

Editorial

It's Been a Long Week

The devastating fires have taken a toll on our friends and neighbors within Baker and neighboring counties throughout eastern Oregon. Homes have been burned and other structures lost, beautiful wooded properties have been ravished by fire, livestock and wildlife burned and suffer, timber lost, infrastructure threatened.

Many learned their home was spared, while others lost everything. Ranchers risked their lives riding to find and rescue their cattle. They faced horrible scenarios and difficult decisions, often being forced to put livestock out of their misery. Even worse, some were forced to leave them behind, trapped by fire. Tears flowed.

But... Help arrived. Training and preparation paid off. People were alerted of fast approaching flames by brave Sheriff's Deputies who raced down gravel roads going house-to-house. Sirens blared letting them know a Level 3 had arrived. Lives were saved. Rural fire volunteers worked through the night. People opened their houses, their yards, their corrals, offered to feed and care for two and four legged friends. Trucks and tankers and dozers and planes and heroes arrived from places all over. Media folks updated facebook pages and websites 'round the clock.

Sweat poured. How can I help? What can I do? Is she alright? Did he make it out okay? I was able to take a photo of your home. They were able to save it. Let me show you. Please, come stay here with us.

We have all been affected to one degree or another by these fires. Equally important, we have also been shown how much we care for one another; and that caring was followed up by action.

Thank you, county leaders and staff. Thank you, first responders. Thank you rural fire volunteers. Thank you Sheriff's deputies and State Police. Thank you agencies and departments, incident commanders, map makers, fire fighters, Red Cross and Salvation Army volunteers, equipment operators, communication people, cowboys, cattle truck drivers, churches, school officials, cookie bakers, linemen, veterinarians.

Thank you everyone who in some small or large way, made this week just a little easier.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

-GDP

ODOT working on fire damaged OR 245 and U.S. 395 to make routes safe for travel

JOHN DAY, Ore. - Oregon Department of Transportation maintenance crews are working to replace damaged infrastructure and remove burned hazard trees along two state highways that have been impacted by wildfires and remain closed to traffic. The Dooley Mountain Highway, OR 245 south of Baker City has been closed for about a week due to the Cornet and Windy Ridge fires. U.S. 395 between Canyon City and Seneca has been closed since August 13 due to the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

On OR 245 ODOT Crews are working this week to replace about two dozen signs and several sections of guardrail destroyed by the fire. Tree falling teams and other crewmembers will also remove over a hundred fire damaged trees and address rock fall issues that now pose a hazard to travelers.

Similar activities are underway by ODOT crews along U.S. 395. Numerous signs and guard rail posts need to be replaced along the fire damaged route, and over a hundred hazard trees removed. Falling rock and debris due to fire related erosion issues is another key safety concern that crews must attend to.

ODOT plans to open both routes by the end of the week, with some limitations.

See our website: therconline.com

This will bring a smile!



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Whiskey is my name and I'm looking for a wonderful new forever home. I'm a 4 year old neutered male. I have been living with a single woman and her female Poodle. I am looking for a family with another small dog to play with and perhaps some children to toss toys and balls for me to fetch. I am a social butterfly and enjoy being with people and having them love on me. I walk fairly well on a leash and ride very well in a car. I kind of know my basic commands, but could use some additional training. I am house trained and use a doggie door. I am not really a yapper kind of guy, but I do bark when I see something go by the front room window. Yes, I do like to snooze on the back of the couch and watch the world go by. I recently had my long hair cut off but it will grow back in a few weeks. However, I do need to be brushed daily, groomed every 6 weeks and have my nails trimmed. If you are interested in learning more about me or meeting me, please call Carmen at 541-519-4530 or Best Friends of Baker.

Best Friends of Baker, Inc.
541-519-7387

Adopt a Friend!

Republican Resolution 15-01

To the Editor:

On May 12, 2015, Chair Suzan Ellis Jones announced that the Baker County Republican Central Committee "passed a resolution (15-01) to promote the transfer of public lands back (sic) to local control" with the hope that Baker County Commissioners "will pass a similar resolution."

On June 1, in a discussion of Resolution 15-01 at Baker County Commissioner Bill Harvey's "First Friday" meeting, local Republican Chuck Chase said he was the Resolution's author.

