

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
August 18, 1972

HALFWAY — What may be a record power outage of 13 hours, 43 minutes was experienced in the Pine-Eagle area Monday. Power went out at 10:02 p.m. and was not restored until 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, threatening many harried residents with financial losses and causing considerable turmoil.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
August 18, 1997

To find the voice of the Powder River you have to talk to a lot of people. To the rancher who relies on its water to irrigate his crops. To the angler who casts for trout in its pools and riffles. To the homeowner whose backyard deck overhangs the water. To truly understand the river you must also find voices from the past, say two artists who were in Baker City the past several days to study the river and its role in Baker City. Nanda D'Agostina and Valerie Otani, both of the Portland area, have been commissioned to create artwork to be placed along the proposed Leo Adler Memorial Parkway.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
August 20, 2012

Mike Widman needed but a single word to describe what happened to his ranch Sunday. "Catastrophe." A lightning-sparked wildfire spread across 12,500 acres of rangeland about 16 miles southeast of Baker City, including a large swath of the grazing land that Widman and his wife, Coral, own near Love Reservoir. The Sardine fire is the biggest this summer in what had been a relatively tranquil fire season for Baker County.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
August 19, 2021

There's a strip of moist ground in Baker County that's being exposed to the air after more than three decades under the water. And if things keep on as they have been, a bit more land might emerge for the first time in better than half a century. These patches form the shoreline of Phillips Reservoir, along the Powder River in Sumpter Valley, about 17 miles southwest of Baker City. The reservoir, created by the completion of Mason Dam in 1968 and designed to store water for irrigation and flood control, has been depleted by drought to its lowest level since late October 1988. And if the reservoir recedes slightly farther, ground will be revealed that has been covered by water since 1968, the year the dam began to impound the Powder River.

George Chandler, a Baker Valley rancher and longtime board member for the Baker Valley Irrigation District, which manages the reservoir, said the fall of 1988 is the only time he's seen Phillips so low. Numbers also illustrate the severity of the drawdown. As of Wednesday Aug. 18, the reservoir's "active storage" volume was 479 acre-feet, which is less than 1% of its storage capacity. That's the lowest volume since the fall of 1988, when the reservoir reached a minimum of 449 acre-feet on Nov. 1.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, AUG. 15

22-30-32-37-44-46

Next jackpot: \$4.8 million

POWERBALL, AUG. 15

0-24-47-50-63 PB 5

Next jackpot: \$66 million

MEGA MILLIONS, AUG. 16

33-35-41-45-51 Mega 1

Next jackpot: \$99 million

WIN FOR LIFE, AUG. 15

2-27-69-76

PICK 4, AUG. 16

1 p.m.: 2-4-1-3

4 p.m.: 3-9-2-9

7 p.m.: 8-2-2-5

10 p.m.: 5-0-7-6

LLUCKY LINES, AUG. 16

3-7-11-16-17-22-25-31

Next jackpot: \$15,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

THURSDAY (August 25): Orange glazed chicken, rice, broccoli, rolls, fruit cup, cinnamon rolls

FRIDAY (August 26): Roasted turkey, stuffing with gravy, green beans, rolls, green salad, apple crisp

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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Pine Creek

Continued from A1
want to downplay the significance of commissioners' action, however. He noted that they were spurred by residents who have had access to the road for many decades. "I think that this is based on extensive public input," Bennett said. "We've had numerous public hearings with opportunities for the public and for Mr. McCarty to make comments and to submit testimony, information, documents, and also research."

Process started more than a year ago

Wednesday's vote culminates a process commissioners started in June 2021, when they passed a resolution "declaring the necessity for the legalization of Pine Creek Lane."

The resolution deals with the section of road that starts at the eastern edge of McCarty's property and ends at the junction with another road leading to the Baisley Elkhorn mine. The resolution also covers a section of the Baisley Elkhorn mine road.

The Pine Creek Road itself continues another 2 miles or so beyond the junction, leading to Pine Creek Reservoir, which is on national forest land, and beyond.

The county's road legalization process was prompted by a lawsuit that David McCarty, who owns a 1,560-acre property through which the road runs for about 2 1/2 miles, filed against the county on April 30, 2021.

McCarty is asking for either a declaration that the disputed section of the Pine Creek Road crossing his property is not a public right-of-way, or, if a jury concludes there is legal public access, that the limits of that access be defined and that the county pay him \$730,000 to compensate for the lost value of the land based on the legal public access and for other costs he has incurred as a result of the county's actions.

He bought the land in September 2020, and not long after he installed a gate that has



Contributed Photo, File

The Pine Creek Road through David McCarty's property is extremely rocky and rough.

at times been locked.

Joellen Linstrom, who lives with McCarty, has said previously that McCarty didn't object to people walking along the road, but that he was concerned about people in vehicles posing a potential fire danger.

