

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

July 18, 1972

WASHINGTON — In response to a questionnaire circulated in May by Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., Baker County respondents agreed with statewide tallies in regard to the legalization of marijuana. Eight out of 10 Oregonians disapprove.

### 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 18, 1997

A strong thunderstorm brought lightning and heavy rain to Baker City Thursday, filling storm drains, causing a short power outage on the east side and delaying play at the District 3 Little League baseball tournament.

The storm struck about 4 p.m.

Weather observers at the Baker City Municipal Airport measured .32 of an inch of rain over the next 90 minutes, much of which fell in a half-hour.

### 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 18, 2012

The morning of Saturday, July 15 brought a two-prong hail storm to portions of the North Powder Valley and the Bridgeport area. Although many in the area were spared so much as a single hailstone, local farmers saw their wheat and potato fields thrashed by these white pellets varying in size from peas to golf balls, according to Mark Bennett, Baker County's planning director.

Delbert Stephens, who farms near Haines, watched the strip-like hail storm sweep down from the Elkhorn Mountains.

### ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 20, 2021

Hot weather in mid-July is hardly a surprise in Baker County, Jay Breidenbach points out.

This is, after all, statistically the county's hottest month.

The daily record high temperature is 100 or above on 19 of July's 31 days — the most of any month.

But Breidenbach, who is a meteorologist, concedes there's nothing typical about the spell of hot weather that started with the summer solstice nearly a month ago.

"Normally it's hot in the summertime, of course," said Breidenbach, the warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Boise office, which handles forecasts for Baker County.

"What is not typical is the duration of this pattern."

Here's a few statistics to put into perspective Breidenbach's point about the persistence of heat so far this summer.

- The last day the temperature at the Baker City Airport didn't reach at least 83 degrees was June 16.
- Over the next 32 days — June 17 through July 18 — the temperature at the airport topped 90 on 22 days. That's just below the average of about 24 such days — for the entire year — recorded between 1943 and 2012.
- The temperature surpassed 90 degrees on 19 of 20 days, June 26 through July 15. On the only exception, July 7, the high was 89 degrees. That snapped a streak of 11 straight 90-degree-plus days, the longest stretch in almost four years and the sixth-longest in at least the past half century. That single degree prevented what would have been a record-setting stretch of 20 straight days with a high of 90 or hotter.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, JULY 16

1 - 6 - 8 - 26 - 43 - 45

Next jackpot: \$3.5 million

### POWERBALL, JULY 16

3 - 8 - 23 - 32 - 57 PB 21

Next jackpot: \$89 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, JULY 15

8 - 20 - 26 - 53 - 64 Mega 15

Next jackpot: \$530 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, JULY 16

1 - 63 - 67 - 70

### PICK 4, JULY 17

• 1 p.m.: 9 - 1 - 4 - 7

• 4 p.m.: 4 - 4 - 0 - 0

• 7 p.m.: 5 - 0 - 3 - 5

• 10 p.m.: 6 - 8 - 0 - 7

### LUCKY LINES, JULY 17

2-5-11-15-17-21-26-30

Next jackpot: \$16,000

## SENIOR MENUS

**WEDNESDAY (July 20):** Chef salad, breadsticks, fruit, peach crisp

**THURSDAY (July 21):** Orange-glazed chicken, rice, vegetables, rolls, cottage cheese and fruit, sherbet

**FRIDAY (July 22):** Beef pot roast, red potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, green salad, cheesecake

**MONDAY (July 25):** Hot turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed veggies, 3-bean salad, lemon squares

**TUESDAY (July 26):** Ground beef steak, onions and gravy, potatoes au gratin, rolls, potato salad, brownies

**WEDNESDAY (July 27):** Roast turkey, stuffing and gravy, peas, rolls, pasta 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.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

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Open Monday through Friday

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Telephone: 541-523-3673

### Baker City Herald

ISSN-8756-6419

Serving Baker County since 1870

Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Christmas Day by the Baker Publishing Co., a part of EO Media Group, at 2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101 (P.O. Box 807), Baker City, OR 97814.

