

Officials capture bear from tree in Baker City

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — It was a perfectly ordinary summer Sunday morning, July 3, on Foothill Drive, until the bear arrived.

The yearling male black bear's appearance around 8 a.m. gave residents in the south Baker City neighborhood an unusual bit of excitement on the holiday weekend — and one that didn't involve fireworks.

Lasted longer, too — more than two and a half hours elapsed while a state wildlife biologist, police and other officials worked to bring the bear down from its perch about 25 feet up in a birch tree, place the animal in a cage and drive it out of town to be released in the wild.

A crowd of about 20 people who had watched the incident clapped and cheered, with yells of "good job" and "thank you."

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Baker City office, who shot the bear with a tranquilizer dart, said with a chuckle that it was his first standing ovation.

Ratliff helped load the bear into the cage on a trailer connected to his ODFW pickup.

He estimated the bear weighed about 150 pounds.



Brian Ratliff, center, with white hat, wildlife biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, loads a black bear into a cage on Sunday morning, July 3, 2022.

The episode started when the bear was seen at Quail Ridge Golf Course, on the hill directly west of Foothill Drive.

Julie Bouchard, who lives at 235 Foothill, on the west side of the street, said she had just let out three dogs, one of her own and two belonging to her daughter-in-law, Megan Cloyd, when she heard someone yelling, from the golf course, about a bear.

Bouchard quickly brought the dogs inside — Louie, her boxer-bulldog mix, and Cloyd's black Labradors, Lola

and Lola's daughter, Sammy.

Cloyd, who grew up in Baker City and moved to Moses Lake, Washington, about four years ago, was visiting for the Fourth of July weekend with her children, Nicholas Cloyd Jr., 10, and Scarlett, 11.

Bouchard said she watched the bear rumble through a field near her home, cross Foothill Drive and climb the birch tree between two apartment buildings directly across the street.

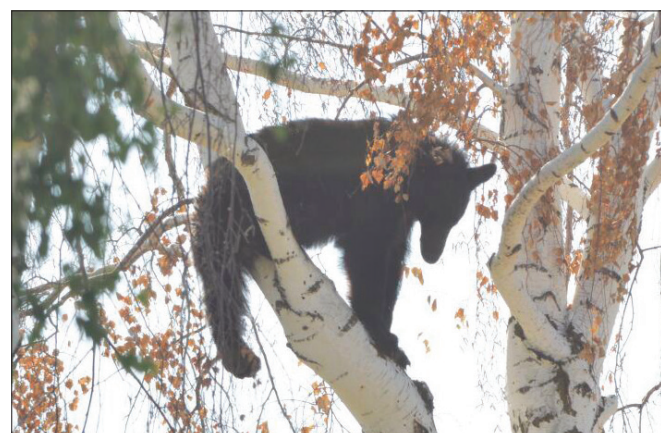
"It was so cute while it was running," Bouchard said.

Bouchard, who has lived on Foothill Drive for about a decade, said she's never seen a bear in the neighborhood.

Two Baker City Police Department officers responded, along with a Baker County Sheriff's Office truck and two Oregon State Police troopers.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash also drove to the scene.

Baker City Police officer Lance Woodward directed traffic along Foothill Drive. A car rolled through every few minutes, most driven by



A yearling male black bear stands in a birch tree Sunday morning, July 3, 2022, on the east side of Foothill Drive in Baker City.

curious residents wanting to get a look at the bear.

Ratliff arrived about 9:45 a.m.

He prepared a tranquilizer dart and, with his gun resting on a barbecue near the base of the tree, fired a dart, hitting the bear around 10 a.m.

The bear scrambled several feet higher in the tree but became stuck between branches.

Jeff Smith of J2K Excavating, who also lives on Foothill Drive, offered to let officials use his bucket lift.

He drove the machine down the street, arriving about 10:25 a.m.

Ratliff and Ash climbed into the bucket along with Noodle Perkins, Baker County roadmaster, who operated the lift.

Ratliff used a handsaw to

cut several branches, allowing Perkins to maneuver the bucket to just below the bear.

Ratliff secured the bear with a rope before lowering the animal into the bucket.

