

# Local

## BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, AUG. 23

■ **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge; continues most Fridays.

### TUESDAY, AUG. 27

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 2

■ **Labor Day**

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

■ **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m., at the Haines Library.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

■ **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

■ **First Friday Art Shows:** Baker City art galleries are open late to showcase the month's new artwork; opening times vary between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Peterson's Gallery and others.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 9

■ **Medical Springs Rural Fire Protection District Board:** 7 p.m. at the Pondosa Station.

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald August 25, 1969

One forest fire is still raging out of control in the county today, while a second one has been contained.

The Rough Ridge fire near Unity as of 8 p.m. Sunday has consumed 6,470 acres and was burning on a four-mile front.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 23, 1994

Seven teen-age boys put their energy to work for the benefit of the community and learned job skills in the process this summer.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 24, 2009

Requests for nearly \$4.5 million to make improvements to Resort Street in downtown Baker City and to Best Frontage Road, between East Campbell Street and Highway 86, drew support Wednesday from the Baker County Board of Commissioners.

Commission Chairman Fred Warner Jr. said the Resort Street and Best Frontage Road projects were identified as priorities by the city in consultation with county officials.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald August 24, 2019

The thundershower that drenched, and briefly delayed, the Shrine All-Star Football Game on Aug. 4 might seem to contradict the rest of this sentence, but technically Baker City is in the midst of its fourth-longest rainless stretch since World War II.

The asterisk in this case has to do with where our official weather readings are taken.

That's the Baker City Airport, and it's a couple miles north of the city limits.

No great distance, to be sure. But it's far enough to make a significant difference sometimes when it comes to thunderstorms, which can have bands of rain just a mile or two across.

In any case, the rain gauge at the airport hasn't collected what the National Weather Service defines as "measurable rain" since June 20.

Thursday was the 64th straight "dry" day.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Aug. 21

9 — 13 — 17 — 19 — 24 — 48

Next jackpot: \$3.4 million

### POWERBALL, Aug. 21

12 — 21 — 22 — 29 — 32 PB 21

Next jackpot: \$50 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 20

8 — 14 — 25 — 51 — 63 Mega 4

Next jackpot: \$90 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 21

51 — 59 — 61 — 69

### PICK 4, Aug. 22

• 1 p.m.: 6 — 2 — 8 — 4

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 0 — 1 — 5

• 7 p.m.: 3 — 3 — 0 — 8

• 10 p.m.: 5 — 6 — 3 — 9

### LUCKY LINES, Aug. 22

3-7-10-14-18-24-25-30

Next jackpot: \$44,000

## SENIOR MENUS

■ **MONDAY:** Sloppy Joes, potato salad, corn, fruit cup, lemon bar

■ **TUESDAY:** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, roll, cottage cheese with fruit, sherbet

*Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60.*

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## GUNS

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### Marji Lind

Clinical director for New Directions Northwest Inc.

One possible idea to help curb gun violence across the country could be to focus on and provide more education and prevention measures around the "driving forces" that true research would identify. Education and prevention strategies then need to be developed to specifically touch all age levels and cultures that have blended together within our great nation.

As an immediate intervention, New Directions Northwest Inc., which provides mental health services in Baker County, used a grant focused on suicide prevention to purchase gun trigger locks. New Directions offers these devices at no cost to any individual or family throughout Baker County.

The prevention program also is working with other local communities throughout the county to identify locations to provide access to the free gun trigger locks.

### Greg Smith

State Representative (R-Heppner)

Rather than passing additional gun restrictions that end up punishing law-abiding citizens, I think it's time we make a serious effort to address the growing mental health crisis in our communities. Earlier this year, I worked with Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan, Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, to secure \$1.6 million in upgrades for the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. A portion of these upgrades will be used to ensure that violent criminals, including those suffering from mental illness, can get the treatment they need rather than being treated like ordinary offenders who might be returned to the public.

Investments like this are crucial to ensuring people get the help they need, while also saving taxpayers money in the long run as those receiving treatment are less likely to reoffend in the future.

Americans broadly agree that



Lind

investing in mental health services is a worthwhile approach when it comes to addressing violence. A 2018 survey by Gallup found that 56% of Americans viewed bolstering mental health screenings and security as a better strategy for addressing violence in schools than passing new restrictions on gun and ammunition sales. This opinion is shared by Americans of all political stripes and shows that there is room for agreement when it comes to violence prevention policies.

### Earl Pettit

Cove School District superintendent

Pettit said he believes one key to protecting a school from possible gun violence is having a school resource officer.

School resource officers are law enforcement officers who work in schools. The Cove School District is part of a consortium of school districts in Union County that share the cost and services of such as officer Tony Humphries, a deputy with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Humphries began serving as a school resource officer for the Cove, North Powder, Union and La Grande school districts during the 2018-19 school year and will continue doing so in 2019-20.

Pettit said Humphries' presence is welcome because of the personal connections he makes.

"Tony Humphries is not a cop on patrol. He is developing relationships with students," Pettit said. "He is bridging the natural gap that exists between students and adults in a school."

Pettit said this healthy relationship is making the Cove School District safer.

### Larry Glaze

InterMountain Education Service District director of operations

Glaze of La Grande said a better approach to resolving disagreements is one key to curbing gun violence.

"We need to teach our children how to resolve conflict in a non-violent way," said Glaze, who served as superintendent of the La Grande School District from 2008 to 2017 and has worked more than 40 years as an educator.

The education administrator said this

has to start with schools and children's families working hard to instill values and provide support and direction. He said parents should limit the time their children spend on their electronic devices doing things like playing violent video games and instead do healthy activities together.

"In the rush of life, moving from activity to the next, we forget to do things like having dinner together," Glaze said.

