

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

August 11, 1972

The Baker post office now has a fleet of six vehicles to help the postal service deliver the mail cheaper and with fewer personnel, according to Tom Bunch, acting superintendent.

He emphasized, however, that the success of the program depends on how well people cooperate in moving their mail boxes to the curb to speed delivery.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 11, 1997

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Koon of Baker City has assumed command of the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion at Fort Lewis.

When he is not dressed like a tree in camouflage battle dress, Koon works for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Baker City.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 10, 2012

The Crown Vic is out.

The Interceptor is in.

That's the sleek new blue-and-white sedan being driven by Baker City Police supervisors, Sgt. Michael Regan and Sgt. Josh Bryant.

The police cruiser, built on the Ford Taurus platform, is the newest in a line of vehicles used by law enforcement officers throughout the county.

Police Chief Wyn Lohner said the Interceptor was the Baker City department's choice when Ford discontinued its Crown Victoria model.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 10, 2021

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday, Aug. 11, ordered face masks worn indoors in public places by everyone age 5 and over beginning Friday.

At a Wednesday morning press call, Brown said the highly contagious delta variant was pushing the virus spread to the point that each infected person was infecting eight others.

"Moving forward, for the immediate future, masks will be required for all indoor public settings," Brown said.

The mandate applies to adults and children older than 5. On public transit, also includes children older than 2.

Brown also urged, but did not mandate, wearing masks in crowded outdoor situations. She also urged private companies and other organizations to enact their own indoor mask policies.

Brown's order came the day after the Oregon Health & Sciences University's infectious disease experts forecast the state could see over 1,000 COVID-19 patients per day in hospitals by early next month. Oregon would be about 500 staffed beds short of needs for all patients if the rate hit its projected peak of Sept. 7.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state epidemiologist, said this "fifth wave" of COVID-19 to hit the state in the past 18 months was different than earlier spikes.

More than half the population is vaccinated, but the "relentless" delta variant was spreading rapidly through the estimated 1.2 million Oregon residents who are not inoculated. That group includes children under 12 for whom there is no federally approved vaccine as yet.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, AUG. 8

5 - 7 - 10 - 41 - 43 - 47

Next jackpot: \$4.5 million

POWERBALL, AUG. 8

32 - 45 - 51 - 57 - 58 PB 12

Next jackpot: \$35 million

MEGA MILLIONS, AUG. 9

1 - 8 - 10 - 25 - 32 Mega 13

Next jackpot: \$65 million

WIN FOR LIFE, AUG. 8

21 - 41 - 52 - 58

PICK 4, AUG. 9

• 1 p.m.: 3 - 6 - 8 - 1

• 4 p.m.: 9 - 4 - 4 - 3

• 7 p.m.: 4 - 7 - 1 - 6

• 10 p.m.: 6 - 4 - 8 - 9

LUCKY LINES, AUG. 9

4-7-9-13-20-21-28-29

Next jackpot: \$39,000

SENIOR MENUS

FRIDAY (August 12): Barbecued ribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, rolls, macaroni salad, tapioca

MONDAY (August 15): Hot beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, fruit cup, cookies

TUESDAY (August 16): Pork tips over noodles, mixed vegetables, rolls, Jell-O with fruit, brownies

WEDNESDAY (August 17): Chef salad, breadsticks, fruit, sherbet

THURSDAY (August 18): Chili cheese dogs, cheese and onions, tater tots, macaroni salad, cheesecake

FRIDAY (August 19): Pot roast, scalloped potatoes, carrots, rolls, green salad, pudding

MONDAY (August 22): Spaghetti, mixed vegetables, garlic bread, green salad, ice cream

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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Wolf is killed north of Halfway

Baker City Herald

Oregon State Police is investigating the illegal shooting death of a wolf north of Halfway.

Fish and wildlife troopers from the agency learned on Aug. 5 that a wolf fitted with a tracking collar was dead near Forest Road 66, between Fish Lake and Twin Lakes in the Wallowa Mountains north of Halfway.

Troopers, along with employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, found the wolf carcass near the road.

The wolf had "injuries consistent with having been shot by a firearm," according to an

OSP press release. Troopers believe the wolf was killed the morning of Aug. 4.

