

Smoke fouls wine grape crop

SALEM (AP) — A California wine company has suddenly canceled contracts to purchase at least 2,000 tons of wine grapes from Southern Oregon growers because of apparent smoke contamination

from wildfires.

The Capital Press reports Copper Cane Wines & Provisions based in Napa Valley told growers as recently as late September that it would not buy the grapes.

John Pratt, president of the Rogue Valley Winegrowers Association and owner of Celestina Vineyard in Medford, Oregon, says Copper Cane rejected the grapes valued at \$4 million, leaving the fruit to

rot on the vine.

Pratt says vineyard owners tested and found that the levels of certain compounds released by burning wood that indicate smoke taint in fruit were below cause for concern.

STUDENTS

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The contract provides that state school funding, which last year amounted to about \$32,000 per student as the Burnt River School District's small school allocation, will continue to be paid to that district for the students attending Baker schools.

The Burnt River District, which sits at the far southwestern edge of Baker County, receives the higher amount of per-pupil funding to help the school remain viable in light of its small student body, Witty said.

The Baker School District, with an enrollment of about 1,729 students, received about \$7,800 per student from the state in 2016-17.

As school got underway this year, enrollment at the Burnt River School District, the smallest in the county, totaled 38 students. That includes 18 in Grades K-8 and 20 enrolled in the high school, including 16 foreign exchange students.

"Trying to run a district with 15 students is hard to do," Witty said.

As part of the contract between the two districts, Burnt River is paying the 5J District \$12,000 for each of its seven students attending Baker schools this year.

The \$20,000 remainder that Burnt River receives will stay with the

school district at Unity, Witty said.

He said he understands the plight of small schools, having grown up at Adrian, and having been employed by Adrian and Grant school districts before coming to Baker.

Still, the Baker School District is committed to offering parents choices, Witty said, pointing to the Baker Charter Schools as examples of how the 5J District makes other opportunities available to students.

"Parents, for whatever reason, want their students to attend Baker schools," Witty said.

"We offer a greater selection of courses and plethora of electives, including career and technical training," he pointed out.

The contract is beneficial to the 5J District while not causing financial damage to the Burnt River School District, Witty said.

Since Monday, a new 14-passenger minibus has been employed to transport the seven Burnt River students and four Baker students who live in the Stices Gulch area on the Dooley Mountain Highway into Baker.

The new bus arrived Sept. 27 and was put into action Monday, said Wayne Paxton, the district's transportation supervisor.

Paxton said the District purchased the bus at a cost of \$81,280. The state will reimburse the District for

80 percent of the cost over the next seven to 10 years, he said.

Before the new bus arrived, a full-size bus was used to bring the students to the Baker schools.

The students are picked up at a site near the former Hereford School, Paxton said. The bus driver leaves Baker City at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday and arrives at Hereford to pick up students at 6:30 a.m.

The students are delivered to Baker schools by 7:30 a.m. Paxton said the Burnt River students range from second-graders to one high school junior.

That means one student is delivered to Baker High School, three to Baker Middle School, two to South Baker Intermediate and one to Brooklyn Primary.

The Baker School District already had one white minibus. But a white bus cannot be used to transport students to and from classes, Witty said. It can, however, be used to take them to extracurricular events. The yellow minibus can be used both to bring students to and from school and for extracurricular events with slight modification.

The drivers of the smaller buses are not required to qualify for a commercial driver's license, Witty said.

SHOOTING

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The victim's condition is improving Shirtcliff said.

McMillen, of 3220

Campbell St., remains hospitalized at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, but his condition, originally listed

as critical, is improving, Shirtcliff said.

McMillen was shot multiple times in the chest and neck.

Crump is cooperating with the investigation, Shirtcliff said. He has not been arrested.

Shirtcliff said all aspects

of the case are being reviewed, including whether the shooting was justified.

He said the case will proceed to a grand jury after the investigation is completed to determine whether charges are warranted.

The Major Crime Team

was called to 2515 Main St. about 7:30 p.m. Monday on a report of gunshots.

