

Local & State

SHORING

Continued from Page 1A

Workers will drill nails into the hillside to hold a reinforced concrete wall in place, Bowlin said.

Work at Canyon Creek started last week and should be finished no later than Halloween, he said.

The road will not be closed during the project, but drivers should expect delays of 20 to 30 minutes and the road has been narrowed to a single lane.

The area near Connor Creek will be done in 2019, "when conditions permit," Bowlin said.

He declined to say how much the work will cost.

Smith said the erosion is a gradual and ongoing problem.

He said waves, created by wind and by boat wakes, accelerate the erosion. Smith also believes the fluctuating water level — the reservoir in many years drops 40 feet or below full pool during the spring, refills in early summer and then begins to recede again — exacerbates the problem.

A study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found that "rapid reservoir drawdowns coupled with low permeabilities of bank sediments create particularly unstable situations, but slower drawdowns can also lead to failure conditions."

Fluctuating reservoirs can also affect the height of the water table and increase



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald

Crews have started stabilizing a nearly vertical slope along the Snake River Road above Brownlee Reservoir about 12 miles south of Richland.

"In places the road is basically stitched onto the side of a cliff, and it's a long ways down to the water"

— Jeff Smith, Baker County roadmaster, talking about the Snake River Road

subsurface erosion from groundwater, according to the study.

Bowlin said the federal license that allows Idaho

Power to operate Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams requires the company to deal with effects the reservoirs might have on roads.

"In this case, it is likely that through time at this location, wave action caused by high winds when the reservoir is full contributed to erosion of the foot of the slope below the road, causing instability and eventual slumping," Bowlin wrote in an email to the Herald. "The construction work will

protect the slope from future reservoir related erosion and stabilize the road.

Smith said the Snake River Road, sections of which were built across steep slopes of loose rock, "is definitely the biggest challenge Baker County has because of the terrain and the reservoir."

"In places the road is basically stitched onto the side of a cliff, and it's a long ways down to the water," Smith said.

TIP LINE

Continued from Page 1A

The tip line is not staffed 24 hours a day but is checked at least once a day.

The purpose of the line is to allow people to report parties, potentially before they happen, so police can intervene.

The line has been active for about a month and so far it hasn't received any calls.

Aubrey Henshaw, a member of the Safe Communities Coalition, said she hopes people will use the tip line during periods when parties tend to be more common, such as around homecoming, prom and graduation.

Baker City Police Chief Dustin Newman is supportive of the Teen Party Tip Line program.

"I think it's a great idea," he said.

Newman said Lance Woodward, who serves as the police department's school resource officer, will be working to educate students about how they, as well as adults in the community, can make use of the tip line, which is 541-523-FIND (3463).

