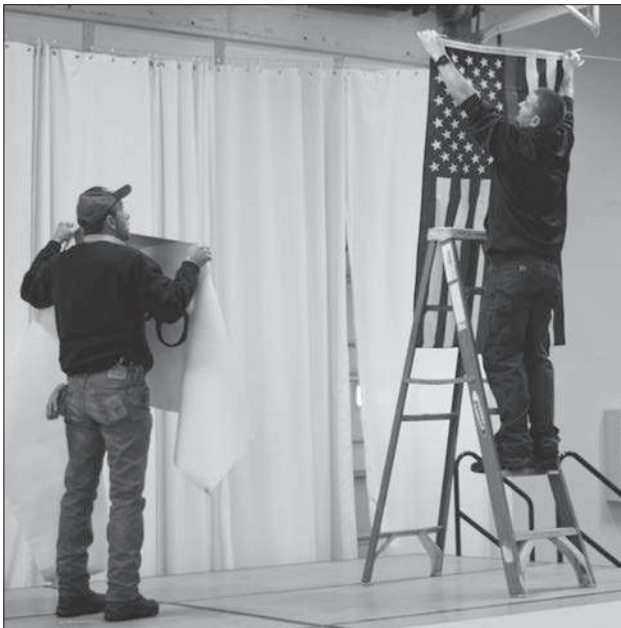


Local

K9 fundraiser



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Chief Wyn Lohner and Reserve Officer Zach Thatcher hanging the thin blue line flag during pre-event decorating.

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Capa’s care and training fall under a grant line in the budget, meaning that “every dollar that goes in for the program goes out for it,” said Lohner.

Dog food, he said, is primarily donated. Funds are needed to cover things like veterinary bills, training, conferences, and special equipment necessary to handle and transport Capa.

Handler Chastain’s salary as an officer is paid by the City as outlined in the Police Department’s budget.

Lohner said his goal is to eventually build a large enough fund that it will cover replacement of Capa years down the road, when the time comes.

The event began with a social hour from 4-5 p.m., moving into a prime rib or chicken dinner at 5:30 p.m., cooked and served by the Oregon Trail Restaurant. Silent auction items

lined the room, and a live auction began after dinner. Lohner served as emcee with City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. as auctioneer.

Live auction items consisted of donated items from local businesses and individuals, but also of firearms seized during local drug raids, including a meth lab on 2nd Street in Baker City.

Due to a friendship with Carl and Shawna Patton of Sumpter’s Patton Excavation, special guest Stan Brock of the New Orleans Saints attended with a pre-game ball, which would be signed by the winning bidder’s player(s) of choice.

According to the BCPD, “Brock played 16 seasons in the NFL after being the 12th player drafted in the 1980 draft. Brock played for the New Orleans Saints from 1980 to 1992. He finished his career with the San Diego Chargers from 1993 to 1995. He played in Super Bowl XXIX for



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. acted as auctioneer for the event. Special guest Stan Brock from the New Orleans Saints donated a sign pre-game ball.

the Chargers. Stan’s older brothers Pete played in the NFL for the Patriots, and Willie for the Detroit Lions and his younger brother, Ray played for the Kansas City Chiefs.

“After his playing career, he became a coach in the Arena Football League (AFL), where he served as the head coach of the Portland Forest Dragons (1997–1999) and the Los Angeles Avengers (2000–2001). In 2004, Bobby Ross picked Brock to coach the offensive line for the United States Military academy.

“After four years as the line coach, on January 29, 2007, he was named the head coach at Army after the resignation of Bobby Ross.

“Following his time as a football coach, Brock became a coach in the business world working for Benchmade in Oregon City, Oregon and Benelli USA in Maryland. Brock

is very proud of his time spent as a Project Manager for Patton Ex out of Sumpter.”

Stan Brock is currently the Sports Anchor for KOIN 6 television in Portland. Brock and his wife, Lori, have four daughters and 11 grandchildren.

In a moment that Lohner said was perhaps one of the most heartfelt of the night, Patti Vanderwiele of Triple C Redi-Mix, bid on the thin blue line flag hanging over the stage. Vanderwiele took the flag for \$700, which held special meaning for her as her father served in law enforcement for about 40 years, including time as the Police Chief for the City of Athena.

