

Letters

Please Do Not Prohibit Sale of Drugs in Baker County

To the Editor:

This letter is a desperate plea to those who make our laws. Please, please do not prohibit the sale of drugs within Baker County! Nothing could be more destructive to our children, parents and economy than to make Baker County a drug-free county. A wise person once said, "There are none so blind as those who refuse to see." So let's remove the blinders. The hidden commodity is human nature.

The national war on drugs has been perhaps the most destructive and expensive law ever passed in this country. It has "good intentions" as its base and total destruction as its results. Our prisons are overflowing, and more being constructed, to house the mothers and fathers of children being taught to hate our government. Billions of dollars are currently being spent to enlarge and equip police departments to no avail. Drug cartels have taken over our southern border with mass murders to protect and enlarge their drug turf. Why is all of this and much more happening? Our drug laws defy HUMAN NATURE. There are now millions of American citizens who will do what they must to get the drug they desire. And there are an abundance of others who will do what it takes for the profit available on the supply side. Laws cannot now and will never be able to change human nature. They, in this case, just create a very profitable black market. When will we learn?

Now apply the above facts to Baker County. There will be drugs available in some areas outside of our county. People here are using illegal drugs now from the black market. That will not change. So we will still have the pushers to tempt our children at and near schools. Remember the profit motive! Only now the battle is moved to our county borders and our police are ill equipped to take on the additional battle that they, and we, know cannot be won.

The answer appears to be simple. Accept the fact that drugs are here to stay. Regulate sales locations to best protect schools. Place a reasonable tax on the sales to support, rather than diminish, our resources but still avoid the black market. Then retire the drug sniffing dogs, the armored tank, and those paid to snoop into our daily lives to assure we are living as others say we should.

I have never used drugs and don't intend to. But as an American I will defend those who choose to live private lives that do not infringe on others who choose to do the same. This should still be the land of the free!

Jasper Coombes
Haines, Ore.

See more LETTERS on page 4

Eastern Oregon University Announces Winter Dean's List

(EOU) Eastern Oregon University has named 528 students to the dean's list for winter term 2015. Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.

Baker City

Melissa Andino
Nathan Baeth
Amanda Bailey
Michelle Birkmaier
Kyle Boudreau
Riley Carter
Desiree Christensen
Meranda Christensen
Rikki DiNardi
Alison Dixon
Jennifer Haselhuhn

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Baker County Parole & Probation Most Wanted



McBride, Steven Michael
DOB: 11/24/1981
Sex: Male
Race: White
Hair Color: Blonde
Eye Color: Blue
Height: 5'10" Weight: 190
Convictions: Coercion

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@bakercounty.org

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Thursday, April 30, 2015

Knock Out Whitetop and Scotch Thistle with Free Herbicide

Baker County Weed District will again be offering free, fully mixed herbicide to help combat whitetop and scotch thistle. Bring chemical-resistant containers, preferably gas or oil cans, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. Please, no food containers. Five gallon limit imposed for each residence.

Note! New location for Baker City Giveaways!

Richland/Halfway -
Wildflower Corner - May 8, 7-Noon

Baker City - Old ODOT Building, 1050 S. Bridge Street - May 16 & 23 7 - 12 Noon

Hereford Hall /Unity Hall -
June 5 - 9 a.m. in Hereford; 10:30 a.m. Unity

Welcome BABY



Annalee Marie Phillips

of Keating was born on April 27 at 10:16 p.m. in Boise. She weighed 5 lbs. 13 oz. and is 19 inches long. Her parents are Ryan and Trista Phillips and she joins her big brother, RJ. Congratulations!

Fatal Traffic Crash on I-84 Near MP 238

Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers from the Pendleton Area Command are continuing the investigation into a fatal traffic crash that occurred early Sunday morning.

On Sunday, April 26, at approximately 2:13 a.m., troopers from the Pendleton and La Grande Offices responded to a reported motor vehicle crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 238.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2003, Chevy Tahoe, was traveling eastbound near milepost 238 when the vehicle lost control and traveled through the median where it struck a guardrail then rolled over, coming to rest on its top blocking both westbound lanes of travel. The operator of the Tahoe, identified as Steven Gardner, age 60, from Cove, Ore., was pronounced deceased at the scene. The other vehicle occupant, Bryan Yeager, 53, of Elgin, Ore., was transported via air ambulance to Kadlec Medical Center in Washington with critical injuries.

Both occupants were wearing seat belts at the time of the collision and icy conditions are being investigated as a contributing factor in the crash.

The highway remained closed for approximately four hours while Oregon State Police Collision Reconstructionists assisted in conducting the investigation.



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The Doctor speaks Spanish - el doctor habla Espanol.

Feeling Stretched as a Caregiver?



Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself.

This program helps family caregivers **reduce stress, improve self-confidence, communicate feelings better, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources.**

Classes consist of six sessions held once a week. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series (many are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach). Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the "tools" you choose and put them into action for your life.

You will receive a book, The Caregiver Helpbook, developed specifically for the class. Classes will be FREE, thanks to support from Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

Classes will be held at **Community Connection Baker City Senior Center, 2810 Cedar Street, from 9 - 10:30 a.m.** Sessions are held every Tuesday and begin on May 5, 2015. For more information or to register, contact Rochelle at 541-963-3186 or rochelle@ccno.org or Amanda at 541-523-6591. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.



People Over Politics

VOTE YES Measure 1-63

- Measure 1-63 makes county commission positions nonpartisan, just like all 164 elected public officials in Baker County.
- 1-63 gives all voters a voice in local primary elections.
- 28 of 36 Oregon counties (78%) have already decided to make their county commission seats nonpartisan.
- Keep common sense in and partisan politics out of local decisions.

Make your vote count in local commission races!

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