

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald  
August 25, 1972

Professional wrestling will return to Baker Sunday at 2:30 p.m. with an eight-man over the top battle royal heading the full card at the Academy gym.

## 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 25, 1997

Baker City's new police chief says the problems in the department that he will inherit next month are not unique, and that he's looking forward to the challenge of solving them.

Lt. Jim Tomlinson, a 25-year veteran of the Lake Oswego Police Department, said in a telephone interview this morning that he has read the reports from the four police chiefs who studied Baker City's police department in July.

## 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 24, 2012

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team released a statement on Thursday regarding illegal marijuana grows on public lands and on private lands adjacent to public lands.

They reported finding evidence of firearms on previously discovered growing operations.

## ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 26, 2021

The Baker City Council voted unanimously Tuesday evening, Aug. 24, to have City Manager Jon Cannon obtain legal counsel for a potential lawsuit the city could file or join challenging Gov. Kate Brown's recent mandates regarding vaccinations for health care workers and face masks for students and school staff.

Councilors also voted unanimously to keep City Hall open regardless of future restrictions from the governor prompted by the surge in COVID-19 cases.

Councilors approved those motions after seeing a group of people outside City Hall who object to the governor's mandates, and hearing from some of those people during the meeting.

Cannon discussed the language of the vaccination mandate, which requires health care workers, including firefighter/paramedics from the Baker City Fire Department, to be vaccinated by Oct. 18 or potentially lose their jobs.

Cannon noted that cities and other employers that violate the state rule could be subject to civil penalties of \$500 per day.

Cannon said he's concerned about those penalties, but also about the city incurring legal costs in a potential lawsuit.

"I'm not saying it's not a fight worth doing, I'm just saying our pockets aren't that deep," Cannon said.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten said the governor's mandates have put cities and other employers in a difficult situation — "between the devil and the deep blue sea" — by forcing them to potentially choose between facing civil penalties and losing critical employees who don't want to be vaccinated.

Councilor Jason Spriet suggested seeking out other cities and agencies that either might want to join a lawsuit as co-plaintiffs, or that have already started legal proceedings that the city could participate in.

Twelve people voiced their opposition to the mask or vaccine mandate, or both.

Stephanie Johnson of Richland told councilors she has been a registered nurse for more than a decade.

Johnson contends the governor's mandates violate residents' constitutional rights.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, AUG. 22

25 — 32 — 33 — 35 — 36 — 40  
Next jackpot: \$5.1 million

### POWERBALL, AUG. 22

12 — 27 — 34 — 55 — 67 PB 9  
Next jackpot: \$100 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, AUG. 23

3 — 5 — 47 — 48 — 67 Mega 7  
Next jackpot: \$135 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, AUG. 22

32 — 38 — 41 — 63

### PICK 4, AUG. 23

• 1 p.m.: 4 — 1 — 8 — 6

• 4 p.m.: 2 — 8 — 1 — 0

• 7 p.m.: 7 — 0 — 1 — 0

• 10 p.m.: 1 — 5 — 3 — 7

### LUCKY LINES, AUG. 23

2-8-9-13-20-24-28-30

Next jackpot: \$22,000

## SENIOR MENUS

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

**MONDAY (August 29):** Chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls, green salad, pudding

**TUESDAY (August 30):** Beef stew, broccoli, cottage cheese with fruit, lemon squares

**WEDNESDAY (August 31):** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, coleslaw, birthday cake

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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# Baker man sentenced to 95 months in federal prison on gun conviction

## BAKER CITY HERALD

A Baker City man who had previous felony convictions was sentenced on Tuesday, Aug. 23 to 95 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to illegally possessing a gun.

Jacob Kyle Grammon, 26, will also have three years of supervised probation after his release.

Grammon was arrested on April 27, 2021, in an Ontario motel room following an investigation by the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team into drug distribution and firearms charges.

During a search warrant of the motel room and a vehicle, police found more than 2 pounds of methamphetamine, about 3 ounces of heroin and about 1 1/2 ounces of what was suspected to be fentanyl, along with other items "indicative of narcotics trafficking," according to the Baker City Police.