“It was a humbling experience,” Lohner said. “The amount of support the community demonstrated was overwhelming.”

All in all, over 200 people attended the event and \$27,833 was raised.

Solar eclipse

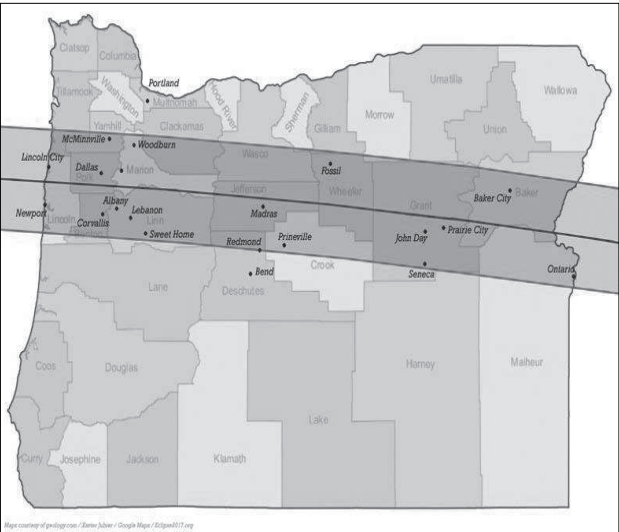


Photo courtesy of the Office of Emergency Management.

The path of totality.

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Attendees included Shellie Nash, Eileen Driver and Alan Driver representing Huntington; Deputy Warren Thompson of the Baker County Sheriff’s office; Jason Yencopal and Gary Timm of Baker County Emergency Management; County Commissioner Bill Harvey; Alice Trindle of the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, Tim Bishop of Basecamp Baker, Brian Wolf of the Baker City Bureau of Land Managment (BLM) office, Shelly Cutler of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, Hope Lindsey of 911 Consolidated Dispatch, Randy Jones of the Department of Environmental Quality, and Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, among others. More than 20 individuals from other counties and across the state also attended via phone.

According to the Office of Emergency Management, “The 2017 eclipse will be the first total solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 38 years. A partial eclipse can be seen anywhere in the United States; however, the path of totality (where the moon will block view of the sun completely) stretches across Oregon and will attract viewers from around the globe due to typically optimal conditions for viewing in August (e.g. dry weather, clear skies, limited light pollution).

“The 60-mile wide eclipse path of totality will impact a 337.8 mile distance across the state of Oregon, and continue eastward along a path across the United States.

“The path of totality will cross the following counties: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Lincoln, Linn, Jefferson, Malheur, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Wheeler, and Yamhill.

“The entirety of the eclipse is expected to last from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. PDT.”

Totality will occur for about two minutes at 10:20 a.m., 10:25 a.m. in Baker City.

Fairley and Gagliano expressed concerns, and passed along concerns from smaller rural areas regarding ways to welcome and sustain such a sudden influx of visitors. Adequate supplies of basics such as food, water, gasoline—and also of prime importance, porta-potties and garbage disposal—were on everyone’s minds.

Jones spoke up and explained what the event will look like in the path of totality, and why it’s attracting so much attention. He said if one stands in the right location, the skies above will go black. Out on the outer edges of the horizon, a yellow glow will be visible. If the day is cloud-free and clear enough, stars may also be visible in the middle of the morning. “It’s truly a celestial event,” he said.

Concerns about the freeways and rural highways handling traffic were also discussed. Highway 26, for instance, runs parallel to the path of the eclipse, and may be a temptation for large numbers of drivers to attempt to take to that road from John Day to Unity and drive quickly beneath the eclipse, which will take 90 minutes to cross the state.

Eileen Driver said that from her position, the City of Huntington is equipped to handle about 800 people. Roughly 15,000 are expected to come into Huntington that day. Driver hopes to coordinate with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to get permission to shuttle people in from parking lots on either end of town—however, ODOT, not the City, controls that highway.

Events to celebrate the eclipse are planned in the Ochocos and in Madras, with 10,000 guests already confirmed via reservations in Madras.

Scheduled events that are known in Baker County include the City of Huntington, Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, Unity Lake State Recreation Site, and Farewell Bend State Recreation Area.

