

# Local

## 14-year-old rescued after getting lost in Boulder Park

On September 4, 2017, Baker County Dispatch received a call from a 14-year-old juvenile who had been hiking in the area of Boulder Park and became separated from his party.

Once the approximate location had been determined, the Baker County Search and Rescue Team was activated and responded to Boulder Park to begin the search.

Due to the location, the Union County Sheriff's Office also activated their search and rescue team.

Throughout the search, the juvenile was able to continue calling 911 and give updates on his condition.

After hiking six miles in the dark while traversing rugged terrain, search and rescue members located the subject at approximately 2:00 a.m.

Once located, the hiker's condition was assessed, and it was determined that he was cold but suffered no obvious injuries.

Team members had packed in dry, warm clothing for him.

After evaluating his

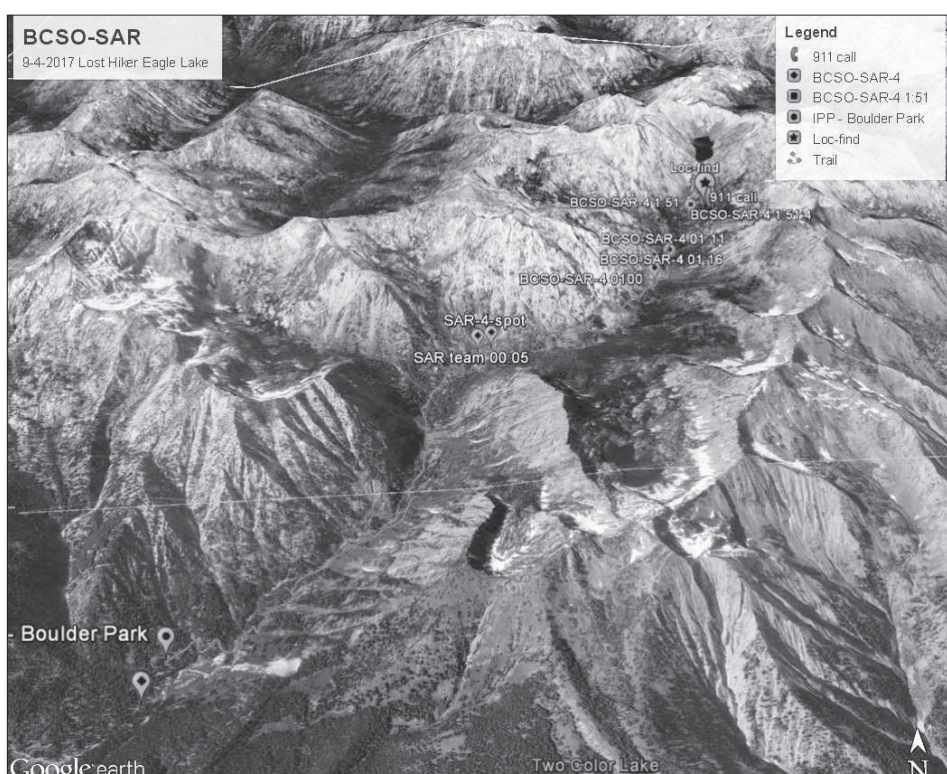


Photo courtesy of The Baker County Sheriff's Office

The map above shows the search and rescue route and location of the boy.

condition, he was escorted out and reunited with his hiking party and family.

From the time that the 911 call was placed to the completion of the search, search and rescue members spent nearly 12 hours planning and actively searching for the juvenile.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office would like to extend their gratitude to members of both the Baker County Search and Rescue Team and the Union County Search and Rescue Team.

Search and rescue members are volunteers

who dedicate their time and resources to rescue and recovery operations.

If you are interested in joining the Baker County Search and Rescue Team, applications are available at the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

## Preventing suicide

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Sharing and connecting is an important component of National Suicide Prevention Awareness month. September has been designated as a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this highly stigmatized topic.

Emphases are reaching out to those who have been affected by suicide, connecting individuals with suicidal ideation to appropriate resources, and making sure that concerned family members and friends have support.

NAMI has information on warning signs and risks as well as suicide prevention.

Warning signs of suicidal ideation include excessive worry, fear, and sadness; marked change in habits

and behaviors; avoiding friends; difficulty in concentrating or perceiving reality; substance abuse; and vague physical ailments with no obvious cause.

Included prevention strategies are being supportive and asking open and honest questions.

In a crisis, the National Suicide Prevention Line at 800-273-TALK provides 24/7 access to a trained crisis counselor.

For those who may be uncomfortable talking, texting NAMI to 741-741 provides free connection to the Crisis Text Line. New Directions Behavioral Health and Wellness provides crisis support in Baker County. Their number is 523-3646.

The Baker County after-hours crisis line is 541-519-7126.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, after a period of decline, suicide rates have been increasing. The

greatest percentage of increase in females was in those aged 10-14.

For males, the greatest increase was in those aged 45-64.

The Suicide Prevention site for the Oregon Health Authority (<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/pages/index.aspx>) states that in addition to being a nation-wide issue, "Suicide is among the leading causes of death in Oregon," with more than 600 lives lost per year.

There is also a five-year plan focusing on preventing youth suicide. Warning signs of suicidal ideation in those under age 24 include talking about or planning suicide, hopelessness, displaying severe emotional distress, and sharp changes in behavior, such as sleep patterns, social connections, or emotional disturbances.

On the local level, Jane Chandler, Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Coordinator at New

Directions Northwest, said that suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in adolescents and 2nd leading cause of death in college students. Overall, it's the eighth leading cause of death in the state. One person dies by suicide every 12 hours in Oregon.

