue said his office received a notice from OSP that the agency now sends its drug testing blood samples to NMS Labs in Pennsylvania. And he's been told OSP now conducts its alcohol blood testing at its lab in Springfield instead of Portland.

Donahue said even if the method is correct, even a simple device like a scale will produce an incorrect measurement if not properly calibrated.

"These forensic toxicologists come into court and they testify that their method of analysis is the quote-unquote Gold Standard of analysis," Donahue said. "But I think that we're finding there's a lot of tarnish on that gold."

News of Record

DEATHS

Pamela Lee Haney: 66, of Baker City, died June 21, 2022, at her home. A service will take place later in Echo. To leave an online condolence for Pamela's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Leigh Ann Hunter: 41, of Baker City, died June 21, 2022, at her home. To leave an online condolence for Leigh Ann's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Sharon Lee Beck, 36, Baker City, 1:55 a.m.

Friday, June 24 at Main and Broadway streets; cited and released.

TELEPHONIC HARASSMENT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Christopher James Bays, 36, Ronan, Montana, 11:16 a.m. Thursday, June 23 at the police department; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, CARELESS DRIVING, DRIVING UNINSURED: Sherri Lynn Fuller, 51, Haines, 7:36 a.m. Thursday, June 23 in the 2200 block of Resort Street;

CONTEMPT OF COURT (two Baker County Justice Court warrants): Markus Damian Dethloff, 22, Baker City, 4:50 a.m. Thursday, June 23 at Madison and Balm streets; cited and released.

HARASSMENT: Brian Mathew Wendt, 65, Baker City,

12:46 p.m. Wednesday, June 22 in the 1600 block of Eldon Avenue; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

HARASSMENT (domestic): Casey Lyn Lick, 48, Baker City, 6:02 p.m. Thursday, June 23 on Sumpter Stage Highway; cited and released.

BAKER COUNTY JUSTICE COURT WARRANT: Keith Edward Gassin, 47, Baker City, 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 22 on Old Highway 30; cited and released.

BAKER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT WARRANT (pointing a firearm at another, recklessly endangering another person): Whitney Michelle Collins, 34, Baker City, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, June 22 at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released.

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