

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

## 50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald  
August 29, 1972

After 27 years as superintendent of school district 5-J, Dr. James Evans has announced his retirement to become effective in June 1973.

Evans became superintendent in 1946. His education included, along with a Masters at the University of Oregon, attending Washington State College, summer classes at the University of California and a Doctorate in Education in 1954 from the University of Oregon.

## 25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 29, 1997

The Oregon Natural Resources Council wants Congress to designate most of the Elkhorn Mountains, including Baker City's watershed, as a federal wilderness area.

The council recently began the "Oregon Wild Campaign," an effort to add hundreds of thousands of acres across the state to the wilderness list.

## 10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 29, 2012

Numbers remained steady at most area school districts today as students settled into their first days of the year.

The Baker School District saw numbers climb slightly from those registered earlier this month — a district total of 1,739 reported on Aug. 20.

Preliminary numbers show about 441 students enrolled in Grades K-3 at Brooklyn Elementary, and South Baker had 335 in 4-6 classrooms today.

## ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald  
August 28, 2021

"Normal" isn't an adjective that any school official is apt to use currently, but Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty is excited about what schools will look like when classes convene on Monday, Aug. 30.

They'll look busy, most notably.

"We're looking forward to a new school year starting with students in person," Witty said on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 26.

That alone distinguishes the 2021-22 school year from its immediate predecessor.

A year ago, Baker students were watching classes on computer monitors in their home when the school year started — the same situation that prevailed during the spring term in 2020, in the early stages of the pandemic.

Elementary students, in grades K-6, returned to in-person classes for a full four-day weekly schedule on Oct. 14, 2020.

Middle school and high school students began attending classes one day per week on Nov. 9, 2020, moving to two days per week on Jan. 25, 2021, and to a full four-day schedule on April 12, 2021.

But even though this school year will start much differently from last, Witty acknowledges that "there are challenges with the pandemic."

A key one, naturally, is striving to prevent the virus from spreading in schools during the county's biggest surge in cases during the pandemic.

From Aug. 1-26, the county reported 254 cases, the most in any single month, surpassing the 196 cases in December 2020.

Last year the district was largely successful at avoiding the virus. During the school year, 36 staff or students tested positive.

Witty noted that the Vale School District in Malheur County, in its first four days of classes this week, had more than 50 students or staff members who were quarantining either because they had tested positive or had been exposed to someone who did.

In a post on the Vale District's Facebook page on Wednesday, Aug. 25, Superintendent Alisha McBride wrote that "if we do not act now, it is possible that our children will be forced into distance learning shortly after the school year begins."

## OREGON LOTTERY

## MEGABUCKS, AUG. 27

1-8-14-25-27-35

Next jackpot: \$5.3 million

## POWERBALL, AUG. 27

2-18-56-60-65 PB 14

Next jackpot: \$124 million

## MEGA MILLIONS, AUG. 26

6-27-30-38-64

Mega 23

Next jackpot: \$153 million

## WIN FOR LIFE, AUG. 27

14-15-35-69

## PICK 4, AUG. 28

• 1 p.m.: 7-7-3-7

• 4 p.m.: 3-5-8-7

• 7 p.m.: 9-3-4-8

• 10 p.m.: 0-6-1-0

## LUCKY LINES, AUG. 28

4-7-10-14-18-21-26-29

Next jackpot: \$27,000

## SENIOR MENUS

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

**THURSDAY (Sept. 1):** Chicken a la king over rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, fruit, sherbet

**FRIDAY (Sept. 2):** Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, corn on the cob, green salad, rolls, lemon squares

**MONDAY (Sept. 5):** CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

**TUESDAY (Sept. 6):** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn on the cob, biscuits, ambrosia, 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

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Open Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

## Publisher

Karrine Brogotti

kbrogotti@lagrandobserver.com

Jayson Jacoby, editor

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

## Advertising email

ads@bakercityherald.com

## Classified email

classified@bakercityherald.com

## Circulation email

circ@bakercityherald.com

## 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

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## Report: Benefits of Snake dams must be replaced before breaching

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — The benefits provided by four giant hydroelectric dams on the Snake River must be replaced before the dams can be breached to save endangered salmon runs, according to a final report issued Thursday, Aug. 25 by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Washington U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

That is especially true regarding the reliable and carbon-free electricity the dams generate, the report concluded.

If the four Snake River dams were ultimately removed, it would be the largest such project in U.S. history. In 2012 the Elwha Dam on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula was removed to restore habitat. At the time, the National Park Service said the elimination of the Elwha Dam was the largest such project in U.S. history.

