

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

August 17, 1972

More than 900 people braved cool, windy weather to attend the annual Durkee Steak Feed last night.

People from all over eastern Oregon and Idaho were in Durkee for the event.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 15, 1997

The Baker City Police Department is an out-of-date agency where evidence has been stored in a soda machine and a device that records radio and phone conversations doesn't work in hot weather, say four police chiefs who studied the department in July.

Three of the four chiefs, along with Jim Jones, the city's interim chief, released the results of their "management audit" during a press conference Thursday afternoon in Baker City.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 17, 2012

Kevin Martin was almost home, almost done with the 558-mile drive from Salt Lake City to Pendleton, when he was waylaid in Baker City by the Travel Management Plan.

Martin figures he'll be here for quite some time.

His task is considerable: Making what likely will be the most controversial decision on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in a couple of decades.

That's the Travel Management Plan — a document that will dictate where motor vehicles are allowed to go on 1.3 million acres of public land.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

August 17, 2021

Baker City has finally surpassed a threshold it had approached, but never quite cleared, over the past century and a half.

The city's population has topped 10,000.

And that's according to the ultimate arbiter of such matters, the U.S. Census Bureau.

The federal agency on Thursday, Aug. 12 released city and county populations from the once-a-decade head count conducted in 2020.

The Census pegs Baker City's population at 10,099. That's an increase of 271 people — 2.8% — from the 2010 Census figure of 9,828.

Although the Portland State University Population Research Center, which makes annual estimates of city and county populations in the years between the decennial U.S. censuses, has in several years put Baker City above the 10,000 mark, the city had not reached that level in an official U.S. Census.

But Baker City, which was started in 1864 and incorporated in 1874, came awfully close 60 years ago.

Its official population in the 1960 Census was 9,986.

The city didn't approach that level during the three subsequent national censuses, although its population didn't drop significantly either.

The figure of 9,140 for the 1990 Census was the city's lowest since 1930 (7,858).

In the two ensuing head counts, however, Baker City again pushed close to the 10,000 ceiling — 9,860 in 2000 and 9,828 in 2010.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, AUG. 13

6-7-10-29-33-47

Next jackpot: \$4.7 million

POWERBALL, AUG. 13

19-24-35-43-62 PB 2

Next jackpot: \$56 million

MEGA MILLIONS, AUG. 12

23-24-50-54-64 Mega 3

Next jackpot: \$82 million

WIN FOR LIFE, AUG. 13

10-34-35-45

PICK 4, AUG. 14

• 1 p.m.: 4-9-8-9

• 4 p.m.: 7-8-4-3

• 7 p.m.: 6-2-7-8

• 10 p.m.: 0-2-9-6

LUCKY LINES, AUG. 14

1-6-12-13-18-21-25-30

Next jackpot: \$13,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

TUESDAY (August 23): Ground beef steak, onions and gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls, carrot-raisin salad, brownies

WEDNESDAY (August 24): Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, ambrosia, bread 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.

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Wildfire risk map meeting draws 150 in Redmond

BY LEO BAUDHUIN

Redmond Spokesman

REDMOND — More than 150 people showed up at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds last week to hear why the Oregon Department of Forestry withdrew its wildfire risk map after public outcry.

The map assessed the wildfire burn risk of the "wildland-urban interface" — areas across the state that meet certain population density criteria without being as tightly populated as a city.

Oregon State University researchers developed risk factors for these areas based on variables like building density, surrounding vegetation and historic wildfire patterns.

ODF released its map June 30 and was met with a whirlwind of citizen complaints. Homeowners in areas that ODF marked as at high or extreme risk of fires said the map's findings put them under a significant financial burden and disputed a number of the map's risk designations.

ODF removed the map Aug. 3, a week before the Redmond meeting.

