

# The Baker County Press

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## Tragedy strikes during parade

• BOY DIES IN MINERS JUBILEE ACCIDENT

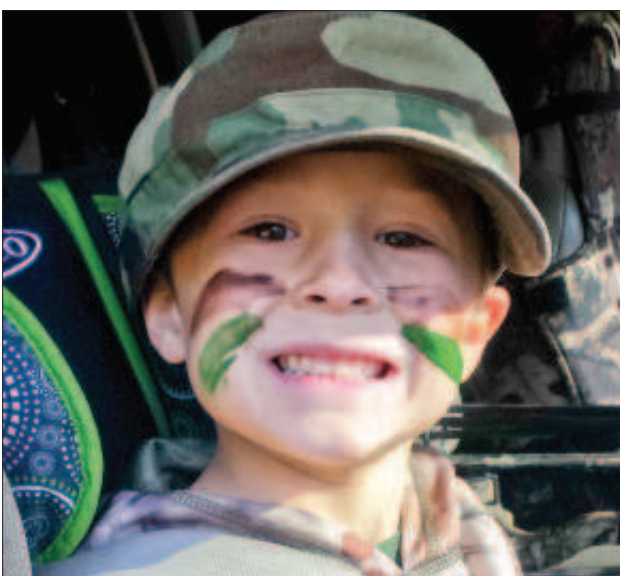
BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
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For the last 35 years in July, the Miners Jubilee, honoring Baker County's heritage, has been highly anticipated throughout the community. Last Saturday, a cornerstone of that event, the Miners Jubilee Parade, was changed forever in a split-second with the death of seven-year-old Dylan Scott Thomas.

Thomas was killed when he fell from a float sponsored by the local YMCA and was run over.

The morning began like so many before. Excitement buzzed as participants lined up preparing to wave and throw candy to children, friends and family as they passed them lining the streets. The parade began an hour later than usual, at 11 a.m., with happy smiles from spectators and participants alike.

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Submitted Photo.

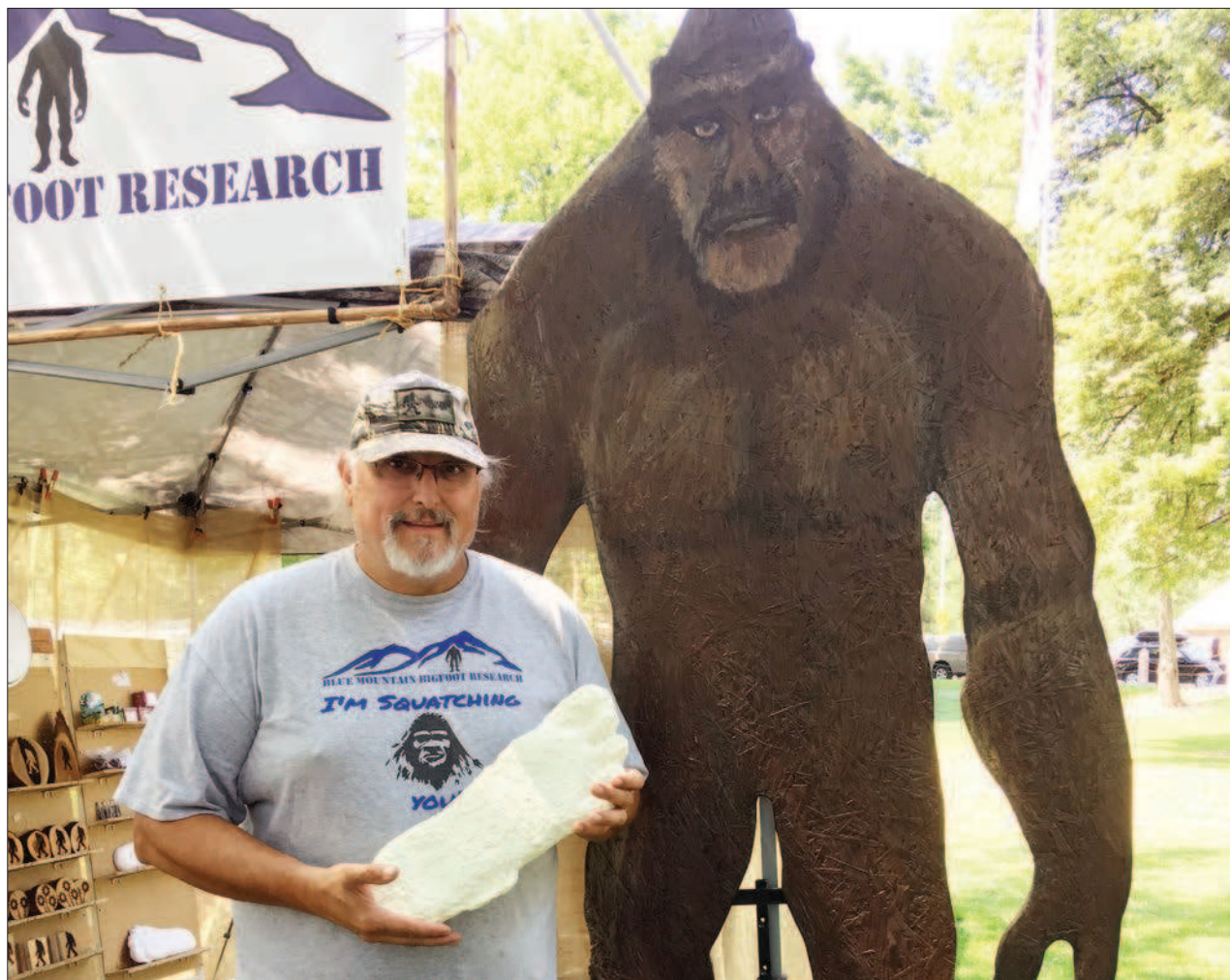
Dylan Scott Thomas's passing has deeply touched the entire community and beyond.



