



The Baker County Press

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Efforts fail to put repeal of gun grab law on the ballot

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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A statewide petition effort by Republicans to put a repeal initiative on the ballot for newly signed bill SB719 has failed.

About 1,000 voters in Baker County alone turned out to support putting a repeal of this law on the ballot for voters, with Baker County Republicans spending two afternoons at the corner of the park col-

lecting signatures. "We spent a few hours on two separate Saturdays, and people were lined up eager to sign. We've never seen such a turnout for a cause," said Baker County Republican Chair Suzan Ellis Jones. "They came by the hundreds both days." SB719, which passed through the Oregon legislature as a bill focusing on mental health and preventing suicide, is widely viewed by opponents as illegal legislation in viola-

tion of the Second and Fourth Amendments. Under this new law, if a friend, neighbor or family member claims a citizen is unstable, homicidal or suicidal—whether or not there is real evidence to back up the claim—he or she can obtain an order from the local court for police to seize firearms belonging to that citizen. The citizen would have no warning before police arrive on their doorstep, which legislators opposed

to this bill argued will inevitably put law enforcement in unnecessary, dangerous situations as lawful gun owners caught off guard are abruptly put on the defense. Once firearms are seized, that citizen would then have to wade through a lengthy court process to prove him- or herself innocent.

SEE GUN GRAB REPEAL PAGE 5



Submitted Photo.

Lines continued solidly for two afternoons as people clamored to sign petitions locally.

City Manager proposes one less police position in order to accept grant for Fire Dept.

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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The Baker City Council Convened Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at City Hall in the Council Chambers. The meeting opened with

Councilor Adam Nilsen leading the pledge of allegiance and giving the invocation. All were present except Council member Arvid Andersen. The hot topic was whether to accept a SAFER grant

to add three positions to the Fire Department—a grant that requires a substantial funds match from the City, which it does not have. City Manager Fred Warner suggested not filling one open position at

the Police Department in order to find funding. This year, a public safety fee was implemented, in large part to fund and save that police position.

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 3

Sumpter's un-bear-able situation



Photo courtesy of Samantha Rowan.

Bears are making quite a mess in Sumpter.

• BEAR PROBLEMS CONTINUE

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Sumpter is receiving more than the usual wildlife visitors this fall, with several bears raiding garbage cans throughout town. "Apparently, they're hungry, and they like garbage," said City Recorder Julie McKinney.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife trapped a couple of bears in the Sawmill Gulch area.

SEE BEARS PAGE 3

Kids learn to make bread



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

First graders learned how to make bread, starting above mixing ingredients for dough in plastic bags.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Friday, October 6th, first grade students were invited to participate in the first Friday Experience of the school year, where they learned how to make bread.

The theme of the event was "The Little Red Hen" by Paul Galdone, and was held at the North Baker cafeteria. Students learned more about the Little Red Hen's job making bread through activities, such as learning how flour is made, and reading the story. Each student left with a personal-sized loaf of white bread.

The students mixed small amounts of ingredients in plastic bags before kneading and baking the dough. They also colored pictures from the book and put them in order from the story.

Daisy Walden, a substitute teacher who has been in the district for five to six years, taught this Friday Experience.

"It's something that I love. I really love cooking and I knew that for this Friday Experience it needed to be something a little more exciting than just well, you know, reading a book and practicing regular old school stuff they do every day," explained Walden. "And I knew I wanted some sort of literature connection."

Walden explained that the opportunity began last year. Teachers are able to volunteer to do a Friday Experience event and submit a proposal of what activities they would like to do.

The proposals are approved by the principal and 5J Superintendent.

"I'm hoping to do a couple more this year," said Walden.

Walden explained that the amount of students who are able to participate in the events is the teacher's choice. For her event, it was open to 15 students but they can have as many as 20.

"I think it was a success. I think I'd like to do something again," said Walden.

Suspect caught in Powder River

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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A foot and bicycle chase ended Tuesday afternoon in the middle of the Powder River. On October 9, at about 12:35 p.m., Officer Shannon Regan observed a subject on a bicycle, who she believed to be wanted, in the area of Myrtle and Dewey Streets in Baker City.

SEE SUSPECT CAUGHT PAGE 8

Friday Mostly cloudy with a few rain showers mainly early. Highs near 50. Chance of precipitation is 40% Night: Cloudy with a few showers to start then turning partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Saturday Mostly sunny and cool. Highs near 50. Saturday Night: Mostly clear and cool. Lows in the mid 20s.

Sunday Mostly sunny and cool. Highs near 50. Sunday Night: Mostly clear and cool. Lows near 30.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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