"We've been hearing a lot of comments," said Tim Hoffman, who facilitated the meeting and works with ODF public affairs. "We have more than 2,000 phone calls and voicemails from you folks, and

we took that into consideration. A lot of our leadership and other legislators have heard you and that's why, if you haven't heard, we're redrawing the map."

Beyond individual complaints and appeals, one meeting attendee pointed out a couple of clear flaws in the initial map.

The Detroit Lake area — which burned to the ground in 2020 and is now a flammable collection of toothpick-like trees — is in the green zone, which designates an area least at risk. Green Ridge — which has seen several fires in recent years — is listed as "yellow." In comparison, one attendee said, areas that haven't seen fires in years are designated as "high" or "extreme" risk zones.

Other attendees complained about higher insurance rates as a result of a high or extreme risk designation, as well as the costs of additional building code upgrades if their properties were to burn down.

Even if updated building codes ultimately make residents safer, meeting attendees said they wished they had more of a heads-up before the map was released, so they could better prepare.

Another attendee said they're less concerned with fire risk on their specific property than they are with a lack of federal and state forest management, where

large wildfires can start and spread onto private land.

In light of pushback, ODF is taking a step back to reevaluate its methodology, address complaints and appeals, and improve dialogue with the communities its mapping.

The Redmond meeting marks the fourth ODF community information session since the map's release, with an additional session scheduled for Grants Pass but later canceled due to threats.

Following the meetings, ODF will consider community feedback and corrections to create a second draft of the map, said Tim Holschbach, ODF chief of policy and planning for the fire protection division.

Once the second map is done, ODF will hold additional meetings to solicit feedback and use that to develop a final document. Holschbach said ODF will do better at public engagement in all steps of the process.

Residents who have submitted an appeal regarding their fire risk designation will not be required to do so a second time. Holschbach said the timeline for this process is not yet set.

"We want the map to be right, too," he said.

Insurance

Continued from A1

The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University collaborated on producing the map, which, in addition to the risk level, showed which properties are within what's known as the wildland-urban interface — WUI, the zone in and near forests and rangelands where wildfires are more likely.

Owners of homes that are both within the WUI and rated at high or extreme risk could be required, under Senate Bill 762, to take steps, such as pruning trees, to protect their properties. Those residents could also be required to comply with more stringent building codes.

But it was the concern about how the fire risk map could affect residents' insurance that prompted many complaints, including from Baker County's two state legislators, Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, and Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane.

State Forester Cal Mukumoto announced on Aug. 3 that the map had been withdrawn and would be revised.

Mukumoto said the state had not been aggressive enough in notifying the public about the map and soliciting public comments about it.

As for the contentions about the map influencing insurance companies, state officials say those are unfounded.

According to the Division of Financial Regulation, before the state released the map June 30, insurance company officials told the state, in what the press released described as "informal discussions," that they did not intend to use the upcoming map.

On Aug. 2, after hearing concerns from residents that the risk map was affecting insurance coverage, the state made a formal inquiry to insurance companies, which they are required by state law to answer

Local agents say risk map not a factor

Two local insurance agents say the state's recently rescinded wildfire map didn't affect their policies for properties in high or extreme risk.

Mike Clarke of Clarke and Clarke Insurance in Baker City said he believes the new state map is not associated with any recent change in policies or premiums.

He said insurance companies often use their own mapping systems or partner with third party mapping companies to assess wildfire risk.

"This map just came out, but the companies have been really looking at this (assessing wildfire risk) for a while," Clarke said.

Clarke acknowledged that increasing wildfire risk has forced him to shift clients to different companies in recent years, but the release of the state map on June 30, though it publicized an issue insurance companies have already been dealing with, didn't change their methodology.

"They've had their own ways of doing this for years," he said.

Daniel Holtz, an insurance agent at Wheatland Insurance, said the state risk map was similar to other assessment tools he's seen in the past, and in turn, didn't change the way he thought about assessing wildfire risk.

"It's just a reflection of what's already been in the works by insurance companies for a long time," Holtz said.

