

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

December 3, 1972

Three years of intensive study, reinforced by studies of other school districts in Oregon and Idaho, prompted the District 5-J board to plan a building program to relieve the overcrowded Baker schools.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

December 3, 1997

The section of U.S. Highway 26 between Unity and Vale is a narrow, curving ribbon of asphalt, the sort of road you don't take your eyes off if you want to stay on it.

But it's a bit wider now in a couple of places, and ranchers in Burnt River Valley are happy about that.

By this spring, they should be able to haul their cattle to the livestock auction yard at Vale without worrying they'll get a ticket for exceeding the highway's length limit.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

December 3, 2012

HILLSBORO — After Baker High School won the Class 4A football state championship with a 52-22 win Saturday over North Bend, there's no doubt the Bulldog Dynasty is alive and well.

Playing in their third state title game in the last four years, the three-time Greater Oregon League champion Bulldogs (11-1) dominated the game from start to finish in defeating North Bend (11-2) to capture the championship trophy at Hillsboro Stadium.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

December 4, 2021

The National Finals Rodeo is back in Las Vegas, and Jesse Brown could not be happier.

The Baker City steer wrestler competed in his first NFR last year in Arlington, Texas, but he said there is something special about Thomas & Mack Center.

There must be after Brown turned in a time of 4.5 seconds to finish in a two-way tie for fifth place with Tyler Waguespack in the first round on Thursday, Dec. 2. Each man won \$5,661 for his efforts.

"It's way different than Texas," he said. "Everyone is right on top of you here. It's where it belongs. It was awesome."

In an October 2021 interview, Brown said he was excited to compete in Las Vegas.

"I can't wait," he said. "It's a completely different rodeo. I think the electricity in that building — you're not going to be able to match that."

Dirk Tavenner and Riley Duvall tied for first in the opening round Thursday with times of 3.7 seconds. They each walked away with \$24,167.

Brown, who was sitting second in the world standings before the NFR, slid a little in the standings, but there are still nine more rounds to go, and he started off right with a legal run and a few dollars to add to his earnings.

"I don't really pay attention to that," he said.

Brown, who was competing with a back strain, was happy with his first run.

"I had to make a horse change at the last minute," he said of riding his own horse, Gunner. "He did well. It was good. The anticipation leading up to tonight was a rush. I can't wait until tomorrow."

The steer ropers had a fresh pen of steers on Friday, Dec. 3. There are four pens, which means they won't see Thursday's steers again until Round 4 on Sunday, Dec. 5.

While Las Vegas can be a fun place to visit, Brown said his day before the evening performance is jam packed.

"I had a packed day," he said of Thursday. "I had physical therapy in the morning, then they had us doing signings and meet and greets. It's an honor they even want me to do something like that."

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, NOV. 30

4-16-17-22-32-39

Next jackpot: \$2.4 million

POWERBALL, NOV. 30

4-19-24-47-66 PB 10

Next jackpot: \$81 million

MEGA MILLIONS, NOV. 29

20-23-37-46-52

Mega 6

Next jackpot: \$333 million

WIN FOR LIFE, NOV. 30

14-22-53-74

PICK 4, DEC. 1

• 1 p.m.: 6-7-1-0

• 4 p.m.: 5-4-9-8

• 7 p.m.: 3-5-1-7

• 10 p.m.: 2-6-2-0

LUCKY LINES, DEC. 1

2-7-11-15-18-23-28-32

Next jackpot: \$22,000

SENIOR MENUS

MONDAY (Dec. 5): Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, biscuits, corn, green salad, cookies

TUESDAY (Dec. 6): Spaghetti, garlic breadsticks, green beans, green salad, apple slices

WEDNESDAY (Dec. 7): Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, rolls, macaroni salad, brownies

THURSDAY (Dec. 8): Pork roast, scalloped potatoes, peas, rolls, green salad, fruit cup

FRIDAY (Dec. 9): Taco salad, sour cream, salsa, chips, 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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COVID cases rose during November

Monthly total of 54 was third-lowest since April

Baker City Herald

COVID-19 cases rose in Baker County during November after declining for four straight months.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported 54 cases in the county, up from 34 during October.

