

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
June 27, 1972

Even though the total pieces of mail handled at the Baker Post Office dropped in 1971, sales showed an increase over 1970.

During the last six months of 1971, mail handled totalled 5,334,814, compared to 5,436,721. Gross sales of metered stamps, stamps and envelopes in 1971 amounted to \$297,243.61. Sales in 1970 were \$271,265.47.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
June 25, 1997

A small, apparently human-caused fire Wednesday afternoon burned a camp trailer and bus near Whitney.

The fire, which was less than one-quarter acre, burned on both private property and U.S. Forest Service land, said Brett Thomas of the Burnt-Powder Fire Zone.

The Forest Service is still investigating the fire to determine its cause, Thomas said. It was not sparked by lightning, he said.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
June 27, 2012

To celebrate donating his 100th pint of blood, Father Julian Cassar challenged himself to find 10 new donors. He recruited 12.

All he said was: "To commemorate my 100th, will you donate?"

Colleen Brooks, local chair for the blood drive, said the quote for Baker is 60 people per day for the two-day drive.

Prior to each drive, she calls more than 200 potential donors.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
June 29, 2021

A California man who nearly crashed into multiple vehicles while driving erratically in Baker City on Saturday afternoon, June 26, resisted arrest after he pulled into a parking lot following a brief chase.

Matthew David Post, 30, of Berkeley, was taken to the Baker County Jail a little after 5 p.m.

Baker County Dispatch received a report of a vehicle driving erratically on Campbell Street, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Talon Colton saw the 2005 black Acura sedan driving north on 10th Street, pulled behind the car and turned on his emergency lights.

Post, who was driving, changed lanes multiple times then pulled over on 10th Street. When Colton stopped his patrol car, Post drove away, continuing north on 10th Street. He turned east onto Hughes Lane, then pulled into the parking lot for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry office at 2895 Hughes Lane. According to the press release, Post "appeared agitated and refused to exit the vehicle."

Lewis thrusts his arm into a spray of green foliage that's bursting from a patch of black ground.

This is a willow too.

A new willow, fresh as lettuce plucked from a garden, and about knee-high on Lewis' tan pants.

Its flexible shoots and lance-shaped leaves have risen from the ash since flames swept through here almost two months to the day.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JUNE 25

8-17-18-24-29-36

Next jackpot: \$2.6 million

POWERBALL, JUNE 25

6-12-20-27-32 PB 4

Next jackpot: \$346 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JUNE 25

1-7-11-25-56 Mega 14

Next jackpot: \$328 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JUNE 25

7-37-43-68

PICK 4, JUNE 26

• 1 p.m.: 3-8-2-7

• 4 p.m.: 4-6-6-0

• 7 p.m.: 7-6-4-2

• 10 p.m.: 4-7-5-7

LUCKY LINES, JUNE 26

3-5-10-16-19-24-25-29

Next jackpot: \$21,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

TUESDAY (July 5): Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, corn, biscuits, fruit cup, ice cream

WEDNESDAY (July 6): Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, rice pilaf, peas and carrots, rolls, green 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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Oregon business groups challenge rules to protect workers from heat

Legal challenge also mentions wildfire smoke

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian

A coalition of Oregon business groups have filed a lawsuit challenging the state's job-site rules mandating that employers take steps to protect workers from extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

Regulations adopted in May by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division lay out steps employers must take once the temperature or air quality reaches a certain threshold. The heat rules went into effect June 15, while the wildfire smoke rules are set to go into effect July 1.

Oregon Manufacturers and Commerce, Associated Oregon Loggers Inc. and the Oregon Forest & Industries Council, which together represent more than 1,000 Oregon companies and 50 forestland owners, are seeking an injunction to prohibit the state from enforcing the new rules. The groups filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Medford the day the first of the rules took effect, arguing they are unconstitutional.

The groups allege that several provisions in the new regulations are too vague to be fairly enforced and that the state's workplace safety agency overstepped its statutory authority by adopting them in the first place.

The groups contend that the wildfire smoke rules don't give employers a method for determining what percentage of the pollutants in the air at a worksite are caused by wildfire smoke versus other factors, which the groups allege makes it impossible for employers to know when the rules go into effect.

They also allege that requiring employers to pay workers



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

Wildfire smoke blocks Baker City's view of the Elkhorn Mountains in 2017.

during heat illness prevention breaks oversteps state authority and that the Oregon Safe Employment Act does not give the state's workplace safety agency "the authority to regulate general societal hazards which affect employees in and out of the work environment."

Shaun Jillions, executive director for Oregon Manufacturers and Commerce, said that the state needs to work with employers to craft new rules that will protect workers and businesses.