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Just after 8 p.m., the first from what would turn out to be a crowd of hundreds arrived for a candlelight vigil to honor Dylan Thomas.

## On the hunt for Bigfoot



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Scot Violette stands next to "Bigfoot" in the park during Jubilee.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER  
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For Miners Jubilee, Baker City's Scot Violette opened a booth to introduce people to his new group—Blue Mountain Bigfoot Research.

At the booth, Violette had several pieces of Bigfoot merchandise as well as information sheets on display and a map of different sightings or encounters people have reported in this area. He had a photo of a 12-and-a-half-inch footprint he found in the woods during one of his Squatching trips. He also had an eight-foot-tall Bigfoot cutout next to his booth with which people could take photos.

Violette had his "Squatch Pod"—his research unit—on display. The pod has eight cameras, four attached to the vehicle, and four that can go out 50 yards in any direc-

tion and run for 24/7 for thirty days in the woods. The cameras have infrared at night and motion sensors that tell what camera is picking up motion. They also have a drone they can launch off the vehicle.

Violette's group is run by donations, selling merchandise on his website, and out of his own pocket. (They have not received donations yet.)

"Over the Fourth of July, stuff was stolen," explained Violette. "If people want to donate to help replace that stuff, it would be awesome."

According to his website, "Blue Mountain Bigfoot Research is a scientifically based research group dedicated to the discovery and classification of North America's Great Apes."

Violette has been privately searching for Bigfoot for 25 years.

SEE BIGFOOT PAGE 4

## Pedestrian struck by truck



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Streets were blocked off just behind Dairy Queen while officers processed the scene where a vehicle struck a pedestrian.

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
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Last Wednesday, just after 6:30 p.m., police and medics were called to the 2100 block of 5th Street right behind Dairy Queen for an incident involving a pickup truck and a pedestrian.

The injured female was not moving, said Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner and, "Officers could see a large black pickup in the middle of the block facing south." Behind the left rear tire of that pickup was the unresponsive female.

Two eyewitnesses were located at the scene and interviewed by police, their accounts stating that the pickup had been driving south on 5th Street when it began to back up, striking the female victim who had walked out into the street after the truck had passed.

The driver of the pickup was identified as 46 year-old James Pogue. The name of the victim was not released.

The investigation was turned over to OSP for reconstruction of the scene and follow up.

## Man stabbed in Madison Street assault

On July 17 at about 8:54 p.m. Baker City Police officers were dispatched to Madison Street behind Rite Aid and Safeway for the report of a man who had been stabbed in the abdo-

men. The victim also had several other injuries.

Officers arrived on scene and found that a 24 year-old Baker City Man, Tyler Worstell, had been cut with a sharp instrument. That man was transported to St.

Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City and later flown to St. Alphonsus Boise, where he is being treated.

The Baker County Major Crime Team was activated and members of

the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and Baker City Police Department responded to conduct the investigation. Multiple persons were interviewed through the night and into the morn-

ing hours of July 18, while officers and detectives also processed the crime scene.

On July 19, Harold Irvin Wilkerson (08/27/1973), of 3720 Campbell Street in Baker City, was arrested for the assault.

Wilkerson has been charged with Assault I and a Probation Violation, stemming from this incident that left Worstell hospitalized. Police believe all witnesses have been interviewed.

**Friday** Mostly clear and hot, highs in the mid 90s. Friday Night: Mostly clear and seasonable. Lows near 60.

**Saturday** Mostly clear and hot, highs in the mid 90s. Saturday Night: Mostly clear and seasonable. Lows in the upper 50s.

**Sunday** Mostly clear and not as hot, highs in the upper 80s. Sunday Night: Mostly clear and a bit cooler. Lows in the mid 50s.

**The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:**

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