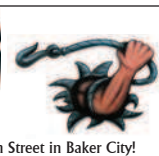


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BUSINESS: Smaller stores ready to take on grocery customers . PAGE 3



The Baker County Press

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600 turn out to discuss Owyhee Monument

• BAKER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LEND SUPPORT TO MALHEUR COUNTY

BY EILEEN DRIVER
KERRY McQUISTEN contributing
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

A town hall meeting on the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, chaired by Representative Cliff Bentz of Ontario, was held on

Thursday, October 29 in the Adrian High School gymnasium.

The controversial monument-slash-wilderness, as proposed, would involve up to 2.5 million acres in Malheur County out of the 4.6 million acres of land there. Malheur County has issued a resolution against it.

Representative Bentz and a panel of community leaders were gathered to hear a presentation by Brent Fenty, Executive Director of the Oregon

Natural Desert Association and Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition and to learn how the community at large feels about the proposition.

Just over 100 were expected to attend—around 600 individuals did, most from Malheur and adjoining counties, most voicing opposition to the monument.

The meeting, which was originally scheduled to begin 6:30 p.m. (MDT), could not get started until almost 7 p.m. due to the unexpected number of

people attending, making it a standing-room-only event with very few places left to stand.

Bentz started the meeting off by stating, “I want to thank you all for taking the time to come to Adrian for this meeting to explain what the proposal is all about. We need to hear your opinions and your presence speaks louder than words.”

SEE OWYHEE PAGE 10



Eileen Driver / The Baker County Press

A much larger crowd than anticipated pushed back the start of the town hall by half an hour.

A bear in there!



Sunny Werner / The Baker County Press

The yearling bear turned to look at photographers in an 11th street yard Sunday, as ODFW staff prepared to tranquilize and transport the animal.

BY SUNNY WERNER
Sunny@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Baker City had an unusual trick-or-treater this year: a young black bear came to town to see what treats the town had to offer.

Ken Spence of 11th Street thought his dogs were making an unusual fuss on Sunday morning. “They were acting weird,” Spence said, “and at first I thought I saw another dog in the yard.”

He went outside to check, and realized the intruder was a young black bear.

“He ran from the dogs, went through the corral gate, and settled down by the horse trailer,” said Spence. “I’ve lived here since 1977, have had deer and raccoons, but never had a bear in the yard before!”

The bear was happily ensconced in a sheltered section of the yard with a horse trailer behind him and trees to shelter him from the sun when law enforcement arrived. He appeared to have settled himself comfortably, with no plans to move on.

Sergeant Wayne Chastain and Officer Daniel Pelayo from Baker City Police Department, and Deputy Kirby of Baker County Sheriff’s Department responded to Spence’s call. On his way to the scene, Chastain had instructed the Dispatcher to contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for assistance with moving the bear safely outside of town.

SEE BEAR ON 11TH PAGE 5



Sunny Werner / The Baker County Press

Officer Pelayo waited, in case the bear behaved badly, keeping several curious neighbors at a safe distance.

City, police face federal lawsuit

• REPORTER CLAIMS POLICE CHIEF, OFFICERS VIOLATED HIS CIVIL RIGHTS

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

“The allegations of retaliatory treatment are completely false,” said Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner this week.

Last Thursday morning, journalist Brian Addison, formerly of Baker City, filed suit against the City of Baker City, Lohner, and up to 10 as-of-yet unnamed “Doe” officers from that department. Addison’s suit centers around three claims: (1) Retaliation for First Amendment Conduct (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (2) Tortious Interference with Economic Relations; and (3) Defamation, and was filed in U.S. District Court, Pendleton Division.

Addison’s claims stem back to a situation regarding an opinion piece critical of local police, which he penned during his employment with *The Record-Courier* in 2008.

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 5

Cougar kills sheep on Goodrich Creek

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Six sheep were killed Sunday night, or possibly during the wee hours of Monday morning, in what the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is attributing to a cougar attack.

The attack, with paw prints and drag marks as evidence, happened in a pen up Goodrich Creek, near Pine Creek about 10 miles outside Baker City.

Earlier this year, *The Baker County Press* reported that two families—David and Kathy Sherman and Dr. Eric and Kristy Sandefur—had witnessed a large cougar in broad daylight in that same area, which frightened horses in the field near their homes.

In total, three lambs and three ewes were killed and left to lay. The animals were not eaten.

Friday Mostly sunny and cool, highs in the upper 40s. Cool and clear at night with lows around 30.

Saturday Mostly sunny with late increasing clouds and seasonable. Highs near 50. Mostly cloudy at night with a chance for showers. Lows near freezing, chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Mostly cloudy, slight chance for rain/snow mix. Little to no accumulation. Highs near 50, chance of precipitation is 30%. Lows near 30.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



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