Subscription rates per month are \$10.75 for print only. Digital-only rates are \$8.25. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801 Copyright © 2022

## ISLAND CITY

# Shots fired; 2 arrested after car chase

The Observer

ISLAND CITY — Law enforcement arrested two people and one suspect remains at large after a car chase Sunday, July 17, out of Island City that involved gunfire.

Deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office responded around 12:45 p.m. to Bullseye Muzzleloaders and More, 10201 W. First St., Island City, for a reported burglary, according to a press release. Law enforcement was called again to the same business shortly before 2:30 p.m. with reports describing three people wearing gloves and masks approaching the business, the release said.

While law enforcement was responding to the scene, a Bullseye Muzzleloaders and More employee confronted the suspects. During the confrontation, shots were fired, the release said. The suspect vehicle fled the scene and sheriff's deputies immediately located and pursued the vehicle. During the course of the pursuit, occupants in the suspect vehicle fired rounds at the pursuing law enforcement vehicles, disabling one patrol vehicle.

An Oregon State Police trooper was set up for a spike



Andrew Cutler/The Observer

Law enforcement officers stand in the background Sunday, July 17, 2022, near crime scene tape at South C and D streets, Island City, where a police pursuit began that involved gunfire.

strip deployment and after learning of the active shooting situation, engaged the suspects and suspect vehicle by discharging his duty weapon as they came by his location. Troopers were able to successfully spike the vehicle, which ultimately came to a stop on Indian Creek Road near Rinehart Lane outside of Elgin. The three suspects fled from the vehicle into the dense brush and vegetation. As a result, additional law enforcement was called to the scene and a perimeter was set up. The Northeast Oregon Re-

gional SWAT Team and the Oregon State Police SWAT Team responded to the area and ultimately located and arrested two suspects in the late evening hours.

Ashtin Romine, 26, of Clarkston, Washington, and Jessica Spalinger, 31, Walla Walla, Washington, were booked early July 18 into the Union County Jail.

Romine was arrested for reckless endangering and for misdemeanor and felony fleeing, while Spalinger is in jail for first-degree assault, hit-and-run with injury, reck-

lessly endangering and misdemeanor fleeing from police.

Under Oregon Measure 11, Oregon's mandatory minimum sentencing law, first-degree assault carries a mandatory minimum sentencing of seven years and six months.

The unidentified third suspect remains at large as of 1 p.m. July 18. The Union County Sheriff's Office, the La Grande Police Department and the Oregon State Police continue to investigate the initial burglary as well as the officer involved shooting and more charges and arrests are anticipated.

The La Grande Police Department — at the request of the Oregon State Police and in compliance with the Union County Deadly Force Plan — will be conducting the officer involved shooting investigation. The Oregon State trooper involved in the shooting was placed on administrative leave per department policy pending the outcome of the investigation.

Law enforcement was assisted on the scene by members of the La Grande Fire Department, Imbler Quick Response and the Union County Office of Emergency Management.

## None of 8 passengers injured in rollover

Baker City Herald

None of the eight people in a Chrysler minivan was seriously hurt when the vehicle rolled over, landing on its wheels, on Interstate 84 near the Ash Grove Co. cement plant in Durkee Valley on Saturday morning, July 16.

Sr. Trooper Levi Macy of the Oregon State Police responded to a report of a single vehicle rollover crash in the westbound lanes of the freeway near Milepost 332, about 28 miles southeast of Baker City, around 6:54 a.m.

In a report, Macy wrote that the blue minivan was blocking both westbound lanes. All eight occupants were outside the vehicle, standing beside the cement barrier between the westbound and eastbound lanes.

The driver, Kyle Udell Mortensen, 37, of Farmington, New Mexico, told Macy that he had fallen asleep.

"Evidence on scene was consistent with statements," Macy wrote.