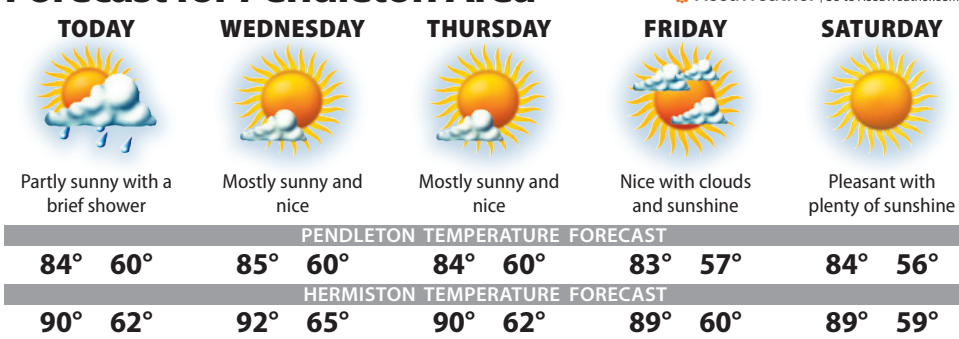
Perkins lowered the bucket and drove the machine to the cage, where Ratliff and others transferred the still unconscious animal into the cage around 10:45 a.m.

Ratliff and Ash both thanked Smith for donating the use of the bucket lift.

But before Ratliff could drive away, hauling the bear to a location well away from town, he had to field congratulations from many in the audience, who were happy that the bear survived the ordeal.

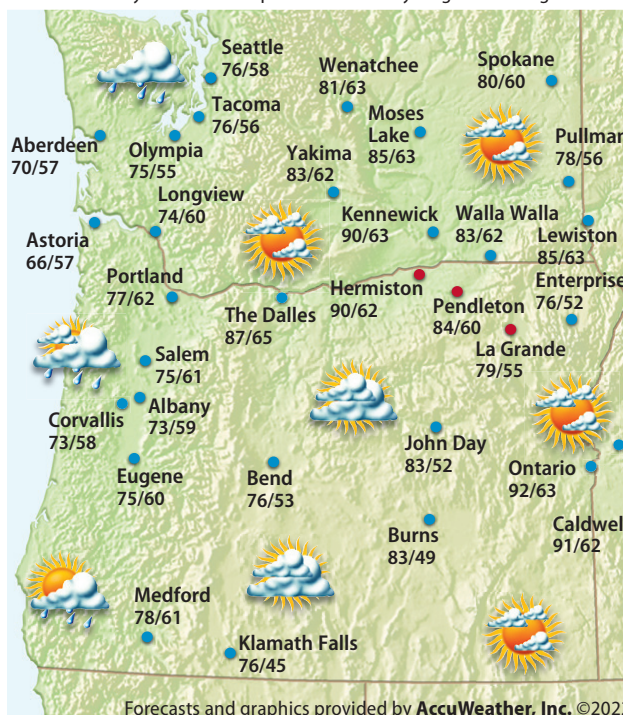
"Another day in Baker," Cloyd said with a laugh as the crowd dispersed.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

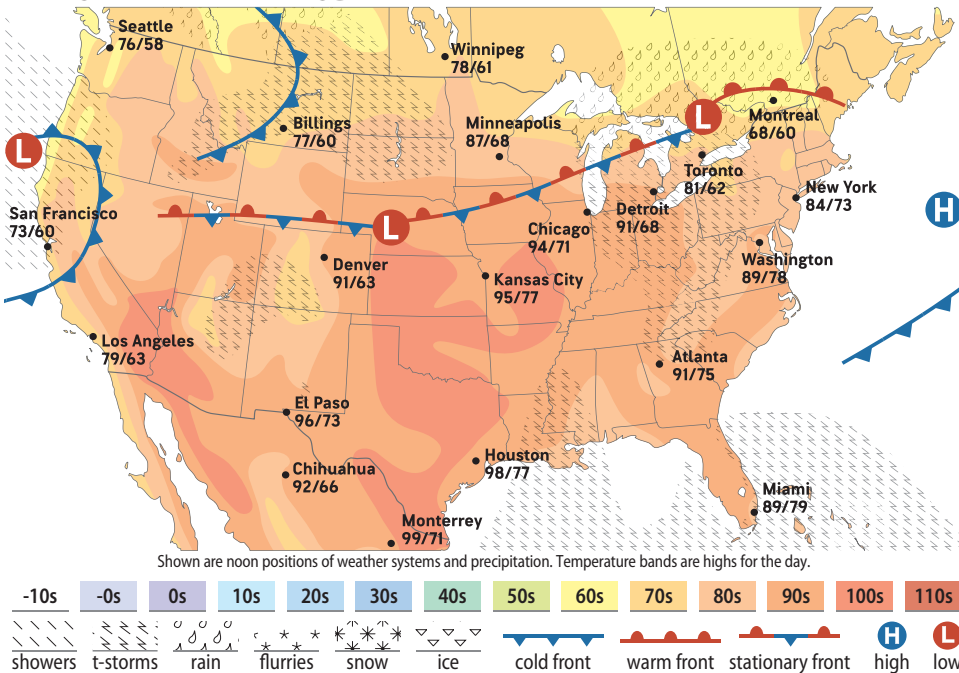
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	77°	57°	
Normals	86°	56°	
Records	107° (1975)	40° (1918)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.09"		
Month to date	0.31"		
Normal month to date	0.06"		
Year to date	11.13"		
Last year to date	4.32"		
Normal year to date	8.01"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	83°	59°	
Normals	89°	56°	
Records	106° (1942)	38° (2012)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"		
Month to date	0.03"		
Normal month to date	0.02"		
Year to date	7.48"		
Last year to date	2.46"		
Normal year to date	5.04"		
WINDS (in mph)			
	Today	Wed.	
Boardman	NE 4-8	WSW 6-12	
Pendleton	NNE 6-12	W 6-12	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:12 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:47 p.m.		
Moonrise today	11:41 a.m.		
Moonset today	12:09 a.m.		
First	Full	Last	New
July 6	July 13	July 20	July 28

