



# The Baker County Press

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## Suspect leads police on high-speed chase

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An attempt to serve a warrant on Robert Flores of Baker City ended in a high-speed chase followed by a foot pursuit in the mountains just outside Medical Springs on Tuesday.

Just before 11 a.m., according to a press release from Sheriff Travis Ash, law enforcement officers from the Baker County Sheriff's Office and Baker

City Police Department pulled over Flores in a vehicle on Interstate 84 near milepost 301, and attempted to serve a warrant.

In an interview Tuesday evening, Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner said the warrant, which was for disorderly conduct and harassment, had been in place for several days, but Flores had been elusive during "multiple attempts" to serve it. "They all proved unsuccessful," Lohner said.

Lohner said during the

traffic stop, Flores was riding as a passenger. His wife, Sindy, was driving. Flores pushed her out of the vehicle and took off at a high rate of speed in his gold-toned Cadillac Escalade.

Lohner expressed frustration with his own vehicle, which maxed out around 105 miles per hour.

According to Ash, Flores left the freeway, heading up Highway 203 at Medical Springs, then traveled across dirt roads and up Big Creek.

Scanner chatter indicated that Flores was cornering well and staying in the correct lane for the most part, despite the high rate of speed, which ranged between 80 and 105 mph., slowing to 50 or so after leaving the paved roads.

For several minutes, officers maintained a visual of the vehicle, but then lost sight of it, seeing only what looked like the correct tire tracks running through water puddles in certain places.

SEE CHASE PAGE 5



Photo courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office  
Robert Flores led law enforcement on a high-speed vehicle chase followed by a foot search Tuesday.

## City Council hears about FBI training experience



Gina K. Swartz/The Baker County Press

At left, Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner. At right, Lt. Dustin Newman who spent the summer in Quantico at the FBI Training Academy.

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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With Mayor Mosier absent, Vice Mayor Mike Downing opened the election eve meeting. Councilor Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a simple invocation in which he asked, "Please direct our hearts and minds on what is best for Baker City."

After roll call by Julie Smith, City Recorder, showing all Councilors present, with the exception of Mayor Mosier, Vice Mayor Downing quickly moved to the task of approving the consent agenda, which consisted of a liquor license application for AJ's Cornerbrick Bar and Grill and minutes from both the October 11, 2016 and October 25, 2016 regular Council meetings.

With no corrections, comments or further discussion heard, Councilor Thomas made a motion to accept the consent agenda with a second heard by Councilor Lowe. A unanimous vote to approve was cast.

Wasting no time, Vice Mayor Downing called for Citizen Participation. Departing Fire Chief Mark John approached Council and stated, "I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you and goodbye to all of you. I've truly, truly enjoyed my time here; it's been a tremendous experience for me. I can only hope that I've made a positive contribution to both the Department and the community. It's really been remarkable."

Council all thanked John as he returned to his seat. "We will miss you," Vice Mayor Downing said. With no one else present for Citizen Participation, Downing moved forward with the agenda.

### FBI Academy Presentation

Lieutenant Dustin Newman of the Baker City Police Department (BCPD) recently had the opportunity to attend the FBI training academy, which originally began in 1935, in an effort to help unite departments with professionalism and standardization in police work.

Newman said, "You know, that's kinda funny we heard that in the 30s and now we're hearing it again today."

Newman attended the academy over the summer back east. Newman said, "I was class 265." Newman acknowledged this opportunity was provided at little to no cost to him or others from smaller departments with little or no means to provide such a level of training.

Newman described the training as "probably the hardest 10 weeks of my life. Leaving all responsibilities like work and family behind and just being a student. Writing papers, being on camera and giving presentations."

As he turned to Council, he said, "There is no reason to keep it all to myself. I feel it's a very important thing to do when you go to a training like that you come back and tell people about your experience."

SEE CITY COUNCIL: FBI TRAINING PAGE 8

## 2016 election results

### • ASH WINS SHERIFF'S RACE BY LARGE MARGIN, 1-74 UP IN THE AIR STILL

With 8,870 total votes cast so far, Baker County has a 79.62% voter turnout this election. In the race for Baker County Sheriff, incumbent Travis Ash has 5,243 votes and Deputy John Hoopes 3,113 votes, giving the win to Ash. Nonpartisan initiative 1-74 is ahead by 92 votes at present, but with an estimated 150 ballots or more still in the process of arrival or with signatures being verified, 1-74 is too close to call.

Other unofficial Baker County results are as follow with the first number, the total votes, and the second the percentage:

#### United States President and Vice President

Donald J. Trump/Mike Pence (REP)	6,160	70.85
Hillary Clinton/Tim Kaine (DEM)	1,781	20.49
Jill Stein/Ajamu Baraka (PCG)	133	1.53
Gary Johnson/Bill Weld (LBT)	405	4.66
WRITE-IN	215	2.47

#### US Senator

Steven C Reynolds (IND)	307	3.57
Ron Wyden (DEM)	3,321	38.63
Mark Callahan (REP)	4,608	53.59
Eric Navickas (PCG)	75	.87

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Thank you, veterans, for fighting for our freedoms.

**Friday** Partly sunny with increasing clouds late. Highs in the mid 60s. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with sporadic showers. Lows in the mid 40s, chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Saturday** Mostly cloudy with a chance for showers. Highs in the mid 50s. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy and cooler. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Sunday** Mostly cloudy and cool. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 60%, lows near 40.

### Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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