

PURSUIT

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Nunez is in custody at the Baker County Jail on charges of attempting to elude police, reckless driving, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, first-degree criminal trespass, two Malheur County warrants charging him with failure to appear and multiple traffic

violations, including speeding, running a stop light and careless driving.

The chase lasted just a few minutes — from about 5:38 p.m. to 5:41 p.m. Saturday — Baker City Police Chief Dustin Newman said this morning.

The incident began when police saw Nunez driving about 70 mph in a 40-mph speed zone on Highway 7

north of David Eccles Road, a press release stated. He was driving a 2005 Chevrolet pickup truck pulling a small flatbed trailer.

Nunez turned onto Second Street and traveled north at a high rate of speed as he approached Broadway Street. Baker City Police attempted a traffic stop, calling out a pursuit as Nunez continued on, traveling through a red

light at the intersection.

Nunez became more reckless in his efforts to elude police, the press released stated. The pursuit was called off at 5:41 p.m.

Newman said officers ended the chase in the interest of public safety.

“The risk outweighed the benefit,” he said.

Nunez abandoned the pickup a short time later. It was

found at Ninth and B streets.

During the investigation, police discovered the vehicle had been stolen from Canyon County, Idaho, on Jan. 12, Newman said. It is registered to Robert H. Breshears, 60, of Caldwell, Idaho.

Newman said community residents helped officers find Nunez as he made his way through neighborhoods and finally hid in a garage in a

backyard in the 2500 block of Ninth Street where he was arrested.

“I appreciate the participation of the public so we could get that guy off the street,” Newman said. “Dispatch got phone calls, people were pointing to officers.

“That’s a good thing,” he said. “That helps a lot.”

—Chris Collins

COUNCIL

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The ordinance allows the city to ask the Baker Justice Court judge to deem a property as a chronic neighborhood nuisance and potentially ban entry to the property,

including by the owner.

The ordinance includes several criteria by which the judge could declare a property as a chronic nuisance, including accumulations of rubbish, past violations of the city’s property maintenance ordinance, and

failing to have “adequate” water and sewer service (the ordinance doesn’t define “adequate”).

Also on Tuesday councilors are scheduled to adopt the annual pavement management plan and capital improvement plans for the

water and sewer systems.

Councilors will also consider accepting a bid to buy ductile iron pipe that will replace a section of the main water supply line. The city received five bids with the lowest coming from Core and Main for \$312,519.

BOOK BATTLE

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Battle of the Books is divided into three age groups: elementary (grades 3-5); middle school (grades 6-8); and high school (grades 9-12).

Books are selected each year based on community recommendations and final approval by a state committee. The high school list includes 12 titles; elementary and middle school divisions have 16 books.

Students spend the good part of year reading the books. Once the school year starts, most divide into teams and attend practices to answer questions that test their memories.

Saturday morning, just minutes before their battle started, the team from Willowcreek Elementary (grades 1-8), in Malheur County near Vale, furiously paged through books for last-minute cramming.

“This is our third year,” said Lainey Cummings, an eighth-grader.

At Willowcreek, students interested in Battle of the Books try out for the team

through mock battles. Once determined, team members study at lunch, after school, on Fridays (they have a four-day school week), and quiz each other on sports trips.

“They read, they come up with their own questions. They’re a self-motivated team,” said Jamie Dotson, whose daughter, Jessica, is an eighth-grader on the team.

For competition, teams cannot be larger than four.

But teams can be smaller.

Cadi Corn, a sixth-grader from Nyssa, was a team of one.

“There were other kids who signed up, but they didn’t read the books,” Corn said.

She read all 16 books, and re-read the longest book, “The Sword of Summer” by Rick Riordan. It was her first year in OBOB, so she’d never experienced a battle until Saturday.

“I just have to rely on what I know — and sometimes, I don’t know,” she said.

Most teams wore matching shirts, and quite a few featured clever sayings. The back of Corn’s shirt read “The only thing

you absolutely have to know in life is the location of the library.”

The team from Hermiston’s Sandstone Middle School sported the saying “Never underestimate the power of a girl with a book.”

Several teams arrived in Baker City on Friday due to the 8 a.m. registration for middle school teams.

“But at least we got to play in the pool,” Caelyn Pullen, from Irrigon, said with a smile.

Regional winners from Saturday’s competition were:

- Grades 3-5: McKay Creek Elementary, Pendleton

- Grades 6-8: La Grande Middle School

- Grades 9-12: Hermiston High School. Imbler High School placed second, and is also going to state.

The state competition is April 6 at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

The book lists for 2019-2020 are already posted online at www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org/2019-2020-obob-book-titles/

HEART TO HEART

Kids put on a great and funny play

Last week my husband and I were privileged to attend the Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre’s children’s rendition of “Puss in Boots” We had a wonderful time! The children did a fine job, the script was funny and they even incorporated audience participation. It really was fun!

The night we were there, little Maliyah Culp acted in the starring role of the infamous Boots. She did an amazing job! Memorizing all those lines was quite something for a first-grader, but she did very well. And the “dwarf ogre” was hilarious!

Lisa Ensworth, director for the play, certainly did a fabulous job getting the children to speak up, memorize their lines, and honing their acting skills.

Her hard work certainly paid off. It was well worth attending and, though that play ended this weekend, I hope others will come out and support future plays at the regional theater. I think they will be pleasantly surprised.

