

Local

Oath Keepers present ideas for inexpensive food storage

• BEING PREPARED IS CHEAPER THAN MOST THINK

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Tuesday night’s Oath Keeper’s meeting showed that the group has established a flow to its monthly gathering at the Sunridge. The meetings begin and end with roundtable discussions and updates on issues of interest to the members.

In between those items, a presentation featuring an idea for helping members and the community prepare their families and neighborhoods for any kind of emergency is highlighted.

This month, Michelle Cooper let members know that long-term food storage—enough to hold a family for up to a year in the event of a disaster—isn’t as daunting as one might think.

Says Cooper, “I know people who eat lunch out every day at work. For fast food, it will likely cost you between \$6 to \$8 per day or more. My husband tells me it is likely more than \$8, but at Dairy Queen, I could get the \$5 lunch and upgrade my Sunday to a small Blizzard for \$6.”

Cooper says by cutting back on the restaurant lunches and brown-bagging it for a while, a person could save as much as \$30 per week.

Cooper is a fan of the Mormon Home Storage Center in the Boise area, a center that sells basic bulk foods at economical prices.



Kerry McQuisten/ The Baker County Press

Michelle and Jeff Cooper talk about food storage ideas on a budget—as well as a little on radio operations and certifications.

According to Cooper, “\$30 will purchase, from the Mormon Home Storage Center, 25 lbs. pinto beans, 25 lbs. rice or oats and 25 lbs. wheat. That is 75 lbs. of food! Taking your lunch for eight weeks would save you \$240—almost enough to buy nearly one year of the basics—\$287.43.”

Cooper has also come up with an HE washer-friendly laundry detergent recipe. “It doesn’t foam up a lot. It’s biodegradable and it doesn’t burn your skin,” she said.

The recipe takes two bars of Fels Naptha soap, grated, one cup of Super Washing Soda and a cup of Borax.

She then says to place a gallon of water in a pot and boil it, stirring the Fels Naptha in along the way until it’s dissolved.

Meanwhile, fill a five-gallon bucket about half full of warm tap water and mix the other ingredients into that, then combine the melted Fels Naptha to it. The mixture should gell up overnight, and will need stirred to liquify again before uses.

This recipe brings in the cost of laundry soap at just 85-cents per gallon. That, says Cooper, is \$4.25 for a five-month supply of detergent.

Cooper has written up her suggestion and posted them, and more, at www.bakercountysolutions.com.

She has also outlined some basic food lists for the supplies a family may need.

“It’s the basics,” she said. “But it will keep you alive—your family won’t starve.”

Other informal discussions included updates on coordination, cooperation and collaboration in regard to the County’s dealing with Federal entities, a lively banter about GMOs, the progress of some members toward Ham radio technician education and certification and more.

The Baker County Chapter of the Oath Keepers meets monthly at the Sunridge, 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday.

The public is always welcome to attend and learn more about community issues and preparedness.

Predatory sex offender

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jones’s prey of preference is eight- to 12-year-old girls, and he did not personally know his victims, one criteria in making him a true predator in the legal sense. After being released from prison in Oregon in 2002, having served time for the conviction in Malheur County, Jones eventually landed in New Mexico where he reoffended.

Alex Tomlin, public affairs director for the New Mexico Department of Corrections said that Jones was originally arrested and convicted on eight separate charges, and sentenced to 20 years behind bars.

At least two New Mexico newspapers reported that Jones pled guilty in 2010 to possession of child pornography—the articles state photographs were located on his computer. Tomlin said the charges actually all fell under the umbrella term “child exploitation,” which, in New Mexico may include possession of child pornography as well as other related crimes. He began his sentence in October 2010.

Lohner said it was initially a mystery how Jones was released after serving a fraction of his sentence. Then Tomlin located the answer within her file of Jones’s New Mexico paperwork.

Jones filed what amounted to an appeal—a *habeas* petition—and a judge vacated seven of the eight original charges. Between credit for good behavior and time already served, said Tomlin, “He had already served more than he had been sentenced for the one charge.”

A “predatory” sex offender and other lesser level sex offenders are not treated the same in terms of registration under Oregon Statute.

Oregon law defines “predatory” as “an individual who exhibits characteristics showing a tendency to victimize or injure others and who has been convicted of certain sex crimes. Offenders are assessed on an individual basis to determine whether they will be designated predatory.”

The “predatory” designation means that local law enforcement can notify the community about a particular sex offender. Currently, this system is being transitioned to a classification system.

The Department of Corrections uses a “sex offender risk assessment tool” for use in classifying sex offenders based on the statistical likelihood that an individual sex offender will commit another sex crime. Application of the risk assessment tool to a sex offender must result in placing the sex offender in one of the following levels:

(1) A level one sex offender who presents the lowest risk of reoffending and requires a limited range of notification.

(2) A level two sex offender who presents a moderate risk of reoffending and requires a moderate range of notification.

(3) A level three sex offender who presents the highest risk of reoffending and requires the widest range of notification.

This classification system is replacing the “predatory” designation, according to Oregon State Police.

According to the Oregon Department of Corrections in Salem, an offender with Jones’s background could possibly be classified a level three sex offender due to the age of his victims, and mandated by Oregon statute to register his residence for the rest of his life, barring a reclassification to a lesser offense level by court petition. A level three offender is considered “a sexually violent dangerous offender under ORS 137.765.”