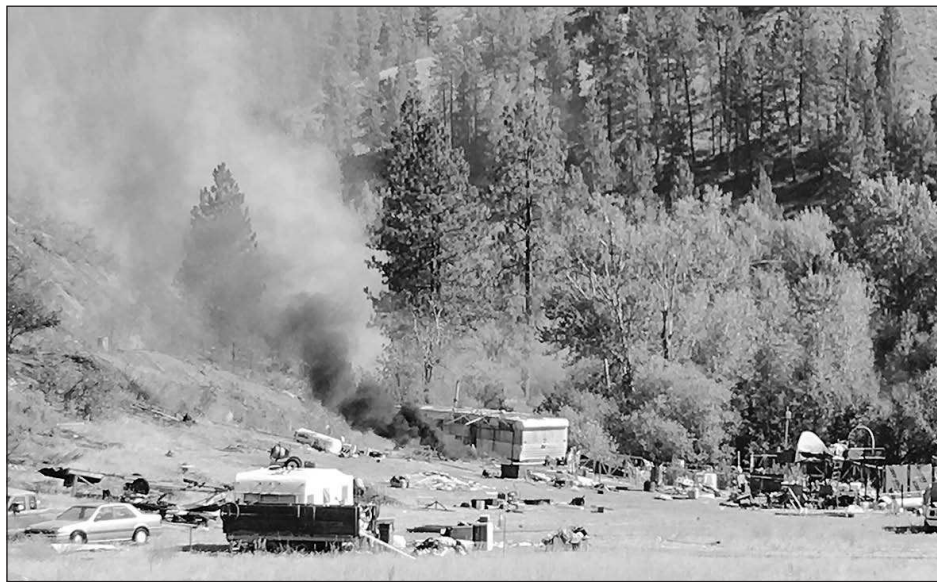
Fatal crashes on the rise in Oregon

PORTLAND (AP) — The number of people killed in fatal crashes in Oregon has gone up by 13 percent from last year.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday that the total number of deaths on city streets, freeways and county highways was driven up this summer by one of the deadliest crashes in recent state history.

Eight people died this August in a head-on crash in Harney County in southern Oregon. Several other multiple-vehicle crashes also took place this summer.

Troy Costales with the state's transportation safety division says there were 12 more fatal crashes than last year and the number of people killed has increased by 37.



Baker County Sheriff's Office photo

Police said a fire that burned 800 acres on Thursday was started by Jonathan Romine. He is charged with reckless burning as well as several drug-related crimes.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

After the Baker County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant Friday on the property of David Romine, where the fire started, Jonathon Romine also was charged with three counts of felon in possession of a firearm; one count each of unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful delivery of methamphetamine; and two counts of unlawful manufacture of marijuana.

One of the marijuana charges, a Class B misdemeanor, alleges that Romine possessed nine marijuana plants, in excess of Oregon's four-plant limit. The other count, a Class B felony, alleges that he was

operating a marijuana extraction lab, Shirtcliff said.

Romine is being held on \$150,000 bail and could be released upon posting 10 percent of that amount, or \$15,000, Shirtcliff said. The case is expected to go before a grand jury this week, he said.

During Friday's search of the property, which included "numerous trailers and debris piles," according to a Sheriff's Department press release, officers seized cash, illegal drugs, firearms and a large quantity of ammunition.

Scales, packaging material and evidence of sales also were found during the search, Shirtcliff said.

The investigation began about 12:12 p.m. Thursday when Baker County dis-

patch received a report of a fire on Highway 86 about 6 miles east of Halfway. The highway was closed for about 7½ hours Thursday while firefighters worked to stop the blaze.

The fire was controlled by about 8 p.m. Thursday, said Steve Meyer, Oregon Department of Forestry protection supervisor in Baker City.

Multiple agencies responded with resources, including airplanes, helicopters, heavy equipment and hand crews, Myers said. There were no injuries.

Shirtcliff said authorities will continue assessing the value of property damaged as well as calculating the cost of the firefighting effort.

State couldn't test DNA in cougar kill

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities in Oregon are ending a cougar hunt that was prompted by the fatal mauling of a hiker by one of the large cats earlier this month.

Hunters killed a roughly 3-year-old female cougar on Sept. 14 after its image was captured on a remote camera set up at the spot where 55-year-old Diana Bober's body had been found four days earlier.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife carnivore coordinator Derek Broman said Friday that it's "highly probable" the animal is the one that fatally attacked the avid hiker from Gresham.

Forensic pathologists couldn't recover DNA from the scene to match with the dead cougar's DNA because heavy rains contaminated the evidence and several days passed before Bober's body was found.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Dog Jog scheduled for Oct. 6

The second-annual Dog Jog is set for Saturday, Oct. 6, at Central Park in downtown Baker City. Registration is available at Baker City Hall or online at <http://bakercity.com/2283/Dog-Park>. A link is also available on Facebook — search for Baker City Partners for Paws.

Entry is \$20 and included a T-shirt if registered by Sept. 21. Entry the day of the event is \$10 without a shirt. Same-day registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the event starts at 9 a.m. The route is a one-mile loop that goes down the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway to Geiser-Pollman Park and back to Central Park. Dogs are encouraged but not required to participate. All proceeds go toward continued maintenance and improvements at the Baker City Dog Park, located near Sam-O Swim in east Baker City.