Neither Mortensen nor the other adult passenger, Melissa Lee Mortensen, 37, of Farmington, needed to be taken by ambulance.

A Metro West ambulance crew checked the passengers, according to Macy's report. Several of the six juvenile passengers had minor injuries and complained of pain, he wrote.

The passengers, all from Farmington, were a boy and girl, both age 6, boys ages 8, 10 and 11, and a girl, 13.

There were no citations.

## Bentz fundraising swamps congressional challenger

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, has raised 32 times more in campaign contributions than Democrat Joe Yetter in the race for the 2nd Congressional District, according to federal reports.

Bentz received \$124,932 in campaign contributions in April, May and June, according to his quarterly campaign finance filing with the Federal Elections Commission.

The new money brings Bentz's fundraising total for the 2021-22 election cycle to \$913,183. After expenditures, Bentz reports having \$558,204 cash on hand.

Joe Yetter, a retired Army colonel, physician and former associate clinical professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine is the Democratic nominee. He lives in Azalea in Douglas County.

The FEC reports Yetter has raised \$28,614 and spent \$20,344 during the election cycle, leaving \$8,270 in the bank.

Bentz was elected in 2020 to the 2nd Congressional District seat held for two decades by U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River. He's seeking a second two-year term.

The 2nd district currently includes all of Oregon east of the Cascades, and a portion



Bentz



Yetter

of the southwestern part of the state near Medford. He'll represent the area until the new Congress elected this November is sworn into office next January.

Under redistricting after the 2020 census, a portion of northern Deschutes County that includes Bend and Redmond was moved into the 5th district, which stretches across the Cascades and into Linn, Marion, Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

The winner of the race between Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner of Terrebonne and Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer will represent the new 5th district after being sworn into office in January.

The district has the narrowest partisan division of any of the six Oregon congressional districts, with a slight Democratic edge in earlier voting patterns. But national Republicans have put the race on the list of key targets, especially after McLeod-Skinner defeated incumbent U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Canby.

The 2nd District remains overwhelmingly Repub-

lican-leaning. It will include most of Eastern and Central Oregon, including Prineville, Madras and La Pine. The new district will also extend farther into southwestern Oregon.

Notable large contributors to Bentz during the most recent period, along with their total contributions through the current elections cycle, include: the National Association of Broadcasters PAC (\$9,000), American Forest Resources Council PAC (\$8,000), combined contributions from Michael and Gina Wheelock of Grayback Forestry in Roseburg (\$6,400), Republican Mainstreet Partnership PAC (\$6,000), Marc Brickmayer, chair of Idaho Forest Group (\$5,900), the Pechanga Band of Indians in Temecula, California (\$5,800), POWERPAC of Edison Electric (\$5,500) Gerald Scott of Eugene, CEO of Elmer's Restaurants (\$5,300), Raymond Lackey of Redmond, an analyst for MST Corp. (\$5,000), National Cattlemen's Beef Assoc. PAC (\$5,000), HuckPAC, created by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (\$5,000), and KOCH-PAC, created by the conservative Koch family of Kansas (\$3,500).

Yetter's largest outside contribution is \$5,000 for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

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## News of Record

### DEATHS

**Bev R. Diggins:** 89, of Wallowa, died July 3, 2022. She will truly be missed by her children, sisters, nieces, nephews, eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and all of her friends. Services will be announced at a later date this summer. "We love you, Mom," her family said.

### POLICE LOG

#### Baker City Police

#### Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Lucas M. Valentine, 43, Bothell, Washington, 12:44 a.m. Sunday, July 17 at Fourth and Broadway streets; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Clackamas County Circuit Court warrant): Violet Marya Clark, 47, Baker City; 6:57 p.m. Saturday, July 16 in the 1000 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Jace Taylor Prowell, 31, Baker City, and Kayla Joy Young, 34, Baker City; 4:03 p.m. Friday, July 15 in the 1300 block of Auburn Avenue; cited and released.

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