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 105° in Cotulla, Texas Low 32° in Boca Reservoir, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



OBRC, Oregon BottleDrop announce Hidden Bottle Hunt

East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is hosting the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt from Wednesday, July 6, to Friday, July 10, by hiding six commemorative bottles in parks and trails throughout the state. Clues for the statewide hunt will be available daily on the Oregon BottleDrop website, www.bottledropcenters.com, leading hunters to the final hiding places.

"Last year's Hidden Bottle Hunt was the first of its kind, hosted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill," said Eric Chambers, external relations director for OBRC, the not-for-profit cooperative that serves as the operational steward of the Bottle Bill and operates the BottleDrop network. "It

was so much fun and was so successful at raising awareness about the legacy of Oregon's Bottle Bill that we decided to do it again."

Like last year, the 2022 Hidden Bottle Hunt comprises six separate, simultaneous hunts, geographically dispersed in parks and trails across Oregon. OBRC will release one clue per bottle per day, leading hunters to the final hiding spots. The lucky winners will get to keep the commemorative bottle and select a BottleDrop Given on profit partner to receive a \$1,000 donation through BottleDrop's Containers for Change program. More than 5,000 nonprofits across Oregon raise funds for their organizations through BottleDrop's Give program.

July marks the 51st anniversary of the Oregon Bottle Bill, which Gov. Tom

McCall signed into law July 2, 1971. It established the nation's first beverage container redemption system, and it has helped keep Oregon clean and litter free for more than five decades. Oregon's Bottle Bill also is among the most successful in the nation. In 2021, OBRC's redemption rate was 83.9%, with Oregonians returning nearly two billion containers for Grade-A domestic recycling.

"Our Hidden Bottle Hunt will be a fun opportunity for individuals and families to get outside and connect closely with the Bottle Bill's mission of protecting public spaces," Chambers said. "Best of all, the winners get to 'redeem' their bottle for a nice donation to one of over 5,000 participating nonprofits serving communities across Oregon."

IN BRIEF

Weiser, Idaho, woman dies in crash in Hells Canyon

OXBOW — A Weiser, Idaho, woman died Friday, July 1, after the car she was driving crashed and went into Hells Canyon Reservoir near Oxbow.

Jewel Kay Salley, 77, died at the scene. She was alone in the vehicle.

Baker County Dispatch at about 9:31 p.m. July 1 received a report of the crash. Several people also reported a vehicle rolling on the Oregon side of the reservoir near Homestead Road, and traveling down an embankment into the water.

Baker County Sheriff's Office deputies

responded along with the Halfway/Oxbow ambulance.

Deputies searched the area but didn't find anyone. Witnesses told deputies they didn't see anyone get out of the vehicle, which was submerged in about 20 feet of water.

Divers from the Baker County Search and Rescue team arrived early July 2. The car was removed from the water, and deputies found Salley's body.

She was driving south on Homestead Road when, for an unknown reason, the car went off the road, according to a press release from the sheriff's office.

— EO Media Group

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

Follow us on Facebook!

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Copyright © 2022, EO Media Group

Circulation Dept.

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
26 weeks	\$71	39 percent
13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

Single copy price:

\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

ADVERTISING

Regional Sales Director (Eastside) EO Media Group:

• Karrine Brogotti
541-963-3161 • kbrogotti@eomediagroup.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Angel Aguilar
541-564-4531 • aaguilar@hermistonherald.com
• Melissa Barnes
541-966-0827 • mbarnes@eastoregonian.com
• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office

• Dayle Stinson
541-966-0824 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

Classified advertising: 541-564-4538
Legal advertising: 541-966-0824
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

• To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
• To submit community events, calendar items, engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email community@eastoregonian.com, call 541-966-0818 or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements.
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips, email sports@eastoregonian.com.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Print Manager: Holly Rouska
541-617-7839 • hrouska@eomediagroup.com