

Baker County sheriff frees stuck driver on Thanksgiving

By CHRIS COLLINS
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — For Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, this Thanksgiving held a striking resemblance to another turkey day he and his family experienced in the past.

On both of those days — 20 years apart — Ash responded to a call for help from stranded holiday travelers. And in both cases, the stories had happy endings, despite a later than planned Thanksgiving celebration.

Granted, many things have changed over the years. Ash was elected in November to his second four-year term as sheriff, with another 20 years of law enforcement experience under his belt.

And his wife, Katie, and their young daughter, Josie, who will graduate from college this year, were traveling with him the first time around.

Ash said Friday, Nov. 27, that he didn't put the two incidents together when he got the call about 3:30 a.m. Thanksgiving day. But his wife shared the story with dispatchers and the report of the first rescue was posted on Facebook along with a new one.

This year, Ash was roused to respond to the Hells Can-



Baker County Sheriff's Office/Contributed Photo
Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash helped rescue an 18-year-old man whose car got stuck in snow.

yon area on a report that 18-year-old Carson Jurries might have been stranded on the snow-covered Hells Canyon Road while traveling from Boise, Idaho, to the Lewiston, Idaho, area.

Ash said Jurries' family believed that he might have been rerouted by his cellphone or map to Forest Service Road 39, which travels through the mountains between Halfway and Joseph. Jurries was thought to have changed course because there had been a closure reported through the McCall, Idaho, area where

he had originally planned to travel.

Forest Road 39, also part of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, leads travelers from Highway 86 about 10 miles east of Halfway over the east side of the Wallowa Mountains to Joseph.

The road, which is usually not maintained for vehicles during the summer, often is closed by snow from November through late May or early June.

But this fall, despite heavy snow earlier in November, has been different.

“The 39 road was recently

plowed after people had been stuck in the McGraw Overlook area during the last big snowstorm,” Ash stated in his email. “This allowed (Jurries) to travel much farther than the snow conditions would usually allow.”

Jurries was driving a newer model Volkswagen Jetta front-wheel drive sedan, Ash said.

The sheriff, driving his four-wheel drive patrol truck, said he found Jurries' car stuck in 12 to 15 inches of snow on the 39 Road north of the Imnaha River about 9:10 a.m. Thursday.

The area is in Wallowa County.

Ash said it took some time to get around the stuck car, but once he did he followed Jurries' foot tracks through the snow and used the siren in his truck, and whistled, in an attempt to attract the man's attention.

Ash said Jurries heard the alerts and the two were able to communicate with each other until they eventually met up on the road. Ash said Jurries was walking along Gumboot Creek on the 39 Road on the Joseph side of the Imnaha River. He was cold, but otherwise in good condition.

Ash said Jurries was not dressed for the 10-degree weather, which the sheriff said had risen to 17 degrees by the time he arrived in the mountains.

Jurries estimated he had walked about 5 miles that morning. He had spent the previous night in his car, but did not run the engine to conserve fuel, Ash said. Jurries had left a note on the windshield and started walking toward Joseph at about 5 a.m.

As Ash was transporting him out of the mountains the two were met by a friend of Jurries who had traveled from Lewiston to help look for him.

The three were able to get

Jurries' car unstuck and the two men followed Ash back to Highway 86 to continue to Lewiston for Thanksgiving.

“I checked with them and they all made it home safe and sound,” Ash said.

Ash said he went on the call alone because he wasn't sure if Jurries was in the area, and he didn't want to disturb search and rescue volunteers on a holiday if he wasn't.

Wallowa County Search and Rescue was on standby and Jurries was well into their county, but it was easier for Ash to get there, he said.

