



Casey Crowley / Baker City Herald

Tyler Shaft, left, and Bodie Barid work on the foundation for one of two duplexes contractor Jeff Petry is building at 10th and Estes streets. Contractor Jeff Petry hopes to finish the two buildings by April 2019.

DUPLEXES

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“I just would like to see Baker do well, people be employed, beautiful town,” Petry said.

Construction started in early October, and Petry expects the two duplexes to be finished by April 2019.

The two duplexes take up the north side of the property, and Petry said that if he sells them he would build two more duplexes to the south.

The duplexes are one-story buildings. Each side of the duplex is 1,500 square feet, with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Each will have a one-car garage and covered front and back porches.

The main construction crew consists of Ron Baird, Bodie Baird and Tyler Shaft, but Petry said he will likely require subcontractors for parts of the construction.

The crew is working to finish the foundations before snow falls.

BEAR

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First, there was no evidence that the bear had been hanging around town, Ratliff said.

Indeed, there haven’t been any bear complaints in Sumpter recently, he said. That’s in contrast to last year, when ODFW trapped and killed three bears in Sumpter in late September and early October.

Had there been a rash of bear reports, Ratliff said, he would have had to kill rather than tranquilize the bear because it wouldn’t be possible to know how long the bear had been in town.

Second, the bear trapped

Wednesday demonstrated a natural, and appropriate, level of fear when confronted by people.

The Sumpter residents who first saw the bear near their home Wednesday morning told Ratliff that the animal, which had been nosing through their trash, immediately climbed a nearby pine.

When the residents returned home several hours later, the bear was still in the tree.

Ratliff said the bears that were trapped in Sumpter last year showed no such trepidation around people. One of the bears walked onto the porch of one home, and opened an unlatched door and entered the sunroom of a second home.

“Normally a nuisance bear is a dead bear, but it’s a case-by-case basis,” Ratliff said this morning. “In this case I felt the benefits (of releasing the bear) outweighed the risks. I had a spot to release it. It’s definitely a better outcome.”

Ratliff made the same decision almost exactly three years ago, when a 110-pound bear showed up in the yard of a home on 11th Street in west Baker City.

That bear acted afraid of people. ODFW released it at an elk-feeding site that was closed to the public at the time.

THEFT

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That allowed Baxter to sentence Moore to 6 months in jail on each of the two theft counts.

Moore will be on parole for one year following his release from jail and must complete alcohol and drug treatment while on parole.

Gonzales’ father, Joe, testified about the emotional harm to the family caused by the delay in authorities determining that Izah died from suicide.

Nick Hagendorn, a detective with Oregon State Police, testified that the theft of the handgun resulted in that delay.

“We were pleased that the judge sentenced Mr. Moore to the maximum sentence under Oregon law as his actions caused a major delay in the investigation of this death and caused additional stress and trauma to Izah’s parents and family,” Shirtcliff said in a press release.

“We were pleased that the judge sentenced Mr. Moore to the maximum.”

— Matt Shirtcliff, Baker County district attorney

A second suspect in the case, Daniel Jason Blood, 34, of Baker City, was indicted last month on two counts of first-degree theft for allegedly helping Moore arrange to sell the handgun.

Shirtcliff said Blood’s case is pending.

Shirtcliff said last month that he had considered charging Moore with tampering with physical evidence, a Class A misdemeanor, but a recent ruling by the Oregon Court of Appeals made that charge problematic in this case.

That ruling was based on a case involving the state law regarding tampering with a witness, but Shirtcliff said the relevant language is identical in the statute covering tampering with evidence.

The key clause requires that the person who tampers with evidence know that the item would be “used in an official proceeding” such as a grand jury meeting or a trial, Shirtcliff said.

That standard would be difficult to meet in Moore’s case, he said.

“Six months ago I would have filed it, but the standard has changed,” Shirtcliff said.

He said officials from the Oregon Department of Justice recommended that he not file the tampering charge in this case due to the Appeals Court ruling.

He hopes the Legislature will change the tampering statute so that suspects in similar cases could be charged.

In an unrelated theft case, Moore also pleaded guilty to first-degree theft for stealing a bicycle and was sentenced to an additional 10 days in jail and two years of formal probation.

WYDEN

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“This didn’t happen by osmosis, this happened because Bruce brought it up, it happened because Fred was concerned about it,” Wyden said.

The current effort to address fire risk in the watershed was spearheaded by Baker City Councilor Arvid Andersen, who is a forestry consultant.

Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey, who is running against Nichols for that position in the Nov. 6 election, also attended Wyden’s town hall.

A representative from Community Connection asked Wyden about increasing funding for the Older Americans Act, a 1965 law that provides funding to communities for service for senior citizens.

Wyden responded that

the OAA funding is one his priorities. He also mentioned that Congress passed a bill recently that allows Medicare to focus on “chronic care.” About 25 percent of Baker’s population is older than 65.

Wednesday’s town hall was Wyden’s second in Baker City this year, following an event in May.

Wyden has held a town hall in Baker every year since his election in 1996.

Adoptable Pet Of The Week

Rudi

Hello there! My name is Rudolph, Rudi for short. I am a four year old male border collie (I was born on Christmas!) who tried to be a working cow dog, but it didn't work out. I have lots of energy and need to find a home that takes me for lots of walks, jogs, hikes and rides in the car. I am very smart and well behaved. I love kids and want to be a member of a family!



Contact Best Friends of Baker at 541-519-7387 (no texting, please)

Business Owners & Readers... Want to sponsor the pet of the week for only \$39? Include a logo, memorial or short message here for free! Call 541-523-3673 or email info@bakercityherald.com

Brown blocks offshore drilling

SALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order Thursday blocking offshore drilling, joining several other states trying to shield themselves from the Trump administration’s plan to drill for oil and gas off the U.S. coast.

The order comes as President Donald Trump’s administration seeks to expand offshore drilling and has scrapped an Obama-era policy to protect oceans and the Great Lakes, replacing it with one emphasizing economic growth.

Brown, a Democrat, sought a federal exemption for Oregon but has not received one,

RE-ELECT

BAKER COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR



BILL HARVEY



Paid for by the Harvey Political Campaign

Treasurer Patricia Reed

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Sat, Nov 10th • 7-10 pm at Side A Brewing

ON-HILL PRAY FOR SNOW & PASS PICKUP PARTY

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Season Pass Photos & Pickup

Live Music • Chili Feed

Anthony Lakes operates under a special use permit in Wallowa Whitman National Forest and is an equal opportunity employer and a 501(c)3 non-profit.

TRUNK OR TREAT

 Free candy and games for everyone! 

WEDNESDAY : OCTOBER 31ST : 4:30-6:30

We will also be serving chili and hot dogs!

At Baker City Christian | 675 Hwy. 7