The wolf, a 2-year-old female, was part of the Keating pack.

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition and conservation partners are offering to pay an \$11,500 reward that leads to an arrest and/or citation, according to the press release.

Anyone with information regarding this case is urged to contact OSP through the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or *OSP (*677), or email TIP@osp.or-egon.gov.

Reference case number SP22201971.



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

This 2-year-old female wolf from the Keating pack was shot and killed, probably on the morning of Aug. 4, 2022, near Fish Lake north of Halfway.

Bennett

Continued from A1

The goal of the 2021 legislation that required the risk map, among other things, is to encourage rural residents to clean up their properties and reduce the wildfire threat, he said — actions that in theory should reduce, not increase, insurance costs.

Bennett said he fears that the outcry over the risk map, even though state officials have decided to revise it, could deflect attention from the chief objective of encouraging rural residents to help protect their homes from fire. Under the legislation that requires the state to draw the fire risk map — Senate Bill 762 — owners of some properties deemed to be at high or extreme risk for wildfire could be required to clean up their land and also be subject to more strict zoning rules.

State agencies are still working on the regulations for both of those issues.

Bennett's involvement

Bennett has for years been a leader in state discussions about wildfires.

In early 2019 he was appointed to the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. That group, created by Gov. Kate Brown's executive order of Jan. 30, 2019, was tasked with reviewing the state's overall wildfire strategy, including fire prevention and fire-fighting, protecting homes and communities that are at a higher risk from wildfires, and the health effects of wildfire smoke.

In 2021, after fires severely damaged several Oregon towns over Labor Day 2020, and after the Oregon Legislature approved Senate Bill 762, Bennett was appointed to another state advisory group, the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. He was elected as chair of that council during its first meeting on Nov. 5, 2021.

A 'far-reaching' law

Senate Bill 762, which Bennett described as "far-reaching" and which he and other members of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response helped to create, has several parts. The legislation includes more than \$195 million to help bolster Oregon's ability to deal with wildfires, including reducing the risk of blazes.

A key part of that strategy is promoting what's known as "defensible spaces."

The basic idea is to encourage people who live in areas prone to wildfires to pro-

tect their homes by, for instance, pruning trees and maintaining a zone devoid of easily combustible material within 50 to 100 feet of homes.

The state is focusing on properties that are deemed to be at high or extreme fire risk and that are also within what's known as the wildland-urban interface — WUI, where homes are built in or near forests or rangelands where wildfires are more likely to start. The legislation includes money for a grant program to help people who own property that's within the WUI, and at high or extreme risk, to create defensible spaces.

Concerns about reaction to fire risk map

Bennett said that although as a member of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council he didn't contribute to drawing the map — that was a task assigned to the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University — he and other council members expressed concern about how landowners and the public in general might react to the release of the map.

Bennett said he was especially worried about cases in which landowners might dispute their fire risk designation.

During the council's second meeting, on Jan. 14, 2022, Bennett addressed that issue. He said the release of the fire risk map could result in a "tremendous backlash" and that it "is not going to be a pretty sight" if the map and its designations came as a surprise to property owners and to local elected officials. Bennett also commented during that meeting that the fire risk map was one of the more "critical and controversial topics" related to Senate Bill 762.

Also during the Jan. 14 meeting, Mike Shaw, fire chief for the Forestry Department, said the risk map, and the designation of properties as being within the WUI, "is going to be an extremely contentious topic."

"At the end of the day there's going to be folks that are frustrated with the outcome, regardless of what the outcome is," Shaw said.

State solicited public comments

The Forestry Department had three public hearings from April 19-21 to collect comments about the fire risk map and criteria for whether a property is within the WUI. Based on requests from people attending those hearings, the agency extended the

public comment period and scheduled an "information session" on April 29.

Although the state conducted the hearings, the map itself wasn't available until about two months later.

During an interview on Tuesday, Aug. 9, Bennett said he saw the map just two days before it was released to the public on June 30 through the Forestry Department's website.

He said that to some extent the map illustrated the concerns he had expressed during the Jan. 14 meeting.

For instance, Bennett said the map deemed at high risk an irrigated property along Highway 26 near Prineville, while unirrigated land on the opposite side of the highway, which included a residential subdivision in a juniper forest, was at moderate risk. He said those designations seemed backward to him, since juniper trees are especially vulnerable to wildfire, while irrigated fields are not. Bennett also noted that some rural fire stations were deemed at high or extreme risk.

