

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

November 24, 1972

LA GRANDE (UPI) — Bob Quinn, who was listed among the nation's top 10 winningest active basketball coaches at the time of his retirement from Eastern Oregon College, died Thursday at the age of 74.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

November 24, 1997

Historic Baker City Inc. is bringing back the century-old tradition of a community Christmas tree at the intersection of Court Avenue and Main Street.

A 40-foot spruce tree donated by Omar and Garnet Carroll was removed from their yard Saturday morning and moved to Court Avenue between Main and Resort streets.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

November 23, 2012

This week's storms weren't generous enough with their snow to allow Anthony Lakes ski area to open on Thanksgiving weekend.

But things looked promising for a while.

"We had the potential, but the storm didn't produce as much snow as we hoped," said Peter Johnson, general manager for the ski area in the Elkhorn Mountains about 34 miles northwest of Baker City.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

November 23, 2021

Add law enforcement officers to the growing list of professions feeling the brunt of a labor shortage and facing hiring woes.

Police departments in Baker City, Pendleton and La Grande have had little luck finding applicants for their open positions recently, and the police chiefs are flummoxed about the reasons why.

"We've had zero applicants," said Ty Doby, Baker City Police chief.

Doby, who worked for 25 years for Oregon State Police before joining the Baker City Police in 2019, recalls a time when positions brought in hundreds of applications for a single opening, giving police departments a wide variety of potential applicants to choose from. Those numbers have dwindled over the past year — and Doby personally has had to actively pursue an applicant and ask the person to apply for the job.

The Baker City Police Department is not alone in the struggle to find qualified applicants.

"I've been with the City of La Grande for 28 years, and 20 to 25 years ago we would see 150 applications for one opening for a police officer position — and that has been trending in what I feel is a negative direction for a long time," said La Grande Police Chief Gary Bell.

Bell's department is having only slightly better luck hiring, with nearly 15 qualified applicants vying for two positions open at the La Grande Police Department, but those application numbers are still a far cry from their previous numbers. To make matters more difficult, the number of law enforcement officers retiring or resigning has increased, Bell said.

"The last 18 to 24 months, we have seen a lot of our long-time employees — police officers — retire and so we have been doing more hiring than what maybe we would, or have over the course of the last 15 to 20 years," Bell said.

In order to attract lateral transfers — poaching police officers from other regions — Bell created a \$6,000 hiring bonus for certified experienced police officers, hoping to draw in officers from across the state. So far, that effort "has not garnered any certified officers," Bell said.

Lateral transfers are valuable for police departments due to the amount of training required for new officers. It can take up to nine months to transform a new recruit into an independent and capable police officer, Bell said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, NOV. 19

4-5-12-22-23-34

Next jackpot: \$1.9 million

POWERBALL, NOV. 19

7-28-62-63-64 PB 10

Next jackpot: \$20 million

MEGA MILLIONS, NOV. 18

2-14-16-38-66

Mega 9

Next jackpot: \$259 million

WIN FOR LIFE, NOV. 19

22-23-33-70

PICK 4, NOV. 20

• 1 p.m.: 5-6-4-8

• 4 p.m.: 2-0-3-4

• 7 p.m.: 8-2-8-1

• 10 p.m.: 1-6-4-8

LUCKY LINES, NOV. 20

3-7-12-16-18-23-27-31

Next jackpot: \$11,000

SENIOR MENUS

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

TUESDAY (Nov. 29): Herb-baked chicken with gravy, red potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, green salad

WEDNESDAY (Nov. 30): Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, green salad, brownies

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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Opponents of B2H transmission line voice concerns at hearing

BY ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Opponents of the proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line had another opportunity to speak their minds about the controversial project.

The hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, was one of the early steps in the Oregon Public Utility Commission's quasi-judicial process to either grant or deny Idaho Power's petition for a certificate of public necessity. The Boise-based power company is a major partner in the proposed B2H transmission line.

Public Utility Commissioners Mark Thompson and Letha Tawney traveled to La Grande for the public hearing. Commissioner Megan Decker attended virtually.

"We felt like the commissioners listened," Jim Kreider, co-chair of the Union County-based Stop B2H Coalition, said.

Around 40 residents filled seats in the David E. Gilbert Event Center to listen to the public comment hearing, and nearly 20 people shared their concerns. Many residents spoke out against the transmission line and looked to the commissioners as a last hope to stop B2H. Overlapping concerns raised by residents at the meeting fell into three categories — issues with the process, the impact on Oregon as a whole and the impact at the local level.

Residents who had issues with the process cited the lack of an updated budget from Idaho Power on the transmission line and the failure to include the alternate route proposed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Broader concerns include environmental and ecological



East Oregonian, File

The setting sun silhouettes transmission lines in Boardman Feb. 3, 2022, near the possible future starting point for the proposed 290-mile Boardman to Hemingway transmission line.

destruction along the transmission line. Individuals also brought up the possible damage to the Oregon Trail ruts and the impacts that would have on tourism.

At a more local level, people were concerned with the potential for wildfires caused by power lines and high noise levels emitted by the lines. Residents also voiced safety concerns about trucks using local roads to access towers if the transmission line is approved. Another major local concern was the impact on Morgan Lake if that route is used.