October's total was the fewest in a month since April 2022.

November's is the third-lowest monthly total since then.

There were 121 cases in June, 116 in July, 79 in August and 65 in September.

OHA reported nine cases on both Nov. 17 and Nov. 28, the highest one-day total since Aug. 1, when there were 11 cases in the county.

No COVID-19-related deaths were reported in the county during November.

There were two related deaths during October. There have been 63 COVID-19-related deaths in the county since the pandemic started in March 2020, 24 of those happening in 2022.

OHA officials say the official case counts underestimate the actual prevalence of the virus because many people are using home

tests, which they're not required to report to the state.

In Baker County the number of reported tests has been relatively steady, with 474 in November, compared with 551 in October and 503 in September.

After a monthly record of 646 cases in January 2022 during the omicron surge, Baker County's case rate plummeted to 230 during February and then dropped even more rapidly during March, when there were 14 cases.

After April's total of 13 — the fewest since May 2020, the month when Baker County had its first reported case — cases rose to 49 in May and to 121 in June before declining in four straight months.

GO STEM uses grant to expand computer science education across Eastern Oregon

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's Greater Oregon STEM Hub is helping break barriers and providing support to give students across Eastern Oregon direct access to engaging computer science education tools and professional development.

The Oregon Department of Education has awarded \$6 million of a \$10 million investment from the Oregon Governor's Computer Science Initiative to the 13 STEM Hubs in Oregon. Eastern's GO STEM Hub intends to use its portion of the grant — \$587,000 — to provide free computer science materials, professional development and support for schools around Eastern Oregon.

In addition, the effort will curate a menu of items that schools can incorporate to support and improve upon their current computer science capacity/abilities, meeting the students where they are at.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to provide computer science materials and experiences for our students," David Melville, executive director of GO STEM said. "The goal is to have materials in the hands of Eastern Oregon students this spring."

Through this effort, GO STEM has hired three EOU students to help ensure the



Eastern Oregon University, File

Eastern Oregon University student-athletes volunteered on Oct. 31, 2020, to assemble 2,000 at-home learning kits as part of a grant-funded effort by the Greater Oregon STEM Hub to support fourth-graders in rural counties.

project's success. These students have been working closely with the GO STEM team to provide insight and collaboration on new and innovative ways to aid Eastern Oregon schools on their road to making computer science programs more readily accessible to students.

"Getting the opportunity to work with the GO STEM team and the equipment within this grant has been an absolute blast," said EOU senior Jordan Rogers. "With the systems in

this grant, these kids will gain opportunities in learning some of the ways that code works and hopefully it will inspire some passion for them to keep pursuing computer science in the future."

The projects from the grant will also help prepare Oregon students for an increasingly digital future workforce, as well as to help youth develop important cognitive and critical thinking skills through computer science lessons and learning.

Stefanie Holloway, program director of the GO STEM Hub, shared that having these resources be available is an "incredible opportunity."

"It is incredible to have this opportunity to share engaging computer science materials with schools," she said. "Having the help of the EOU students has been an incredible asset to this project. This larger grant is a tremendous learning opportunity for all of us, and it is exciting to see how everything is coming together."

Virtual meeting Dec. 5 on B2H power line

EO Media Group

The Oregon Public Utility Commission is hosting a virtual meeting on Monday, Dec. 5 for the public to comment on Idaho Power's application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Idaho Power's request is part of its proposed construction of a transmission line that would connect the Hemingway substation in Idaho with a substation near Boardman, Oregon. The transmission line is known as the Boardman to Hemingway or B2H project.

Idaho Power has asked the PUC to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for this project. If granted, Idaho Power would use this certificate in court proceedings where it seeks to condemn an



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

The proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway power line would follow the route of an existing line that crosses Highway 86 between Baker City and the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

interest in land along the transmission line's path. The certificate would demonstrate to the court that the transmission line is a public use and necessary for

public convenience.