Pam Sundean
Baker City

A great chance for all-abilities playground

Hello, my name is David Kassien. I am the co-owner of D&J Taco Shop here in Baker City. I truly believe Baker City should have the playground for all abilities. I personally raised a daughter with cerebral palsy. Although I would never change a thing about her it wasn’t always easy for her growing up. She always wanted to do what the other kids did and she was

determined. Having someplace where she could go play and feel included and feel like she could do everything just like the other kids would have been amazing. I always taught her to rise above and keep moving forward despite her disability. She has grown into a very independent and strong-willed young woman. Having this park in our community is an amazing opportunity for so many of our kids with disabilities as well as the ones without. Thank you.

David Kassien
Baker City

Baker goes all in for playground contest

Baker, you leave me speechless. Which is hard to do (ask my husband). I’m not sure I can accurately express my gratitude to our little commu-

nity for being “all in” in regards to the Moda Assist All-Abilities Playground Grant opportunity. But I’m sure going to try.

As of 7 a.m. on March 5, we were leading by over 8,000 votes. Every single time I check social media, someone new has shared a post asking their friends and family to vote. Every single business we approached about posting signs and fliers, or covering their tables with table tents, or handing out voting cards, without hesitation, said “we’re in!” And meant it.

The thing is, we need this. Big time. But we needed it whether or not Baker was ever nominated for the playground grant. The conversations that are taking place right now are like shouting from the rooftops that YOU want to create a place where children

who experience disability can play, because they deserve to play with their peers, but also because you want them here! Engaged in community. Not just accepted. But invited in, and cared for. And you are willing to fight for that.

And that is huge.

We are ahead right now, but please don’t assume that can’t change. Keep voting! Every single day. Ask everyone you know to do the same. And when voting is over, we will celebrate no matter what happens. Because Baker, you are awesome!

Vote here: www.trailblazers.com/assist

Cassi LeTourneau
Baker City

Please help bring playground to Baker

I am writing to encourage

all Baker City residents, friends of residents and visitors to vote for Baker City in the Moda Assist Program Playground Grant.

It’s easy and free. Every day from now until March 20 cast your vote at www.nba.com/blazers/assist so our city can receive a much-needed grant to help fund an all-abilities playground right here in Baker City. All of the children who live here deserve a place where they can play and interact with their peers in a safe and fun setting.

Help us make this possible by casting your vote and asking your friends and family to vote also. Anyone in the United States can vote for Baker City. Please spread the word and vote daily.

Krista Cook
Baker City

DEVOTIONS

By Rev. Richard Fox

Seems we’re becoming not so different today than those of many ancient practices of Pagan religion. The most hideous is the modern practice of child sacrifice. In the Middle East and around the Mediterranean Sea that involved the ancient ritual of sacrifice of children, often in fire and presided over by some priesthood with the approval of the worshippers. A child could be placed on an open fire or into an open burning chasm of a metal idol representing gods such as Baal or Molech. Done to appease a god and to gain favor for an abundant harvest or victory in battle. These cruel

acts litter the ancient world. One well-known cemetery full of the bones of thousands of infants has been found at the site of ancient Carthage in North Africa, with signs of violent death. Sadly even the Bible tells of a time in the Biblical kingdom of Judah under certain kings child sacrifice was carried out in the city of Jerusalem.

Any modern nation that chooses to commit or approve child sacrifice in the name of “pro choice,” “family planning” or the “abortion rights” maybe should learn a lesson from these examples. Any culture or people that has participated in child sacrifice has declined and

disappeared from history. Ancient Carthage was destroyed by Rome. The Romans sowed salt into its land so it would never rise again. Idolatry won out in Judah and it was invaded by Babylon. Its temples razed and people deported. While ancient people murdered their children to please a false god, maybe we’re not so different today. Modern people do so in honor of a different kind of god — the god of self.

This may be a hard saying but it’s the truth and needs to be said. The unborn and even some cases after being born are slaughtered in the millions when they interfere with the pursuit of selfish pleasure and

the god of convenience. The taking of life is not a mere political issue. If you think so you are very wrong. It is a moral, ethical and most important a spiritual issue of the highest court — God’s court.


Maybe you are a little foolish and unlearned or as a Christian spiritually blind because of a lack of good teaching. This is a battle in the spiritual realm that we better win. Life belongs to the real God (Genesis 2:7). He’s the creator of life (Exodus 20:13). You shall not murder. Life is of God, therefore it is sacred. God took great care to show that human life must be protected, even in the womb (Exodus 21:22). The

description here is a pregnant woman with child, not a mere or a blob of tissue (Jeremiah 1:5). “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” Think. Is there much difference between a murderer and the abortion clinic doing the same thing to an unwanted human baby? God calls both murder. He also speaks of a place called hell for those who do these things (Exodus 20:13). God’s word says, “He will not justify anyone taking any part

in such wickedness, or even condoning it.” (Revelation 21:8; Exodus 23:7). Body of Christ, world, this means you, me. If ever there was a time to come together in intercession, we are in a good vs. evil spiritual battle for our country.

It wouldn’t hurt to tell our leaders enough is enough also.

All members of the local clergy are welcome to submit items for the Devotions column. Email to news@bakercityherald.com



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