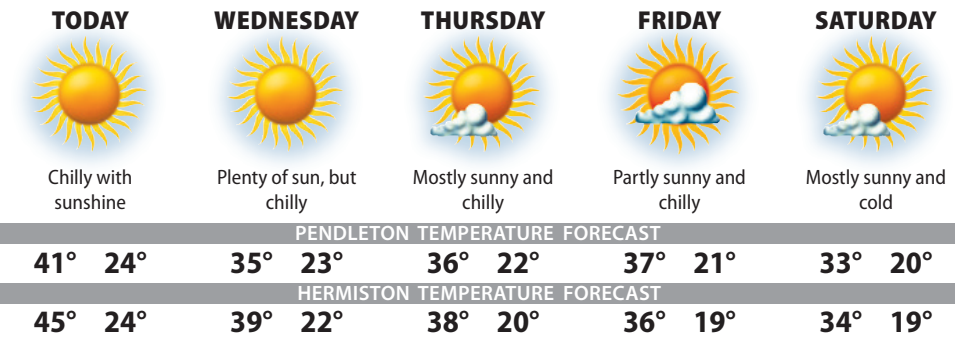
“They donate a lot of time to our community and their family time is important, too,” he said. “I have no doubt if I would have asked, they would have responded.”

In the rescue that took place 20 years earlier, Ash and his wife and daughter were traveling in the middle of the night to spend Thanksgiving with family at Oxbow, the sheriff's department Facebook post stated.

That year, Ash spent Thanksgiving Day rescuing three travelers from Germany who became stranded in the same area where Jurries was stuck on Nov. 26.

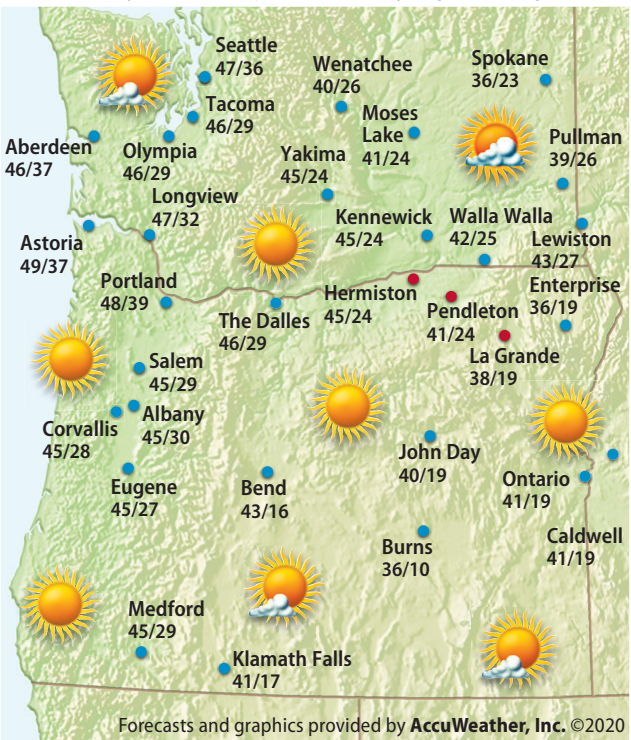
That rescue from 20 years ago ended with the German travelers joining Ash and his family for a late holiday dinner.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



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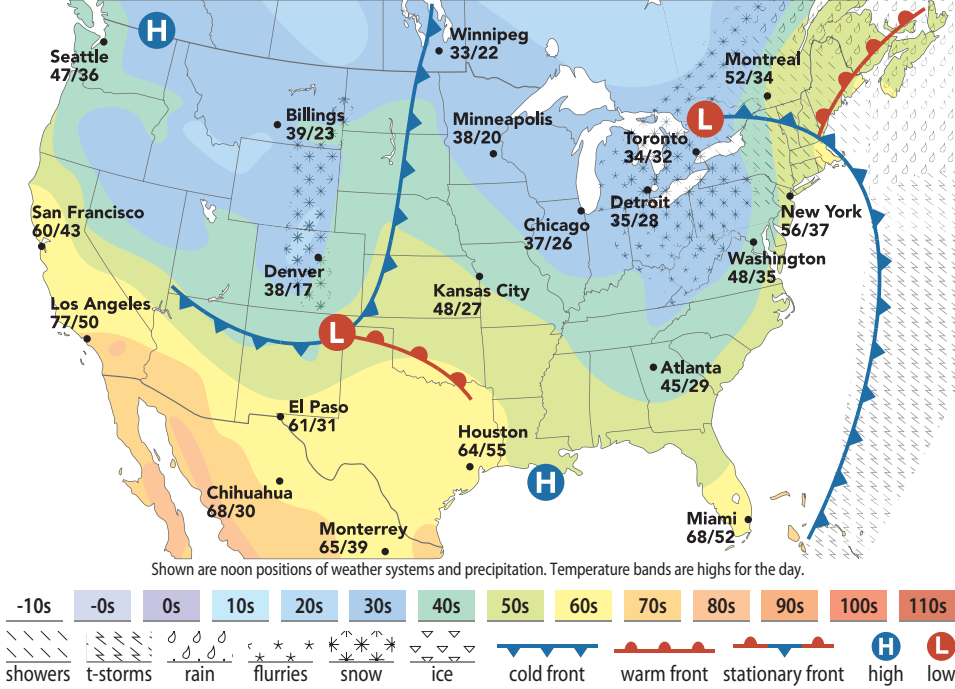
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NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 86° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -23° in Antero Reservoir, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Wallowa County author puts out sci-fi series ‘Martiniere Legacy’