Chandler works with the schools to provide suicide prevention training for students in seventh grade and up.

In younger grades, the focus is on bullying prevention and social/emotional skills.

October is Bullying Prevention Month.

Chandler also provides QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training in the community. This "gatekeeper" training helps participants learn warning signs and ways to assist in suicide prevention.

Chandler said it is "basically for everyone" and is designed to help save a life. Anyone interested in the training can contact Chandler to find out more.

Chandler recommends the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website ([afsp.org](http://afsp.org)) for those who want to get more information at "their own pace, in their own place, in their own time." She said the information there is accurate and easy to digest.

Chandler is also coordinating a "Walk for Hope" which will take place 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, September 23rd at the Baker Middle School Field. This awareness-raising event will also be an opportunity to "connect with others and gather resources."

Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy music and refreshments. Individuals or teams who want to walk can choose to be sponsored, or just participate.

Community information and resource tables will be available and participants will receive a "Walk for Hope" T-shirt.

For information on trainings or the event, contact Chandler at 541-524-9070 or [jchandler@ndninc.org](mailto:jchandler@ndninc.org).

## Local woman killed by cow

Jodie Averett, age 60, of 13619 Hunt Mountain Lane, and a wife and mother of three, was killed Monday evening after being kicked in the chest by a cow, resulting in fatal cardiac arrest.

According to scanner traffic, Averett's husband, Tom Averett, notified Baker County Consolidated Dispatch, calling law enforcement and medics to their home just after 7 p.m. Averett reported that his wife had been kicked in the torso area and he was performing CPR. Medics also attempted CPR, but Averett was pronounced deceased after being transported to Saint Alphonsus Baker City.

Prior to ranching, Averett was known for her background in law enforcement, having worked both in Seattle and in Baker City.

## Some streets closed for paving

The City of Baker City in cooperation with Hampton's Inc., d.b.a. Rogers Asphalt Paving Co. began a Full-Depth Reclamation and Paving Project on Tuesday, September 5th, affecting the following streets:

- Church Street – Resort to Main
- Baker Street – Resort to Main
- Madison Street – Resort to Main
- Washington Street – Resort to Main
- Valley Street – Resort to Main
- Auburn Ave. – Main to 4th

These streets will be closed intermittently September 5– 13, 2017. No parking will be allowed during this time. Vehicles will need to be parked off the street prior to the paving.

## Parks and Rec to meet in Baker City

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission will hold its fourth meeting of the year September 19-20, participating in a field tour and training on the first day, and conducting executive and business meetings the second day.

On September 19, Commissioners will gather at 8 a.m. in Baker City to begin a tour of parks and historic sites stretching from Sumpter to John Day, followed by a 1 p.m. training workshop at the Grant County Regional Airport, 720 Airport Rd, John Day, OR 97845.

On September 20, Commissioners will convene an executive session at 8:15 a.m. at the Geiser Grand Hotel, 1996 Main Street, Baker City, OR 97814, to discuss real estate and legal issues. Executive sessions are closed to the public. A public business meeting will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. at the same location. The agenda includes several information and action items from agency staff, including requests to:

Approve \$1 million in Lottery-funded outdoor recreation grants to Oregon communities.

Acquire 19 acres adjacent to Beaver Creek at Brian Booth State Park for \$85,000, as a buffer between private land and natural areas of the park.

Other matters are listed on a draft agenda online at <http://bit.ly/september2017agenda>.

The full meeting packet will be available online by 5 p.m. Friday, September 8. People who plan to present testimony are requested to provide 15 copies of their statement to Commission Assistant Denise Warburton at [Denise.Warburton@oregon.gov](mailto:Denise.Warburton@oregon.gov) for distribution to the Commissioners before the meeting.

Those needing special accommodations to attend should also contact Warburton by email, or by calling 503-986-0719, at least three days in advance.

## BTI nursing training to start

Baker Technical Institute (BTI) is offer a state-approved Nursing Assistant training this fall. Classes start September 25th and will run Monday and Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at BTI in Baker City for eight weeks, then scheduled clinicals (80 hours).

For more information, contact Tammy Pierce, Program Coordinator of Baker Technical Institute, at 541.519.2671.

## Baird arraigned




On August 31, 2017, Bodie Baird (dob 10-28-1993) of 2505 5th St. Baker City, Oregon was arraigned in Baker County Circuit Court.

Baird was charged by District Attorney Information with Commercial Sexual Exploitation a Class A Misdemeanor, Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine for consideration a Class B Felony, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine a Class A Misdemeanor, Unlawful Manufacture of Methamphetamine a Class B Felony, Unlawful Possession of Methylphenidate a Class A Misdemeanor and Unlawful Possession of Alprazolam a Class C Misdemeanor. The incidents are alleged to have occurred on August 14 and August 30, 2017. The charges allege that Baird traded methamphetamine to engage in sexual conduct and additionally possessed methamphetamine, methylphenidate and alprazolam.

Baird's next court date is scheduled for October 2, 2017.

## What really happened in Harney County?

**Come hear Shawna Cox in Baker City, Oregon**  
On  
**September 23, 2017**

**3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**  
**At the Geiser Grand, 1996 Main Street, Baker City, OR**

**\$5.00 per person, no ticket sales at door**  
**Only 200 tickets will be sold**

Tickets are being sold by the Baker County Republicans or can be obtained by mail prior to Sept. 18th.

Send your check to: Baker County Republicans, 24121  
Clarks Creek Road, Bridgeport, OR 97819

Call 541-519-5035 with any questions