He said he was concerned that the risk map, which designated properties based on local weather, climate, topography and vegetation and used satellite images rather than on-the-ground surveys, didn't consider whether an individual property owner had already created a defensible space, or whether the parcel was within a fire protection district. Either factor, Bennett said, could make a property less vulnerable to wildfire, even if it's within the WUI.

Bennett said he was also troubled by the timeline. Senate Bill 762 required the Forestry Department to release the fire risk map by June 30.

Bennett and other members of the advisory council said during the Jan. 14 meeting that letting the public, and affected property owners, know about the fire risk map in advance was vital.

State Forester Cal Mukumoto, in an Aug. 3 statement announcing the map had been withdrawn, conceded that the state had not been aggressive enough in notifying the public about the map and soliciting public comment about the map's creation.

"While we met the bill's initial deadline for delivering on the map, there wasn't enough time to allow for the type of local outreach and engagement that people wanted, needed and deserved," Mukumoto said.

News of Record

DEATHS

Billy James Lee Sr.: 90, of Baker City, died Aug. 8, 2022, at his residence with his loving family by his side. His memorial service will take place Saturday, Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane. Memorial contributions can be made to the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Bill's memory, or to offer online condolences to his family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Zona K. Irby Hiatt: 68, of Baker City, died Aug. 5, 2022, at her home. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St. in Baker City. To light a candle in memory of Zona, go to www.colestrIBUTEcenter.com.

Nelda Faye Marshall: 91, of Haines, died Aug. 5, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Her memorial service will take place Saturday, Aug. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Haines First Baptist Church, with Pastor Ben Janzen officiating. A graveside service and interment will be at the Haines Cemetery Saturday, Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. A reception will immediately follow at the Haines First Baptist Church. To leave an online condolence for Nelda's family and friends, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Gary Lee Way: 80, of Baker City, died Aug. 9, 2022, at his residence. To leave an online condolence for Gary's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

PROBATION VIOLATION: Juan Pablo Burgos, 61, transient, 2:25 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9 in the 2100 block of 10th Street; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Justice Court warrant), FAILURE TO APPEAR (Washington County Circuit Court warrant): Rito Nito Gutierrez, 39, Baker City, 1:52 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9 at Geiser-Pollman Park; jailed.

VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Kristi Ann Moudy-Koos, 45, Baker City, 7:14 a.m. Monday, Aug. 8 in the 1900 block of Birch Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

PROBATION VIOLATION: Victoria Jean McLean, 39, Huntington, 6:22 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 in Huntington; jailed. DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED: Robert Wayne Jarboe, 47, Huntington, 11:04 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9 in Huntington; cited and released.

Oregon State Police

Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Cindy Kay Gipson, 50, Gooding, Idaho, 5:49 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5 on Interstate 84, Milepost 304 eastbound; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: David Joseph Kerwynn, 66, Salt Lake City, 2:46 p.m. Friday,

Aug. 5 on Interstate 84, Milepost 351 westbound; cited and released.

Accident report

On Saturday, Aug. 6 at 5:03 p.m., Sr. Trooper Tim Schuette responded to a report of a single-car rollover crash on Highway 86, Milepost 22. Schuette wrote in his report that he arrived at found that the driver, Travis L. Cannon, 52, of Richland, had extricated himself from his Chevrolet Silverado pickup. Schuette wrote that Cannon told him he had fallen asleep while driving. Cannon was taken to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City, where he was treated and released.

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★ AUGUST 12-18 ★

TOP GUN MAVERICK (PG-13)
Featuring exclusive behind-the-scenes pre-show content!

Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00

Mon - Thurs 4:00, 7:00

MACK & RITA (PG-13)
A 30-year-old writer (Elizabeth Lail) spends a wild weekend in Palm Springs and wakes up to find she has magically transformed into her 70-year-old self (Diane Kruger).

Fri - Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20

Mon - Thurs 4:20, 7:20

BULLET TRAIN (R)
Five assassins aboard a fast moving bullet train find out their missions have something in common.

Fri - Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10

Mon - Thurs 4:10, 7:10

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