Linstrom repeated that concern during Wednesday's meeting, saying she had "observed a lot of people being careless during fire season."

Cindy Birko, who lives near Pine Creek, told commissioners on Wednesday that she believes the fire risk is lower when the road is open and more people are using it, and thus in the area to potentially see and report smoke.

"I do not view that as a liability, but I see that as an asset to protect us all," Birko said.

Tom Lager, who owns

property that is surrounded by McCarty's land, echoed Birko's thoughts.

Lager and his wife, Betty Ann, are the plaintiffs, along with James and Sharen Sanders, in a recently filed lawsuit naming McCarty and Linstrom as defendants.

The Lagers and Sandersers are each seeking monetary damages of at least \$250,000, claiming McCarty's installation of the gate has deprived them of access to and enjoyment of their properties.

Both that lawsuit, and the suit McCarty filed against the county in April 2021, are pending.

After county commissioners passed a resolution in June 2021 to start the process, under Oregon law, of declaring the section of Pine Creek Road as a public right-of-way, McCarty's attorney sought a temporary restrain-

ing order prohibiting the county from pursuing that avenue, including having the road surveyed.

A judge granted that restraining order in July 2021, but in November of that year another judge dissolved the order and ruled that the county could survey portions of McCarty's property that the Pine Creek Road crosses.

Richard Stein, a surveyor from Anderson-Perry of La Grande, told commissioners Wednesday that the road today follows a different route than the road shown in an 1891 county record describing a survey of a road along Pine Creek.

Linstrom has said in the past that the title report McCarty received while his purchase of the property was pending does not show a public road or list any public easement through the property.

News of Record

DEATHS

Larry Rood: 75, of Baker City, died Aug. 13, 2022, in Greenleaf, Idaho.

John Higbie: 92, formerly of Baker City, died Aug. 14, 2022, at his son's residence in Seneca. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

FUNERALS PENDING

Conrad Gabriel Wlodarczyk and Mary Ann Wlodarczyk: Mass of Christian burial will be at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, First and Church streets, Friday, Aug. 19 at 10:30 a.m., with Father Suresh Telagani officiating. Interment will immediately follow the mass at Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Best Friends of Baker through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Conrad and Mary Ann's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Tom 'Mac' Kerns: A celebration of Mac's life will take place Saturday, Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Haines Methodist Church. Donations can be made to the Eastern Oregon Museum in Haines through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Mac, go to www.colestributecenter.com.

Frank William Hermann: A celebration of his life will take place on Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Harvest Christian Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. To leave an online condolence for Frank's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Allen R. Morris Sr.: Graveside service with military honors will be Saturday, Aug. 20 at 11 a.m. at Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. For those who would like to make a donation in Allen's memory, his family suggests St. Jude's Children's Hospital through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97814. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED, VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Christian Reynolds Oliver, 22, Baker City, 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17 on Auburn Avenue between First and Second streets; jailed.
OFFENSIVE LITTERING: Charles Leon Efrid, 77, Baker City, 3:14 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 in the 2500 block of Broadway Street; cited and released.
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Larry Merl Barker, 41, Baker City, 10:51 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 in the 2100 block of Failing Avenue; cited and released.
VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT: Carmon Deon Hendriksen, 34, Baker City, 4:57 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 in the 2100

block of Windmill Lane; jailed.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, HARASSMENT, FAILURE TO APPEAR (Umatilla County warrants): Steven Vincent Anderson, 40, Pendleton, 1:58 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 in the 1200 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Payette County, Idaho, warrant): Danielle Christine Purkey, 41, Baker City, 4:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 at First and Church streets; jailed.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (two Payette County, Idaho, warrants): Joseph Richard McCaslin, 51, Baker City, 4:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 at First and Church streets; jailed.

RECKLESS DRIVING, RECKLESS

ENDANGERING: Jesse James Corr, 27, Baker City, 1:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 at First and C streets; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (two Baker County Circuit Court warrants), FAILURE TO APPEAR (two Union County Circuit Court warrants): Alexander Harold Wise, 20, Baker City, 9:05 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15 in the 1100 block of Washington Avenue; jailed.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Timothy Kelly Slaney, 33, Baker City, 8:49 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15 in the 600 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Robles Duran-Melquidades, 41, Baker City, 2:34 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17 at Slough and Chandler roads; cited and released.

Driving under the influence of intoxicants: Zachary Lin Sandberg, 19, Baker City, 9:51 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 on Wingville Road near Old Wingville Road; cited and released.

TELEPHONIC HARASSMENT: Nicole Yvonne Wilkerson, 45, Haines, 7:58 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15 on Highway 30 near the Haines Cemetery; cited and released.

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Mon - Thurs 4:00, 7:00
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