Fuji Kreider, a member of the Stop B2H Coalition, said many residents felt left out of the process and trapped in a cycle of governmental bodies making decisions without considering public input.

"We're in a vicious cycle," she said.

The commissioners were not

able to answer questions at the hearing — rather their goal was simply to listen to opinions and gather information.

"There are things we heard tonight that we will make sure our staff looks into," Thompson said.

The proposed transmission line would connect a new station near Boardman to an existing substation in southwest Idaho near Melba. In September, Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council approved a site certificate for the B2H line. The permit authorizes construction of the 290-mile, 500-kilovolt line across the Eastern Oregon counties of Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur. Federal agencies already granted permission for the line to cross land they manage.

As part of the petition process, Idaho Power must provide evidence of need and justification to construct the line. The certificate details the purpose

and route of the transmission line. It also provides a cost estimate and other relevant information.

It is up to the Public Utility Commission to determine the necessity, safety, practicability and justification in the public interest for the proposed transmission line, according to Oregon law.

If granted, the certificate would demonstrate that the transmission line is a public use and necessary for public convenience. The certificate would not condemn any land directly, but would be used by Idaho Power in court proceeding to use land along the path of the transmission line.

In addition to the application from Idaho Power, the Public Utility Commission will consider comments from members of the public and independent evidence gathered by commission staff.

Two sue over sale of Baker building

Baker City Herald

Two people have filed a civil lawsuit against the former owners of a Baker City building, claiming the former owners violated a sales agreement by selling the property to someone else.

Anthony Stoner and Garret Koch filed the suit, in which they are seeking damages of about \$40,000, on Monday, Nov. 14 in Baker County Circuit Court.

The defendants are Loyd and Elvira Falgout of Kent, Washington. The couple own Fifth and Madison LLC and are the former owners of the three-story building at 2330 Fifth St.

The building, the former site of Baker House, a drug and alcohol treatment facility, is near St. Elizabeth Towers. The building was constructed in 1939.

According to the lawsuit, Stoner and Koch, along with the Falgouts, signed a real estate sales agreement for the building in September 2016.

That agreement states that Stoner and Koch will buy the property for \$150,000, with a \$10,000 down payment and monthly payments of \$500 with an interest rate of 7%.

According to the lawsuit, Stoner and Koch fulfilled their obligations in the agreement, which include paying property taxes and making monthly payments.

In June 2021, the Falgouts sold the building to someone else.

Gordon Holman bought the building for \$95,000, according to the Baker County Assessor's Office.

Holman, in an August 2021 interview with the Baker City Herald, said he planned

to renovate the structure into six condominiums.

According to the lawsuit, the Falgouts breached the 2016 agreement in "one or more of the following particulars:

- By repudiating the terms of the agreement.
- By selling the property.
- By acting in bad faith in selling the property without the consent of the plaintiffs."

As a result, the plaintiffs lost approximately \$40,000, according to the lawsuit, including payments made and expenses for maintaining and improving the building.

The specific amount would be determined at trial, according to the lawsuit.

Stoner and Koch are represented by David Auxier of Intermountain Law in Baker City.

SHERMAN COUNTY

Sheriff, group sues to block new gun law

PORTLAND (AP) — An Oregon gun rights group and a county sheriff have filed a federal lawsuit challenging a voter-approved ballot measure that is one of the strictest gun control laws in the nation.

The Oregon Firearms Federation and Sherman County Sheriff Brad Lohrey filed the lawsuit Friday, Nov. 18 in U.S. District Court contending the measure scheduled to take effect Dec. 8 is unconstitutional because it violates the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

The lawsuit seeks to prevent the measure from taking effect.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown and Democratic Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum are named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Oregon voters earlier this

month approved the measure that requires residents to obtain a permit to purchase a gun, bans large-capacity magazines over 10 rounds except in some circumstances and creates a statewide firearms database.

The lawsuit states that many best-selling handguns and rifles come standard with magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

"Millions of law-abiding Americans own firearms equipped with magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition," the lawsuit states. "There is nothing unusual or novel about this technology."

The ban on large-capacity magazines would not apply to current owners, law enforcement or the military.

To qualify for a permit un-

der the measure, an applicant would need to complete an approved, in-person firearm safety course, pay a fee, provide personal information, submit to fingerprinting and photographing and pass a federal criminal background check. The permits would be processed by local police chiefs, county sheriffs or their designees.

Proponents of the measure say it would reduce suicides — which account for 82% of gun deaths in the state — mass

shootings and other gun violence.

Opponents, including the left-wing Socialist Rifle Association, say it would infringe on constitutionally protected rights and could reduce gun access among marginalized communities and people of color if law enforcement agencies are the arbiters of the permitting process. They also say permitting fees and the cost of the firearms course could also be barriers to access.

News of Record

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Union County Circuit Court warrant): Megan Rebecca Beam, 35, Baker City, 1:57 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

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GUN SHOW

BUY - SELL - TRADE

November 26th & 27th

Saturday 9am - 6pm • Sunday 9am - 3pm
\$7.00, Children under 12 free

2600 East St., Baker City
Reservations: Ray (541.519.7482) or email: traderrays00@gmail.com

Children under 18 shall be accompanied by an adult.
All Federal, State and Local laws shall be enforced.