Congress will ultimately decide if the federally owned dams will be removed, and would have to appropriate money for the work.

The issue is not a matter of electricity versus salmon, Thursday's report said.

"We believe that is an oversimplified binary choice, and it is one that we do not accept or see as inevitable," Inslee and Murray wrote.

But, "the science is clear that — specific to the Lower Snake River — breach of the dams would provide the great-



Associated Press, File

The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River near Pomeroy, Washington. Environmental groups are calling for the removal of this dam and three others on the Lower Snake River.

est benefit to the salmon," the report said.

Breaching the dams would significantly improve the ability of salmon and steelhead to swim from their inland spawning grounds to the Pacific Ocean, where they spend most of their lives, and then back to their original spawning grounds to procreate and die, the report said.

Major benefits of the dams besides electricity include making the Snake River navigable up to Lewiston, Idaho, allowing barges to carry wheat and other crops to ocean ports. Eliminating the dams would require truck and rail

transportation improvements to move crops, the report said. The dams also provide irrigation water for farmers and recreation opportunities for people.

A draft report released on June 9 concluded the benefits provided by the dams would cost between \$10.3 billion and \$27.2 billion to replace.

The dams have many supporters, including two GOP members of Congress representing eastern Washington state, where the dams are located. The dams are also supported by barge companies, farmers and other business interests.

Republican U.S. Reps. Dan Newhouse and Cathy McMorris Rodgers recently introduced a bill to protect the dams.

But the chairman of the Yakama Nation has said the dams must be breached.

"Our people are salmon people," tribal council chairman Delano Saluskin said earlier this year. "When the salmon thrive, we thrive; but when they suffer, our people suffer too."

The dams have fish ladders, but too many of the salmon die as they swim through the dams and across slackwater reservoirs on their migrations.

## Local Briefing

## Free services for some cities, counties, nonprofits

The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) is offering up to 20 hours of free help to cities, counties and nonprofits in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties. The free services include project and organizational development, grant prospecting, grant writing and project administration services.

The services are possible due to funding from the Oregon Legislature and an Oregon foundation, according to a press release from NEOEDD.

NEOEDD will provide services based on available staff time, an organization's readiness to proceed, and the timing of grant deadlines.

"Our goal is to assist as many organizations as possible; however, our funding is limited, so we may not be able to serve every eligible organization," said Lisa Dawson, NEOEDD executive director.

The money from the Oregon Legislature supports services to cities with populations under 2,500, counties with populations under 15,000, and special districts in these cities and counties. NEOEDD will use the same criteria to prioritize the

free services.

Cities, counties and nonprofits can submit a request for services online at <https://bit.ly/3R6nLZy>.

"We may also refer organizations to Sequoia Consulting for help to identify appropriate grant sources for a project or to prepare an organization to apply for and successfully manage a grant," Dawson said.

More information is available by emailing Chantal Ivenso at [chantalivenso@neoedd.org](mailto:chantalivenso@neoedd.org) or by calling 541-426-3598, extension 4.

## 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](http://whitdeschner.com/the-great-salt-lick-contest) or contact Deschner at 541-519-2736 or [deschnerwhit@yahoo.com](mailto:deschnerwhit@yahoo.com).

## Free grant-writing training for nonprofits

HALFWAY — Lisa Dawson and Sara Miller from the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District will teach a free workshop series in Halfway in September and October focusing on successful grant writing for nonprofits.

The classes will take place on four Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Sept. 10 and 24, and Oct. 8 and 22. The classes will be at the Lions Hall in Halfway. Registration deadline is Sept. 8. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/29sm299c> or find the link at [neoedd.org/events/](https://neoedd.org/events/) or call 541-426-3598.

## 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.coletributecenter.com](http://www.coletributecenter.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](http://www.grayswestco.com).

**Peggy Anna Pittman:** Graveside service 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. In lieu of flowers, 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](http://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](http://www.grayswestco.com).

## POLICE LOG

## Baker City Police

## Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Jimmy Dean Smith Jr., 57, Baker City, 4:43 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Umatilla County warrant): Paul Adam Heller, 51, Baker City, 4:43 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Stacy Lee Lindstrom, 43, transient, 3:10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 in the 2300 block of Colorado Avenue; cited and released.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County warrant): David Samuel Cutshall, 30, Baker City, 12:23 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 in the 1300 block of Elm Street; cited and released.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Daniel Raymond Croucher, 62, Baker City, 4:35 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26 in the 3700 block of Midway Drive; cited and released.

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