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A Wallowa County author, who returned to the region a few years ago, has recently put out her latest series of books.

Joyce Reynolds-Ward has self-published “The Martiniere Legacy” — “Inheritance,” “Ascendent” and “Realization” — all of which were released in October and November, with the third book of the trilogy coming out Nov. 15.

The books, which are based in the near future in Northeast Oregon’s “Thunder County” — which bears resemblance to Wallowa County — “explore a future where debt leads to indentured servitude and ranchers and farmers compete on a game show, the AgInnovator, to fund high-technology agriculture prototype projects,” she said.

At the same time, the books contain a thread

between two of the main characters who are dealing with the fallout of a broken relationship.

“The protagonist, Ruby Barkley, is an ex-rodeo queen,” Reynolds-Ward said. “Her ex-husband, Gabe Ramirez, is on the run because of bad stuff he did. He was hiding out as a low-level saddle bronc rider. Ruby is big on her horses, she loves the ranch, loves the land. That was an element I wanted to bring into the whole story, a character like Ruby that loves the land and horses.”

The exes, who are competing against each other in the AgInnovator contest, realize their son, one of the show’s producers, is in trouble and in danger of indentured servitude, Reynolds-Ward said. Efforts to keep their son free lead to the couple revisiting what led to their divorce and to Ramirez being called on to help reform the Martiniere Group, a family-held, international tech conglomerate. Ramirez actually is a member of the Martiniere family, and is running because he previously testified against human trafficking that was

taking place within the group.

The series is a return into a genre Reynolds-Ward has written in before — science fiction — but more specifically a new dive into a sci-fi offshoot called agripunk (agricultural technology) where she delves into mind-control technology.

“I’ve been looking at poking around at agricultural technology for a while. The John Deere right-to-repair issue caught my eye,” she said. “I’ve had kind of a fascination for biological robots — bio-bots. This got my attention more strongly as I started looking at how varied the field was.”

The book also ties in one of Reynolds-Ward’s own passions.

“I like mixing my horses and my sci-fi,” said Reynolds-Ward, who is a horse owner.

The set was not intended to be a trilogy, but as she wrote, that is what came about.

“It was originally going to be a standalone book,” she said. “The original idea was I was going to try to pitch it to New York.”

IN BRIEF

Protesters gather at home of regulator over COVID gym fine

SILVERTON — About 50 protesters converged on the Silverton home of a state workplace safety regulator to protest a large fine levied against a Salem gym owner.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that Silverton Police Chief Jim Anglemier identified the protesters who gathered Sunday, Nov. 29, as members and affiliates of Patriot Prayer, the conservative group founded by Joey Gibson.

“There were no problems, no issues,” Anglemier said. “They stayed on the sidewalks and they stayed off private property.”

The controversy stems from a \$90,000 penalty issued against a Salem gym and its owner, who refused to comply with Gov. Kate Brown’s economic “freeze.” Brown

announced the freeze earlier this month in an effort to stem the explosion of new COVID-19 cases.

“As a result of the harm done to our business from the first shutdown, we will not survive another closure,” John Miller said in a statement before the freeze went into effect on Nov. 18. “This is a horrible position I find myself in, and it leaves me with only one choice: Courthouse Club Fitness will remain open (Nov. 18) and the days to follow.”

Courthouse has five locations in the Salem-Keizer area.

Gyms and many other businesses also had to close or restrict their operations in Brown’s first lockdown order last spring.

Patriot Prayer has been a vocal opponent of the lockdown and freeze orders implemented in Oregon and many other states.

— EO Media Group

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