"Nothing is more important to employers than keeping workers safe in the workplace," Jillions said in a statement. "That's particularly true for Oregon manufacturers, who have an exemplary record. But OR-OSHA's new heat and smoke rules are unfortunately based on arbitrary numbers that have the potential to disrupt countless Oregon industries. The regulations are

vague, nearly impossible to guarantee compliance with, and apply in conditions that would be considered safe and reasonable."

A spokesperson for Oregon OSHA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Worker advocates, who for years lobbied for the state to adopt wildfire and heat protections, praised the new rules after they were adopted in May while also calling for more stringent requirements for rest breaks and in labor housing.

The heat rules require employers to provide sufficient shaded areas, ample water and increasingly frequent rest breaks as temperatures rise. It also requires employers to develop heat prevention plans, train employees and supervisors about heat illnesses and ensure employees are given time to acclimate to heat and are regularly monitored while

working in high temperatures.

The rules also require employers to protect workers from heat in agricultural labor housing, including giving workers access to cooling areas and fans.

The wildfire smoke rules require employers to provide training to employees about the dangers of wildfire smoke, make respirators available as the air quality reaches unhealthy levels or require workers to wear respirators if air quality levels spike above a "very unhealthy" 251 on the 500-point Air Quality Index. The state also recommends that employers consider relocating to other job sites when the air quality is unhealthy.

The federal government does not have similar rules, although it is developing heat regulations. Several states have adopted their own heat standards, and California has rules to protect workers in extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

Oregon to begin sending \$600 stimulus payments to some low-income workers

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian

More than 200,000 Oregon workers will receive \$600 checks from the state, some starting last week.

Oregon lawmakers in March approved the one-time stimulus payments for certain low-income workers. The payments will go to Oregonians who claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2020, a tax break for low-income working households, and lived within

the state in the last six months of that year.

The Oregon Department of Revenue said Wednesday, June 22 that it would distribute nearly \$141.8 million to 236,000 qualifying households. Payments are limited to one per household.

About \$82 million will be deposited directly into the bank accounts of qualifying individuals, while the remaining nearly \$60 million will be sent via mail. The state said

qualifying individuals will receive the money no later than July 1.

The state is paying for the stimulus payments with federal pandemic aid approved by Congress last year.

Rich Hoover, a spokesperson for The Oregon Department of Revenue, said the payments are not subject to state or federal income tax.

House Bill 4157 passed by wide margins in both chambers of the Oregon Legislature

this spring, with a handful of Republicans joining majority Democrats in supporting the bill. The payments evolved from a 2021 plan for larger stimulus payments — up to \$2,000 — to essential workers who stayed on the job during the pandemic and those who rejoined the workforce last fall.

Oregonians with questions can email The Oregon Department of Revenue at one-time.assistancepayment@dor.oregon.gov.

News of Record

DEATHS

Rebecca Irene 'Becky' Matheson McVicker: 74, died June 24, 2022, at Auburn Medical Center in Auburn, Washington. Becky loved spending time in Richland with her mother, Pat Matheson, as well as camping, fishing and hunting in the area. A graveside service will take place Saturday, July 2, at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Those who wish to make a donation in Becky's memory may do so to Hunt of a Lifetime 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.

FUNERAL PENDING

Merrilyn Seal: Celebration of life will take place Friday, July 1 at 10 a.m. at Richard and Merrilyn's home at 46682 Fish Lake Road in Halfway. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Halfway Ambulance Fund 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.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Sammy Garcia Jr., 37, transient, 7:38 p.m. Sunday, June 26 in the 1600 block of Indiana Avenue; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Alexander Alen Adams, 26, Baker City, 1:54 p.m. Sunday, June 26 in the 1300 block of Ninth Street; jailed.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Brittany Lane Peterson, 29, Baker City, 12:22 a.m. Saturday, June 25 in the 1600 block of Auburn Avenue; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION, FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Brandon Douglas Culbertson, 34, Baker City, 11:28 p.m. Friday, June 24 in the 1700 block of Auburn Avenue; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant), SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Timothy Kelly Slaney, 33, Baker City, 4:52 p.m. Friday, June 24 in the 1100 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (domestic), SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY

CONDUCT, HARASSMENT, RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT: Jeffrey Willis Heaton, 61, Baker City, 2:11 p.m. Friday, June 24 in the 1400 block of Resort Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Daniel Allen Clary, 42, Baker City, 6:51 p.m. Sunday, June 26 on Highway 30 near North Powder; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Bryan Christopher Keyes, 40, Baker City, 11:08 a.m. Sunday, June 26

at the sheriff's office; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (domestic), UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE: Joshua David Givens, 28, Halfway, 8:36 a.m. Saturday, June 25 in Halfway; jailed.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Shyla Dawn Melchior, 33, Halfway, 8:36 a.m. Saturday, June 25 in Halfway; cited and released.

BAKER COUNTY WARRANTS: Margaret Samantha Lacey, 35, Baker City, 10:13 a.m. Friday, June 24 at 10th and D streets; jailed.

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