This virtual meeting option to comment via Zoom or by phone follows a recent in-person meeting in La Grande, held

in November.

The virtual meeting will be conducted from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The meeting may go beyond the scheduled end time to allow more people to comment, so it is important for people who want to give input to log in before 7 p.m.

Access the Zoom link and phone-in details at: <https://bit.ly/3zXBRlz> or at <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/Pages/Whats-New.aspx>.

The deadline for submitting comments is Jan. 10, 2023. Comments can be emailed to PUC.Public.comments@puc.oregon.gov or mailed to Oregon Public Utility Commission, Attn.: AHD-PCN 5, P.O. Box 1088, Salem, OR, 97308-1088.

For additional information call 503-378-6600 or 800-522-2404.

News of Record

DEATHS

Jeffrey 'Jeff' Reese: 52, of Baker City, died Nov. 30, 2022, at his home with his family at his side. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Wendy Marks: 57, of Richland, died Dec. 1, 2022, at her home, surrounded by the love of her family. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Donna Carver: 84, of Clatskanie, Oregon, and formerly of Baker City, died Nov. 25, 2022, at her home. Groulx Family Mortuary is in charge of arrangements. Her funeral will be Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Westport Community Church in Westport, Oregon.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

IMPROPER USE OF 911: Nicholas Neshun Lark, 39, Baker City, 2:28 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 in Baker City; cited and released.

VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT, RESISTING ARREST:

Steven Arthur Engle, 58, Baker City, 12:08 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30 in the 2300 block of Eighth Street; jailed.

Accident reports

Baker City Police responded to multiple noninjury accidents in the city on Thursday, Dec. 1.

• 12:18 p.m., Broadway and Main streets.

• 1:10 p.m., Foothill Drive and Highway 7.

• 2:21 p.m., Broadway Street near the middle school.

Oregon State Police

Accident reports

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 3:03 p.m. on Interstate 84, Milepost 332 eastbound, a commercial truck crashed, blocking the fast lane. According to an OSP report, the freeway was bare and the temperature around 35 degrees. "Evidence on scene suggests that the 'truck' took the corner too fast causing

it to overturn into the barrier." The truck was driven by Muhammad Sarwar Nizam, 47, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 2:23 p.m. on Highway 245, Milepost 33, a Ford Excursion driven by Crista Joan Roth, 29, slid on the snow-covered highway and ended up in the ditch, blocking the northbound lane. The vehicle was drivable.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 9:22 a.m. on Interstate 84, Milepost 317 eastbound, a GMC Sierra pickup truck driven by Cristian Castellon Sabalza, 25, of Washougal, Washington, lost control on a bridge and hit the cement barrier in the center of the ridge. The truck had front end damage but was able to be driven away.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 5:46 a.m. on Interstate 84, Milepost 338 eastbound, a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck driven by Charles Clinton Straub, 32, of Huntington, lost control on the snow-covered freeway and hit the concrete

barrier in the center of the freeway.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 4:35 a.m. on Interstate 84, Milepost 292 eastbound, OSP responded to a commercial truck crash. The driver, Marius T. Danciu, 35, of Boise, told OSP that he lost control due to a wind gust. The freeway was icy at the time, according to an OSP report.

On Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 8:50 p.m. on Interstate 84, Milepost 280 eastbound, OSP responded to a commercial truck that had jackknifed and ended up in the median. The driver was Mhretu Gebrehiwet, 35, of Houston.

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, at around 2 p.m., Superior Towing removed a vehicle that posed a hazard to other traffic on Highway 7 near Milepost 40, about 9 miles southwest of Baker City. The Volvo, owned by Sarah Elisabeth Blackstun of Boise, was stuck against an embankment on a blind curve, according to an OSP report. The left side of the car was near the fog line and was lodged on top of a large rock.

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