

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald
November 19, 1972

IONE — After four years under Huntington's rule, Class A 8-man football will have a new king. An lone coup banished the Eastern Oregon power 28-22 here in Saturday's semifinal match.

The victory elevated the Cardinals to next week's championship game against Alsea.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 19, 1997

The Baker City Council is interested in applying for a federal grant that pays 75 percent of the cost to hire new police officers.

But councilors want to know how much the city would have to spend over the next several years to bolster its police force.

The council discussed the Cops Universal program, and several other police department issues, at a work session Tuesday evening before the council's regular meeting.

Under the program, the federal government pays 75 percent of the cost of new officers and the city 25 percent. But the grant lasts for just three years. After that, the city pays the entire cost.

Councilors asked Police Chief Jim Tomlinson to compile a chart showing the city's cost for hiring one, two or more officers.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 19, 2012

SCAPPOOSE — Traveling to Scappoose to face the No. 1-ranked Indians with home field advantage and in inclement weather (rain), it certainly wasn't ideal conditions for the ninth-ranked Baker Bulldogs (9-1) football team to pull off an upset.

But that's exactly what the Bulldogs did as they played exceptional defense in a 22-0 victory over Scappoose in the Class 4A quarterfinals Saturday at Scappoose High School.

The three-time Greater Oregon League champion Bulldogs, led by 11-year head coach Dave Johnson, advanced to the 4A semifinals and will meet the Cascade Cougars (10-1) Nov. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Hillsboro Stadium. The winner of that game will play in the Dec. 1 championship game against the winner of the other semifinal (North Bend vs. Ontario).

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald
November 20, 2021

The shifting of the seasons has been marked by chilly mornings, falling leaves and frost-covered lawns, and now another sign of the holidays is in place.

Baker City's community Christmas tree was felled on Friday morning, Nov. 19, and trucked to its traditional spot in the Court Street Park, in the historic downtown district between Main and Resort streets.

Chuck Carey performed his usual role with a chain saw to bring down the estimated 45-foot-tall spruce that grew on Jeremiah Allies' property at Third and Campbell streets.

Crews from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative were on hand, and Superior Towing, Eastern Oregon Rental, and the city's police and public works department helped with the operation. The tree was loaded onto a truck for its short trip downtown in less than an hour.

Allies, who donated the tree, said he hopes everyone enjoys its presence downtown during the holiday season.

"The reason I'm getting rid of this is it's too close to the house and the roots are most likely going to start growing into the basement," Allies said.

The tree will be adorned as usual with lights, which will be illuminated on Saturday evening, Dec. 4, following the Chamber of Commerce's "Miracle on Main Street" Christmas parade. The parade starts at 5 p.m.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, NOV. 16

3-7-13-17-41-45
Next jackpot: \$1.8 million

POWERBALL, NOV. 16

28-34-51-53-56 PB 11
Next jackpot: \$93 million

MEGA MILLIONS, NOV. 18

6-19-28-46-61
Mega 23

Next jackpot: \$238 million

WIN FOR LIFE, NOV. 16

38-46-56-76

PICK 4, NOV. 17

• 1 p.m.: 6-4-2-3

• 4 p.m.: 1-3-8-7

• 7 p.m.: 5-6-3-3

• 10 p.m.: 5-6-4-0

LUCKY LINES, NOV. 17

3-6-10-13-17-21-28-29

Next jackpot: \$34,000

SENIOR MENUS

MONDAY (Nov. 21): Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, biscuits, coleslaw, cookies

TUESDAY (Nov. 22): Taco salad, sour cream and salsa, chips, fruit cup

WEDNESDAY (Nov. 23): Chili cheese dogs, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, cottage cheese with fruit, pudding

THURSDAY (Nov. 24): CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY (Nov. 25): CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

MONDAY (Nov. 28): Hot beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, carrot-raisin salad, fruit cup

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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GRANT COUNTY

Sheriff threatened with arrest while arresting Forest Service burn boss

BY TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — New details in the arrest of a Forest Service burn boss in October during a prescribed burn in Grant County are raising the possibility the sheriff who arrested him could in turn be subject to prosecution.

On Oct. 19 a prescribed burn the U.S. Forest Service was conducting, with help from Oregon Department of Forestry and contract crews, escaped the burn area, scorching approximately 18 acres of adjacent private land in Bear Valley, about 7 miles north of Seneca. While that "sloper" fire was actively being brought under control, Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley, responding to a 911 call from the landowners, arrived and arrested Rick Snodgrass, the federal employee in charge of the operation, on a misdemeanor charge of reckless burning.

But a document the Blue Mountain Eagle obtained shows that, in the course of arresting Snodgrass, McKinley was himself threatened with arrest for governmental obstruction, a potential felony charge under federal law.

In a sworn probable cause affidavit filed in court, McKinley gives a detailed account of events surrounding Snodgrass' arrest for reckless burning. The sheriff describes a "tenuous and awkward situation" where the "conversation started going bad" once McKinley confronted Snodgrass.

"Fire Personnel were trying to tell me I was going to be arrested for Governmental Obstruction," McKinley states in the affidavit.

The affidavit concludes with McKinley's assessment that, as he drove off with Snodgrass in custody, "the fire was still not contained."

According to the affidavit,



Tony Chiotti/Blue Mountain Eagle

Chad Holliday of Windy Point Ranch speaks with a Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations officer Oct. 20, 2022, on County Road 62, between private and public land, the day after Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley arrested a federal burn boss.

while McKinley was on the scene "landowners were requesting air support." While air support had been authorized and planned for, the fire crews never called for it. The fire was ultimately brought under control using hand crews and a bulldozer within one hour of it being reported.