FIRE CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A

Battalion Chief David Blair of the Baker City Fire Department also applied for the position but wasn't chosen to be interviewed.

There will be a two-step interview process with all seven candidates interviewing on Oct. 5. The first interview will be with

Hall, Police Chief Dustin Newman, Fire Lt. Jason Jacobs and Julie Smith, the city's recorder and human resources manager.

Some candidates — the city has not set a specific number — will then be asked to participate in a final interview with City Manager Fred Warner Jr. City officials have not set a date for when Warner will choose the new chief.

Cowboy Action Shoot at Virtue Flat range

By Raymond G. (Rick) Rienks

For the Baker City Herald

Sept. 8 was another beautiful day in the hills east of Baker City, warm and clear with thin scattered clouds and moderate breezes at the pistol range at Powder River Sportsmen's Club Virtue Flat Range.

By 8:30 a.m. folks were gathering for this day's Cowboy Action Shoot. Any dust kicked up by the arriving shooters stayed low to the ground, settling quickly.

This match featured period dress and a display of skills reminiscent of the cowboy movies of an earlier day. The competitors gathered, each armed with a pair of revolvers, a shotgun and a lever-action rifle. The shoot-out took place not on a dusty main street with grim-faced adversaries facing one another but against metallic silhouettes and steel gongs set up at two shooting stations. The steel rabbit, lizards and chicken drop convincingly when hit by the shotgun. The hits on the gongs gave a sharp "clang" while the misses merely kicked up dirt at the rear berm. With this group of cowboys there were only a few misses. The ringing of the hits made it easy to count the score.

Stage one: The timed first round of fire was called: four targets for the shotgun, the rifle would shoot the five gongs twice. Then the shooter would run to the next shooting station with the clock still running and empty both five-shot revolvers at that set of five gongs. In less than one minute the shooting stopped with 24 rounds expended. Quiet returned as the empty shotgun hulls and rifle cases were gathered. The shooter collected his gear and cleared the line as the next shooter laid out his long arms and readied himself for his start. A review of the times is impressive. The quickest round fired was 22.26 seconds.

There were a total of six stages fired, each slightly different, each shot by the six competitors. Penalties for misses and other mishaps are added to the time score. Even with penalties for misses (plus 10 seconds each) the times were well under one minute. A lot of action in mere seconds. The skill and speed combine to put the "action" in the Cowboy Action Shoot.

Shooters By Final Score:

- Bullet — final time, 138.54
- Willie Killen — final time, 170.81
- Charlie MacNeil — final time, 222.63
- Old Rawhider — final time, 243.84
- Hunt Mountain Drifter — final time, 314.88
- Cheap Shot — final time, 361.89

New shooters are welcome to join in the fun. For information on attending or joining this match call Chuck Buchanan at 541-519-8550 or Dan McGuire at 541-212-5840.

Mobile Service

Outstanding Computer Repair

Any issue \$40 flat rate

Text or Call for Appointment:
Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

NOW SERVING BAKER CITY TO LA GRANDE AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN

www.outstandingcomputerrepair.com

Refurbished Desktop & Laptops For Sale
House calls (let me come to you!)

Drop Offs & Remote Services are Available
Office Hours 7am-7pm • Weekdays

All credit cards accepted

ELTRYM THEATER

SEPTEMBER 21-27

SEARCHING

PG-13
After his 11-year-old daughter goes missing, a father breaks into her laptop to track her clues to find her.

FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:10, 9:35
SUN: (4:10), 7:10 MON-THURS: 7:10

THE PREDATOR

When the unrelenting Predator is hired to hunt a single soldier, only a cunning crew of misfits and a dogged sergeant can save the human race.

FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:00, 9:40
SUN: (4:00), 7:00 MON-THURS: 7:00

THE NUN

Home. A priest's secrets and a convent's secrets in the form of a demon.

FRI & SAT: (4:20) 7:20, 9:40
SUN: (4:20), 7:20 MON-THURS: 7:20

*No Tightwad Tuesday / Bargain Matinee

1809 First • 541-523-2522 • eltrym.com