Police, including officers from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, also found a loaded 9 mm handgun in Grammon's waistband when he was arrested. Police also found during

the search another 9 mm pistol and two AR-15 semiautomatic rifles. One of the rifles had a shortened barrel that is illegal without federal documentation, and a 50-round drum magazine.

Officers from the Baker and Malheur county sheriff's offices and Oregon State Police were also involved in the investigation.

Grammon was charged in federal court, and on May 20, 2021, a federal grand jury in Medford indicted Grammon for possession with intent to distribute meth and heroin, illegally possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Grammon pleaded guilty on May 16, 2022, to the charge of illegally possessing a firearm.

The case was prosecuted by Marco A. Boccato, an assistant U.S. attorney.

In a press release Wednesday, Aug. 24, Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby acknowledged Grammon's sentence, writing that "this case represents what law enforcement can accomplish in addressing violent crime

as a result of drug and gun trafficking."

"Over the past several years law enforcement has seen a significant uptick in large drug seizures that included methamphetamine and fentanyl," Duby wrote. "Overdose deaths are up drastically, and drug traffickers are more commonly carrying firearms."

Duby wrote that the Baker City Police Department remains a member of the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team.

Duby noted that Baker City Police on July 6 arrested Jason Lee Troyer, 46, a suspect in an investigation by the Narcotics Enforcement Team. During the arrest, Troyer, who had a statewide felony warrant for parole violation, had a Sig Sauer 9mm handgun.

On Monday, Aug. 22, Troyer pleaded guilty in Baker County Circuit Court to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to 20 months in a state prison.

Chief Deputy Michael Spaulding of the Baker County District Attorney's office prosecuted the case.

# Oregon governor's race rated as 'toss-up'

## BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

A new national election forecast is putting Democrats' 40-year dominance of the Oregon governor's office in question.

The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia moved the Nov. 8 race for Oregon governor from "Leaning Democratic" to "Toss-Up."

"This is despite the state's blue lean and the fact that Republicans have not won a gubernatorial race there since 1982," wrote Kyle Kondik, the center's managing editor.

The center said an unusual three-way race for governor was enough to wobble Democrats' hold on the state's top job last won by a Republican when Vic Atiyeh was elected to a second term 40 years ago.

The change in rating came at the end of a week that saw former state Sen. Betsy Johnson, who left the Democratic Party late last year to run as an unaffiliated candidate for governor, turn in twice the number of



Contributed photos

The three candidates for Oregon governor are, from left, Democrat Tina Kotek, Betsy Johnson, running unaffiliated, and Republican Christine Drazen.

signatures needed to qualify for the November ballot.

Secretary of State Shemia Fagan has until Aug. 30 to verify a sample of the signatures in time to put Johnson on the ballot alongside Democrat Tina Kotek and Republican Christine Drazen.

"The race sets up an unusual situation where the winner may not need to crack even 40%," Kondik wrote.

Much of the election debate has centered around who Johnson would most hurt, Kotek or Drazen.

Adding to the uncertainty is

a decision by leaders of the Independent Party of Oregon to forgo choosing one of the three to carry the party's ballot identification as well.

"There will be no cross-nomination on this one," Independent Party board member Andrew Kaza of Redmond said Thursday when asked about the governor's race.

An Independent Party cross-nomination in a race was often sought by major party candidates as an indicator that the self-described "centrist" party of the state saw them as being the less partisan choice.

In 2022, the Independent Party has cross-nominated 52 candidates so far this year, including U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, and two Democratic candidates for open U.S. House seats: Terrebonne attorney Jamie McLeod-Skinner in the 5th Congressional District and Rep. Andrea Salinas of Lake Oswego in the 6th District.

The Independent Party of Oregon has heavily favored Democrats in 2022, but Sen. Bill Kenemer, R-Oregon City, and Rep. Mark Owens, R-Vale, are among five Republicans to be cross-nominated by the party.