Arrest criticized

The incident attracted national attention, sparking discussions around prescription burning in general and bringing heavy criticism of the Grant County sheriff's unprecedented action. Prior to these events, a federal firefighter had never been arrested in the course of performing their duties.

In the days following the incident, U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore issued a statement defending Snodgrass and calling the arrest "highly inappropriate under these circumstances." He went on to say he will "not stand idly by" and will defend all Forest Service employees carrying out their duties.

The National Federation of Federal Employees, a union representing 110,000 federal workers, including Forest Service personnel, went further in a statement on Nov. 2.

"It is not normal for a local sheriff to arrest a working fire commander during an incident," wrote NFFE President Randy Erwin. "In doing so, the sheriff may have violated federal law that makes it a felony to interfere with a federal employee during their official duties, and the sheriff may have opened the county to massive liability for a civil rights violation for unlawfully detaining and removing (Snodgrass)."

McKinley confirmed that Snodgrass was one of the "fire-fighting personnel" he described as threatening him with arrest on the scene.

Whose authority?

Firefighters do not have the authority to make arrests, according to Lisa Ludwig, a criminal defense attorney who handles state and federal cases. Ludwig said threatening arrest without having that authority may be "talking out your ear" in the moment, but she went on to explain how it could still lead to federal charges down the line.

"A firefighter could act as an investigator or an agent of the government to write up a report and recommend a prosecution to a U.S. attorney," who could choose to later pursue charges based on that investigation,

Ludwig said.

She pointed out that some federal employees, such as park rangers, are given "quasi-law enforcement" authority and can issue citations. But she also said it was more likely "they were giving their opinion that the sheriff could be arrested for what he was doing, not that they were claiming to have the power to arrest him."

One Forest Service official said he understands it was less a threat of arrest and more a matter of firefighters "informing the sheriff of the consequences of his actions."

McKinley said to his knowledge the matter "is not being pursued, though I'm not going to say it didn't happen," referring to the threat of arrest.

A Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations officer had been requested for the Oct. 19 burn. This was not a standard arrangement, according to current and retired Forest Service officials. The request was made directly in response to verbal harassment and perceived threats the crews had reported on the previous day of burn operations on Oct. 13. That law enforcement officer was not able to be on the scene due to an injury, but the burn went ahead.

Tree

Continued from A1

This year's Christmas display will be a little different from previous years due to a planned redesign of the Court Plaza.

Michelle Owen, the city's public works director, said this year will be a bit of an experiment.

The Baker City Downtown group has a subcommittee working with the city on an updated design for the plaza.

Owen said the Oregon Department of Transportation has agreed to build a north-south sidewalk across Court Avenue when a contractor returns next spring to finish the ADA-compliance project that took started this spring and included dozens of curb cuts and ramps on sections of Broadway, Main, Elm and other streets.

"Then we'll just have a nice pedestrian walkway," Owen said.

However, the hole where the Christmas tree is placed is close enough to where the sidewalk will be built next year that the taller, wider trees the city has placed in the plaza in previous years would interfere with pedestri-



Baker City's community Christmas tree is loaded and ready for transport downtown on Friday morning, Nov. 18, 2022.

Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

ans, she said.

One option is to move the tree hole east, but Owen said the Baker City Downtown committee wants to try smaller trees that will be in the same spot.

The tree Rayl donated is between 20 and 25 feet tall. Last year's Christmas tree was about 45 feet tall.

"So, this year we have a little bit smaller tree and this will be a good test of will a

smaller tree work for the community? Will it work for Court Plaza?" Owen said. "It's everybody's tree, it's everybody's plaza. So, let's give it a try and see what it's like."

The proposed design for the plaza includes a section with pavers rather than asphalt.

Owen said this year's tree, in addition to taking up less space in the plaza, was also easier to transport.

"It's a beautiful tree," she said.

Robbery, kidnapping suspect remains in jail

Heather Aimy-Mae Winston scheduled to enter plea Dec. 1

Baker City Herald

A Baker City woman who was arrested Nov. 2 on multiple felony charges, including robbery and kidnapping, remains in the Baker County Jail and is scheduled to enter a plea on Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Baker County Circuit Court.

Heather Aimy-Mae Winston, 30, has been indicted by the Baker County Grand Jury on six counts:

- Two counts of first-degree kidnapping, a Class A felony.

- Coercion, a Class C felony.
- Third-degree robbery, a Class C felony.
- Fourth-degree assault, a Class A misdemeanor.
- Menacing, a Class A misdemeanor.

Judge Matt Shirtcliff set Winston's bail at \$350,000. She could be released by posting 10% of that amount.

Winston was convicted of second-degree robbery in Baker City in 2019 and sentenced to 36 months in prison. She was released from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Oregon's women's prison, on Oct. 29, 2021, and had been living at

1690 Indiana Ave., according to a press release from Ty Duby, Baker City Police chief, after Winston was arrested.

She is accused of assaulting and threatening a Baker City man and his girlfriend, confining the woman to a home and taking money from her in late

October.

The incident happened after Winston and three other people, including the victims of the alleged assault, drove to Pendleton to buy fentanyl. Police seized the fentanyl pills after the group was stopped by police in La Grande.

bakercityherald.com

News of Record

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Nathaniel L. Brown, 40, Baker City, 3:37 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17 in the 2900 block of Elm Street; cited and released.

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