Crump and McMillen know each other and had been working as subcontractors on a construction job at the house, which is owned by Cliff and Angie Robertson, Shirtcliff said.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Patti Jo Garoutte: 61, of Baker City, died Sept. 9, 2018, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise. A celebration of her life will take place Friday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at the La Grande First Christian Church. A full obituary will be published later. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Susan Ann Hall: 61, of Haines, died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, at Bee Hive Homes in Baker City. Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Grace Hicks: Her memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Missouri Flat Grange, 1050 Hughes Lane. Minister John Goodyear will officiate. The family asks that those attending contribute desserts and side dishes to a potluck celebration in Grace's honor. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Missouri Flat Grange through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Colleen Crow: There will be a celebration of Colleen's life and memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Pine Valley Presbyterian Church in Halfway. Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Calvin 'Bud' Butts: Memorial service Saturday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. at Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave. Pastor Lennie Spooner of the Baker First Church of the Nazarene will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the Trail Tenders at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center through Grays West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Bud, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Glenna Lucile Smith: A Celebration of Life will take place at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13, at the Halfway Lions Club Community Hall, 235 Lion St. in Halfway. After the service, friends are invited to join the family for a reception at Wild Bill's. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pine Valley Fair Exhibit Hall through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in

memory of Glenna, or to leave a condolence for the family, go to www.colestrIBUTEcenter.com

BIRTHS

Cox: Chad Cox and Ashley Hohman, of Baker City, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Baker City, 8:49 a.m., Sept. 24, 2018; a boy, Arcaidian Micheal Cox, 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
THEFT II and CRIMINAL TRESPASSING II: Xysis Silk Duane Lahey, 23, of 2425 Balm St., 10:02 p.m. Wednesday, at Safeway; jailed; police said Lahey entered the Safeway store after being told not to return and attempted to leave the store with a grocery cart filled with miscellaneous groceries valued at \$532.39. Lahey fled the store when a Safeway employee attempted to prevent him from leaving the property. Police were called and took Lahey into custody without any further problems.

INTERFERING WITH A POLICE OFFICER: Linda Diane Peterson, 50, transient, 12:10 a.m. Thursday, on 10th Street near the railroad tracks; jailed; police said Peterson refused to step back from a traffic stop and to obey lawful orders from officers.

VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT (Three Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Daniel Jason Blood, 34, transient, 1:25 a.m. Thursday, in the 1500 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

ASSAULT IV DOMESTIC: Julia Louise Keyes-Brandt, 37, of 2715 Myrtle St., 7:46 p.m. Thursday, at her home; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office
BURGLARY II, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF II, CRIMINAL TRESPASS II and THEFT III: Garrett Eli Lovell, 22, of 880 Elm St., No. 220, 6:18 p.m. Wednesday, at 14th and H streets; jailed.

VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Kristina Anne Guile, 38, of 880 Elm St., No. 220, at the sheriff's office; jailed.

Oregon State Police
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING and ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE: Lori Sarahan, 49, of Fort Bragg, California, 4:36 a.m. today on Interstate 84, about 10 miles south of Baker City; jailed; police said pursuit of Sarahan's vehicle began in Malheur County and continued into Baker County before she finally was stopped by officers; Baker City Police also assisted in the arrest.

BILL HARVEY

Keeping Baker County Residents Informed



2016-2017 RECORD BREAKING SNOW



2018 NEW STORE 60 NEW JOBS



2018 LIME PLANT DEMOLITION



2015 ICE STORM CLOSURES I-84

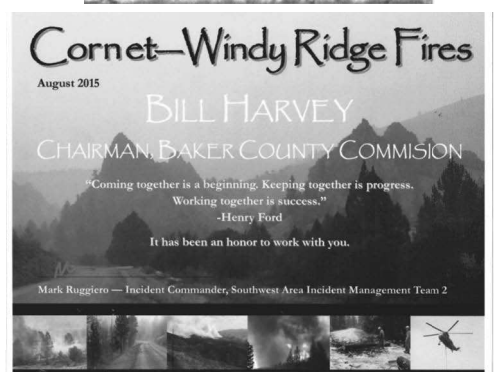


PUBLIC ROUND TABLE MEETINGS



2015 FIGHTING AGAINST OREGON WILD AND OWYHEE MONUMENT DESIGNATION

Thousands of you followed us on FACEBOOK FOR INFORMATION



2015 CATASTROPHIC FOREST FIRES

RE-ELECT

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR

Paid for by the Harvey Political Campaign Treasurer Patricia Reed