Offenders in this category have committed and been convicted of crime including rape in the first degree; sodomy in the first degree; unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree; kidnapping in the first degree as described in ORS 163.235 (1)(e) or when the victim is under 18 years of age; or Burglary in the first degree when committed with the intent to commit any of the offenses listed.

Local offenders can be looked up at <http://sexoffenders.oregon.gov>. www.oregon.gov/osp/SOR/Pages/index.aspx is another resource with various national links and links to tribal sex offender sites.

Earlier this week 99 sex offenders (not categorized as predatory) were registered locally as sex offenders. Following the recent deaths of two, including Richard Leroy Whitmore, within the past month, that number was adjusted to 97. 811,389 sex offenders are currently registered in the U.S.—28,168 of those in Oregon State.

Not all sex offenders are required to register, however. Oregon’s earliest registration laws went into effect in 1989. There are a number of people living in Oregon whose convictions predate those registration requirements. Others have convictions “which allow for relief from registration 10 years after their supervision ends.”

Under the new level 1-3 system, “Level 2 and Level 1 offenders can apply for relief from the registration obligation 10 years after their supervision end date if they meet very stringent criteria.”

Level 3 offenders are not given this option.

According to Laura A. Ahearn, Executive Director, Parents for Megan’s Law and the Crime Victims Center, recidivism among sex offenders is a topic of debate among researchers with some newer treatment programs showing some success. She states in a report, “Victims of sexual assault are three times more likely to suffer from depression, six times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs and four times more likely to contemplate suicide.”

Jones himself appears to have made at least one suicide attempt. In contrast to existing mug shots on file, Jones now has gray hair. He is 5’8”, around 200 lbs. and documented as having old scars on both wrists from what is believed to have been an attempt on his own life.

SEE SEX OFFENDER PAGE 11

School Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Li thanked Witty and other community members for their hospitality and for the experience, and presented a gift to the Board, a banner, which included in its translation, “morals, virtue, knowledge, and diligence,” from his hometown school in China. Cassidy presented Mr. Li with books from the local area.

The minutes from the June 23, 2015 Board meeting were approved, and then Cassidy listed the Para Pro Instructional Assistant New Hires: Janette George, Leanne Cripe, Lakisha Garner, Janet Conant, Andi Jesenko, Misty Anderson, Megan Curry, Calli Gulick, Lisa Ensworth, and Dixie Sutton.

Dr. Melissa Knutson, from the Baker Clinic, discussed with the Board details for the physicals for grades 7, 9 and 11.

Witty administered the Oath of Office to Bryan, Hawkins and Irvine, who will all fulfill four-year terms as Board members: “I, (name filled in), do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon, and the policies of Baker School District. During my term, I will faithfully



Todd Arriola/ The Baker County Press

Mark Witty (left) introduced two guests, Mr. and Ms. Li, from China.

and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the office to the best of my ability.”

Action items for the 2015-2016 school year, approved at the meeting, include the following: Witty as the chief administrative officer/district clerk; Dalton as the CFO/business manager/deputy clerk; Witty and Dalton as custodians of the funds and authorized signatures for district clerks; Dalton as budget officer; Oster Group as the official auditors for the school year; Dan Van Thiel, the Hungerford Law Firm, and OSBA (Oregon School Board Association) as legal counsels; *Baker City Herald* as the legal newspaper, qualified to issue an affidavit; Fidelity bonds in the amount of \$100,000 a piece for Witty and Dalton; Authorization for Baker School District 5J to apply for and expend state and federal funds; Resolution 16-01, Designation Of Single Source Vendors; Resolution 16-02, Authorization For Short Term Loans From General To Special Fund; Resolution 16-03, Designation Of Depositories For School Funds; Resolution 16-04, Local Public Contract Review Board; Designation of SAIF as Worker’s Compensation carrier; Designation of PACE Property and Casualty Trust as Fire, Liability and Boiler insurance carrier; Designation of Clarke and Clarke as the insurance agents of record; Authorization for Baker School District to apply for and expend funds from grant applications submitted on behalf of 5J toward the continuing education of students and staff; Dan Srack as Safety Officer; Establish licensed substitute rate at approximately \$173.19 per day; Barry Nemec as the Section 504 Compliance Officer; Barry Nemec as Title IX Coordinator; and Betty Palmer as Title II Coordinator.

The following Certified New Hires were mentioned: Sharon Foster, .5 FTE Developmental, 4-5 Grade at South Baker; Karen Law, .5 FTE Developmental, 4-5 Grade at South Baker; Kevin Marley, BHS Special Ed/Language Arts Teacher; Griffin Judy, BTI/ BHS Welding Instructor; Mandie Rose, 6 Grade Teacher at South Baker; and Hope Watts, 7-12 Grades Band Teacher.

Extra Duty New Hires included Tim Smith, BHS Athletic Director, and Warren Wilson, BHS Head Volleyball Coach. Extra Duty Resignations included Brand Dunten, BHS Athletic Director.

The second and final reading of Policy JFG, Student Searches, was approved, as well as the Umatilla Morrow Head Start Lease Agreement.

Regular Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m., in the District Office North Conference room.