Kaza said Independent Party leaders are free to announce their personal preferences. But no one in the governor's race will be able to have the party's identification added to their ballot listing.

The Center for Politics believes there is enough electoral uncertainty to merit questioning Democrats' historic win streak.

## Local Briefing

### Meal, other activities planned at LDS church

The La Grande Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will hold a Stake activity on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Baker City church building, 2625 Hughes Lane. A meal will be served, followed by activities for anyone who wants to join in.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, a special "Back to School Devotional" will be broadcast to all church buildings at 7 p.m. PDT. Sister Bonnie Cordon, Young Women General President and Elder Ken Firmage, Area Seventy, will be speaking. Contact your Ward's leadership for more information on both activities.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Aug. 29 will be based on select chapters from the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes with a focus on the meanings

of "wisdom" and "godly fear" as used in these scriptures. For lesson details, download the free mobile app called "Gospel Library" or visit the Church website.

### BCU plans Patriot Night Out Aug. 27

Baker County United is planning a Patriot Night Out event Saturday, Aug. 27 in the covered area at Geiser-Pollman Park.

The event, which celebrates the group's first anniversary, starts at 4:30 p.m. with an auto rally starting at Windmill Lane, with vehicles heading west on Campbell Street, then on Main to Broadway to 10th and then back onto Campbell to the park.

A free barbecue will start at the park at 5 p.m. The menu, catered by Elkhorn Custom Meats and Deli, includes hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans, broccoli salad,

chips, cookies and lemonade. Bottled water will also be available. Everyone at the barbecue will receive a free ticket for a raffle of a 30-foot flag pole, including installation.

### BHS football players to sell Gold Cards

Baker High School football players will soon begin selling Bulldog Gold Cards, which offer discounts at local businesses. Football players will have the \$10 cards starting this weekend. Proceeds benefit the BHS football program.

### Entry deadline nears for Great Salt Lick Contest

Time is winding down to submit an entry for the Great Salt Lick Contest and Auction, which happens Saturday, Sept. 17, at Churchill School.

In this contest, founded by Whit Deschner, anyone is welcome to turn in a salt block that has been licked

into an artistic form by livestock or wildlife.

Enter blocks by Sept. 15 — and get a replacement block — at Oregon Trail Livestock Supply in Baker City or Richland Feed and Seed.

At the event, viewing starts at 5 p.m., and the auction starts at 7 p.m.

Cash prizes will be awarded in various categories thanks to local sponsors who have donated \$1,225.

After judging, all blocks will be auctioned by Mib Dailey. Proceeds go to the OHSU Parkinson's Center of Oregon — since it began in 2006, this auction has raised \$160,000.

For more information, visit whitdeschner.com/the-great-salt-lick-contest or contact Deschner at 541-519-2736 or deschnerwhit@yahoo.com.

## News of Record

### FUNERALS PENDING

**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.

**Cass Robertson Vanderwiele:** Celebration of life/anniversary celebration, Sept. 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Thomas Angus Ranch party barn, 42734 Old Trail Road, north of Baker City. It will be a time to visit with Cass's family and offer them love, support and condolences. Friends and loved ones are welcome to stop by at their convenience between those times. Memorial contributions can be directed to Colton Accounting, on Church Street in Baker City. Cass loved making sure the children of Baker, who were in need, had a great Christmas. A foundation will be created to honor his wishes in his name. To leave an online condolence for Cass's family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

**Peggy Anna Pittman:** Graveside service will be Saturday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception afterward at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7. Memorial contributions can be made to

Smile Train, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners' Children's Hospital through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Peggy's memory, or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

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**★ AUG 26 - SEPT 1 ★**

**JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION** (PG-13)  
Fri - Sun 12:45, 3:45, 6:45  
Mon - Thurs 3:45, 6:45

**TOP GUN MAVERICK** (PG-13)  
Fri - Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
Mon - Thurs 4:00, 7:00

**BEAST** (R)  
Fri - Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10  
Mon - Thurs 4:10, 7:10

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