### Jason Edmiston

Hermiston police chief

Contrary to what people may see on television, police officers have very limited access to state or federal databases. Protections afforded via HIPAA compound matters even further, but local cops know what is going on in their communities. So, would it not make sense to create a process where police officers have the ability to complete a simple form with specific criteria and submit that form to flag a person's criminal history record should they ever try to purchase a gun? A process much like that of the stalking order process.

By law, when a police officer believes a stalking order is warranted due to information known to the officer, the officer fills out a temporary order, provides both parties with a copy and a court date, and records/dispatch enter the order into the state system, which creates a flag on the person's record. The court must hear the matter within 72 hours.

If the person receiving the complaint does not appear, the order is upheld as they were given ample opportunity for due process. If the person does appear, a judge must weigh in and decide.

In no way, shape, or form is this the solution to the much larger problem. This would only pertain to legal gun purchases, but at least it could be the first step in a process that engages all sides and gives some justification to the can that has been kicked for years, by elected officials. This state-approved process would allow officers to continue to take action within their community.

Society has empowered us as police officers, now let us protect.

*The Observer and Baker City Herald contributed to this report.*

## TASK FORCE

Continued from Page 1A

The warrant was issued on Aug. 5 after Briney failed to appear for a plea hearing on a May charge of possessing methamphetamine, Baker County Circuit Court documents state.

Both men were taken to the Baker County Jail Monday. Radle was granted a conditional release Tuesday and Briney was granted a conditional release Thursday, according to jail records.

Duman said both investigations are ongoing and more information will be released later.

The Baker County Drug Task Force includes detectives from the Baker City Police Department, the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and the Baker County District Attorney's Office.

Duman said the Baker City Police Department, under his leadership, is working to re-establish the Task Force in cooperation with the other agencies, all of which have funding available to pay for drug investigations.

Duman, a retired OSP officer, began working as interim city police chief July 1.

He replaced former chief Dustin Newman who resigned to take a job with the Polk County Sheriff's Department. Newman had worked for that agency for 14 years before moving to Baker City in 2014 to work as a police officer. Newman was named chief in 2018.

"We're going to try to keep doing this," Duman said Thursday of the Task Force investigations. "Hopefully the community will start to recognize (the benefit of having an active task force) and that starts to build support for keeping the Drug Team operational."

Duman's 27½-year career with OSP included serving for 13 years in Baker City as lieutenant of the agency's Eastern Region Criminal Division.

He said Thursday that he is working to bring the police department up to full staff, which will include adding another retired OSP officer to the roster on Oct. 1. Sgt. Ty Duby will join the city police staff as a lieutenant on that date, upon retiring from his longtime OSP career.

As police chief, Duman says he will be working to provide more flexibility for city officers to work drug cases in the future.

"I've noticed it's been an ongoing issue over the last couple of years as every-

body's resources got real tight," he said of increased drug trafficking in the community. "We're here to put the lid back on the garbage can."

Duman said he doesn't expect to totally solve the drug problem, but he hopes to slow it down and thereby also reduce property crimes that in most cases are drug-related.

He hopes that members of the drug community will take notice of the increased police pressure aimed at curtailing their activities.

"We want to remove them from the community," Duman said.

"We'll run them out of town (based on the increased enforcement efforts) or get them convicted and sent to prison," he said.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature reduced the charge for personal-use possession of certain drugs, including methamphetamine, cocaine and heroine from a felony to a misdemeanor. Unlawful distribution of methamphetamine remains a felony crime, however, Duman pointed out.

"We're going to keep putting pressure on these people and prioritize our call load," he said. "If we do this we will make a better livability for the community."

## NEWS OF RECORD

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police**  
PROBATION VIOLATION (Parole and Probation detainer): Alexander Allen Adams, 23, of Baker City, 5:57 p.m. Wednesday, in the 300 block of Elm Street.

UNLAWFULLY OBTAINING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE and THEFT I (Two counts): Amber Lynne Pack,

42, of 3305 14th St., 9:59 p.m. Wednesday, at 14th Street and Court Avenue; jailed.

SUPPLYING CONTRABAND, MANUFACTURING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE and DELIVERY OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (Union County warrant): Chad La Vern Proffitt, 46, of La Grande, 5:01 p.m. Thursday, in the 2600 block of 10th Street;

jailed.

VIOLATING RELEASE AGREEMENT (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Chad Michael Cox, 38, of Baker City, 11:31 p.m. Thursday in the 2300 block of Resort Street; jailed.

**Baker County Sheriff's Office**  
DRIVING UNDER THE IN-

FLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, HARASSMENT and MENACING: Jacob Paul Dennis, 33, of 14564 Pine Creek Lane, 8:03 p.m. Thursday, at his home; jailed.

**Baker County Parole and Probation**  
PROBATION VIOLATION (Detainer): Melissa Marian Carey, 32, of 2787 Third St., 1:56 p.m. Wednesday at the Sheriff's Office; jailed.

WHICH

# JUAN

DO YOU WANT?

**BIG JUAN**



**OTHER JUAN**



The Big Juan is wrapped in a home-style tortilla filled with seasoned beef, refried beans, Spanish rice, cheddar cheese, sour cream, picante sauce and salsa fresca.

The Other Juan is wrapped in a salsa tortilla filled with seasoned beef, black beans, cilantro lime rice, cheddar cheese, sour cream, salsa verde and salsa fresca.



**915 Campbell St, Baker City • 541-523-6657**



# Thank You

We wish to express our gratitude for the kindness and support during our recent loss. Our special thanks to the caregivers at Settler's Park, Heart 'n Home Hospice staff and Gray's West & Co., for their sincere and respectful service. Your kindness will always be remembered.

-The family of Lois Bryant