Motel and hotel rooms in Baker City are nearly full, with most of those remaining going for \$500 per night with a three-night minimum stay. Bishop encouraged people to encourage visitors to “come early and stay late.”

When State Park camp sites were opened for reservations across Oregon, every single slot was reserved within one hour.

If Oregon coastal areas, for example, are predicted to cloud over, even more visitors could shift their plans and travel east.

Trindle said her organization is helping pull players together to help take advantage of statewide marketing efforts. Though most television broadcasts will be based in Salem, she said, the hope is to get eastern Oregon in the media spotlight. With the amount of international interest in the eclipse, throughout Oregon, half a million tourists is within the realm of possibility. Local individual marketing opportunities could well occur.

Quite a number of future planning meetings are scheduled between now and the date of the actual event.

Huntington prepares for eclipse

BY EILEEN DRIVER
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

August 21, 2017 is the day Huntington is both looking forward to and dreading.

For over a year now solar eclipse websites have been telling everyone who reads them that the place to be in Oregon for the longest time of totality for viewing the Solar Eclipse of 2017, two minutes and nine seconds, is the Huntington/Lime area.

They are also touting the fact that Huntington also has the best chance of clear skies for the event.

Both circumstances are what everyone is looking for in viewing this once-in-a-lifetime event.

The Huntington Chamber of Commerce has been meeting with Solar Eclipse and event planners from all over Baker County to coordinate and plan for the enormous amount of people expected to descend on Eastern Oregon.

The State of Oregon is

expecting approximately one million people to attend the event along the entire line of totality in Oregon with 20 to 50 thousand or more people expected to come to Baker County.

With hotels, motels and campgrounds being sold out from Boise to Baker and beyond the total number of expected visitors is becoming more believable by the minute.

Huntington Chamber members attended a meeting in Baker City at the Baker City Hall on Thursday, December 8th organized and chaired by Scott Fairley of Governor Kate Brown’s Regional Solutions Office.

There were 38 people present with 20 more on phone conference representing Baker County Tourism, ODOT, Travel Oregon, Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, Office of Emergency Management, Life Flight, Baker County Sheriff’s Office, Baker City Police Depart-

ment and BLM and more, all gathering information on what needs to be done to plan for and keep safe the citizens of the area as well as the influx of visitors.

Huntington’s main concern is the traffic problems that will be faced when 20,000-plus cars try to find places to park in a town meant to hold maybe a thousand.

Other concerns are sanitation issues, which necessitate the need to bring in hundreds of port-a-potties and dumpsters to service the large crowds expected, keeping enough fuel in the gas tanks at our one service station to keep people on the road, keeping our grocery store stocked with food as well as having enough room and supplies in our restaurants to feed them. On top of these concerns is the knowledge that this is all happening at the height of fire season and the need to be prepared for any eventuality in that regard.

Although this is a daunting task the City of Huntington and its civic organizations and nonprofits are working diligently to find solutions and workable plans to make this an event that will make the visitors to the Solar Eclipse of 2017 want to come back again and again. Huntington’s Pioneer Days celebration is being expanded and moved from the 2nd weekend to the third weekend of August 2017 to give the eclipsers something to do while waiting for the eclipse to happen.

Tent and RV camping spaces are being made available inside the City to better accommodate travelers, as well as telescope sites.

Vendors and bands are being sought by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce to help feed and entertain the visitors.

If you are interested in being a part of the excitement please send an email to huntingtonchamber@gmail.com.

Grant County deputy arrested, transported to Baker County jail

Joseph A. Hutchison (25) was arrested by Oregon State Police detectives on November 11, 2016, at approximately 11:35 p.m. following an incident at his home.

Hutchison has formally been charged in the Grant County Circuit Court

with unlawful use of a firearm, pointing a firearm at another, assault 4 and menacing.

Hutchison, a corrections deputy for the Grant County Jail, was transported to the Baker County Jail pending arraignment.

After being arraigned,

Hutchison was released with the conditions that he not have contact with the alleged victim, not use intoxicants in any form and not possess firearms.

A status hearing will be held in the Grant County Circuit Court on January 12, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

While venue of Hutchison’s case will remain in Grant County, further prosecution will be through the Baker County District Attorney’s Office.

Any further information will be from the District Attorney’s Office.