— Clayton Franke, Baker City Herald

truthfully, according to the press release.

The state inquiry asked the nearly 150 insurance companies that offer homeowner coverage in Oregon to answer these questions:

- Does the company use the state wildfire map for rating or underwriting?

(Rating determines premium costs, and underwriting is the process of assessing the risk of offering a policy.)

- Does the company use the state wildfire map for any other purposes?

- Does the company plan to use the state wildfire map for any purpose in the future?

According to the press release, all companies said they don't use the map for rating or underwriting, nor do they intend to use it.

The press release also noted that the state has not received any applications for insurance rate changes that include the wildfire risk map as a factor.

"This confirms what we knew: Insurance companies are not using the state wildfire risk map," Oregon Insurance Commissioner Andrew Stolfi said in the press release. "In-

urance companies have been using their own risk maps and other robust risk management tools to assess wildfire risk for years in making rating and underwriting decisions. We believe there has been confusion between decisions based on insurers' continued use of their own tools, including their own

risk maps, and the discussions on the new state wildfire risk map. We encourage insurers and agents to be careful in how they describe underwriting and rating decisions."

Consumers who have questions or complaints about insurance can contact the Division of Financial Regulation's consumer advocacy hotline at 888-877-4894 (toll-free) or file a complaint online at dfr.oregon.gov.

On Thursday, Aug. 11, the Division of Financial Regulation issued a bulletin, signed by Stolfi, to all insurance companies selling homeowner policies citing the concerns about companies using the wildfire risk map.

The bulletin stated that although companies had denied using the map, "it may be a violation of the Insurance Code to falsely attribute rate increases or decisions to cancel coverage to the state wildfire risk map."

"It is extremely important that consumers receive accurate information about decisions made with respect to their policies," the bulletin states.

THANK YOU BAKER COMMUNITY!!



The Baker City Lions Club wants to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors and community volunteers who made the **2022 Miner's Jubilee Breakfast** a successful event. *All proceeds fund local community projects.*

Baker City Herald

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Baker County

Custom Meats

Chamber of Commerce

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KCMB Radio

Lions Club Volunteers

North Powder FFA

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News of Record

DEATHS

Conrad Gabriel Wlodarczyk: 95, of Baker City, died Aug. 11, 2022, at his residence. A funeral service is being planned, and the date and time will be announced once they have been confirmed. To leave an online condolence for Conrad's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Mary Ann Wlodarczyk: 88, of Baker City, died Aug. 14, 2022, at her residence, surrounded by her loving family. A funeral service is being arranged, and details will be announced once confirmed. To leave an online condolence for Mary Ann's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Elaine Logsdon: 79, of Baker City, died Aug. 12, 2022, at Settler's Park assisted living. Her graveside service will be Thursday, Aug. 25 at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Marion County warrant): Katherine Diane Schaff, 36, Baker City, 11:18 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 at Main Street and Washington Avenue; cited and released.

THIRD-DEGREE ASSAULT, RECKLESS DRIVING, RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING ANOTHER (Baker County Circuit Court

warrant): Bryce Patrick Lein, 35, Baker City, 8:46 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 in the 3200 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Shawn Michael Ray Horn, 32, Baker City, 5:56 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 at Fourth and Campbell streets; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Dale Rex Taylor, 81, Baker City, 5:52 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 at Geiser-Pollman Park; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE TRESPASSING (Multnomah County warrant), FAILURE TO APPEAR (Sweet Home municipal warrant), PAROLE VIOLATION (statewide felony warrant): April Grace Gerhold, 32, Portland, 8:33 a.m. Friday, Aug. 12 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Victoria Jean McLean, 39, Huntington, 1:31 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 at the Baker County Jail, where she was in custody on other charges.

Saturday, September 10th at
5pm at the Baker Elks Lodge.

Please join our family to honor and celebrate the lives of
Kathleen and Eleanor Sullivan

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