Having noticed that the Resolution contained no financial component, I asked Chase how Baker County would pay for all the services presently provided by USFS and BLM in administering all the public lands in Baker County. His comment was, "We're working on it."

Today my question is even more pertinent, given the 120,000+ acres of wildfires presently raging in Baker County. So, I ask both Jones and Chase, how's your missing fiscal impact component coming along? Still working on it?

Oh, by the way, the "sic" in the first paragraph refers to the fact that neither Oregon nor Baker County has ever had ownership of any Federal lands.

Gary Dielman
Baker City

Independent Party Qualifies as Major Political Party

Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins today announced that the Independent Party of Oregon has qualified to be a major political party and will be permitted to participate in the May 2016 Primary Election.

In order to qualify as a major political party in Oregon, a party must have 108,739 registered voters 275 days before the 2016 May Primary. The Independent Party of Oregon had 109,363 registered voters as of Aug. 16, the deadline.

Minor Political parties will be able to participate in the November 2016 General Election by nominating candidates after the May Primary.



Sanders, Tiffany Rose
DOB: 07/02/1985
Sex: Female
Race: White
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown
Height: 5'03"
Weight: 145
Convictions: Del/ Manufacture Controlled Subs, Theft I, UUMV

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@baker-county.org

Letters

Let's Work Together

Citizens of Sumpter,

Our town is in disgrace. Brawling with those who oppose your way of thinking. This mess the city is in is escalating. Is this really the picture you want our visitors to the city to see? Are the upcoming articles in the papers really what you want people to read about Sumpter and its citizens? Hatred, anger, and childish gang shirt related images?

Many of you blame those that started the lawsuit against the city, but the trouble here started long before their decision to file charges. Melissa was brave enough to run for mayor. She has been ridiculed, harassed, and ignored. Some citizens of the town have interfered with meetings and made it difficult for her.

Can't we all just work together to make a better Sumpter, to dig ourselves out of the hole this city is in? There should not be two groups fighting, disrupting council meetings so business cannot get done, letters being written with accusations being made without substantial evidence on both sides.

Haven't you all had enough of this?

Respectfully,
Beverly Hale
Sumpter

The Record-Courier welcomes your letter to the editor. Prefer 300 words or less. Letters may be sent by a single author once a month. Email with your contact information: news@therconline.com.

Single Vehicle Fatal Crash on Highway 26 in Grant County Claims Young Man's Life with Local Ties



OSP photo

Leonard John Radinovich, 18, from John Day, died in a single vehicle crash on highway 26 near milepost (MP) 152 in Grant County.

On Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015, at approximately 5:12 a.m., a silver, Toyota 4-Runner, was traveling east-bound on highway 26 near MP 152 when Radinovich lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle veered off the highway, rolled, and came to rest in a near-by field.

Radinovich was not restrained by a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced deceased at the scene of the crash. The passenger, a 15 year old juvenile, was properly restrained and not injured.

Trooper Weaver is the lead investigator.

OSP was assisted at the scene by Grant County Sheriff's Office, John Day Police Department, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Radinovich has family in Baker County with whom he had been staying.

Young Man Arraigned on Serious Charges

On Aug. 6, 2015, Benjamin Evan Nelson (DOB April 26, 1988) formerly of 1201 Reservoir Road of Baker City, was arraigned on a Grand Jury indictment on one count of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. The crime is alleged to have occurred in June of 2013 and the victim is known to Nelson. Nelson is currently being held in the Multnomah County Jail. Nelson has been charged in Multnomah County with multiple child sexual abuse charges including Sodomy in the First Degree and Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree. In the Baker County case, bail was set at \$100,000. Nelson has an entry of plea hearing scheduled in Baker County on Sept. 4.

Wyden Provides Statement on Wildfires in Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden Monday issued the following statement about the wildfires in Oregon and throughout the West:

"These infernos are threatening lives and burning up Oregon's forests and homes. I will continue to work with the U.S. Forest Service and the State to ensure all the resources that are available are deployed as quickly as possible. When I get back to Washington DC, my first order of business is to finally end the terrible trifecta that makes these fires worse: underfunding firefighting budgets, stealing money from fire prevention to make up the shortfall and letting hazardous fuels build up as a result."

See the Record-Courier website:
www.therconline.com