

Baker City Herald

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Baker's Jorge Duran in action Tuesday against Nyssa

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine **\$1.50**

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Kathy Tucker of Baker City.

Local, 6A

A Washington man remains in custody today accused of an early Friday crime spree in the Haines area in which he reportedly threatened one of his victims with a gun and a knife. Michael David Tatro, 36, of West Richland, Washington, is being held on 20 charges. Bail has been set at \$283,500.

BRIEFING

Baker City Police selling unclaimed property Friday

The Baker City Police Department's only yard sale of unclaimed property will take place Friday starting at 8 a.m. in the back lot at the Police Department, 1768 Auburn Ave.

Methodist Church autumn bazaar scheduled Oct. 5

The Baker United Methodist Church has scheduled its annual autumn bazaar for Saturday, Oct. 5.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church at 1919 Second St.

The bazaar will offer houseplants, second-time-around items, baked goods and preserves, holiday gifts and decorations and several collectibles including Avon and railroad items.

A homemade cinnamon roll and coffee are \$2.

WEATHER

Today

69 / 37



Partly sunny

Thursday

76 / 46



Partly sunny

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Pilot Travel Centers Proposing To Replace Baker Truck Corral

Truck Stop Change?



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

PilotTravel Centers has applied for a permit to demolish the Baker Truck Corral and build a new travel center, including a convenience store, Arby's restaurant and gas pumps, on the 8.9-acre property on Campbell Street just west of Interstate 84 at the 304 interchange.

By Jayson Jacoby

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America's largest truck stop company has applied for a permit to demolish the Baker Truck Corral and build a travel center on the nearly 9-acre property on the south side of Campbell Street beside Interstate 84. Pilot Flying J of Knoxville, Tennessee, is the applicant.

The company owns more than 750 travel centers in 44 states and six Canadian provinces, according to its website. Its Northeastern Oregon locations are at Stanfield, La Grande and Ontario.

According to the application the company filed with the Baker City-County Planning Department, the new travel center would include an Arby's restaurant with a drive-through, a convenience store, drivers' lounge and public laundry, 10 fuel stations for passenger vehicles and seven diesel stations for trucks.

The restaurant, store and other services would be in a one-story

structure covering 10,688 square feet, according to the application.

Because the proposed structure is smaller than 15,000 square feet, and because a travel center is an allowed use in the general-commercial zone, the Planning Department can approve the application and the matter, known as a Type II review, does not go before the city Planning Commission, said Eva Henes, a senior planner at the planning department.

A notice was sent about two weeks ago to property owners in the area, and the department didn't receive any public comments, Henes said.

Planning department officials are working on a staff report, and Planning Director Holly Kerns will decide whether to approve the application. That could happen by early October, and the decision would be subject to appeal for 14 days, Henes said.

Projects that involve a subjective decision, such as a conditional-use permit, go to the planning commission, Henes said.

But Type II projects are more straightforward, with the main issue being whether the project complies with zoning rules and other regulations.

Ryan Robinson of Pilot Flying J said Tuesday that the company has not bought the Baker Truck Corral property. Robinson said the company is looking at options for the property but does not have a signed agreement.

The application lists Kurt Miller as the property owner.

He is the registered agent for DC & KM LLC, the Oregon company listed as the property owner on Baker County Assessor's Office records.

According to those records the current truck stop building is 10,314 square feet — slightly smaller than Pilot Flying J's proposed structure.

The Truck Corral was built in 1975, according to the Assessor's Office.

The market value of the property, including land and buildings, is listed on tax records as \$2,188,770.

Remote-Controlled Traffic Devices Keep People Away From Traffic

Ready to meet 'Roboflagger?'

By Samantha O'Conner

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Drivers passing through construction zones in the future will be increasingly likely to see a machine rather than a person guiding traffic.

But there will be a human flagger nearby.

One way to reduce the danger to flaggers from careless drivers is the use of "roboflaggers" or AF-ADs — Automated Flagger Assistant Devices.

Flaggers or other construction workers operate the devices remotely, usually through a computer tablet, but they do so while they're at a safe distance from the road, said Alex Olsen-Smith, 38, who operated two of the devices recently along old Highway 30 as it leads south out of Baker City toward Interstate 84 during a utility line installation project.

The roboflaggers include a signal light, sign and traffic arm that drops when a lane is closed.

"So, instead of having a body flagger out here standing here with a stop/slow paddle, potentially getting hit, now we have a mechanical device that stands there and does the same thing," said Smith, who tested the AFADs with his wife, Miranda Stoneman Olsen-Smith, 24.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration website, 20,000 workers are injured in road construction zones yearly.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Video cameras document drivers who fail to heed the signal from a roboflagger device.

See **Flagger** / Page 3A

Council to mull Warner proposal

By Samantha O'Conner

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Baker City Council members on Tuesday discussed City Manager Fred Warner Jr.'s proposal to retire from the state's pension system Dec. 31 but continue to work for about a year under a new contract.



Warner

Councilors didn't make a decision, but Mayor Loran Joseph said he would meet with Warner to draft a proposal for the full Council to consider at a later meeting.

See **Council** / Page 3A

MOSQUITOES TRANSMIT THE VIRUS

2 people contract West Nile

By Jayson Jacoby

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Two Baker County residents recently contracted the West Nile virus from mosquito bites, officials announced Tuesday in a press release.

The people were not identified. Nancy Staten at the Baker County Health Department declined to give the gender or age of the two people, or say what part of the county they live in due to privacy concerns.

See **Virus** / Page 3A

OTEC bills to rise \$4

Residential customers of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative will pay \$4 more per month for their service starting Nov. 1.

The Baker City-based power cooperative will see its wholesale costs through the Bonneville Power Administration, which supplies all but a tiny fraction of OTEC's power, rise by 3.97%, according to a press release issued Monday afternoon.

For the cooperative's 22,000 residential members in Baker, Union, Grant and Harney counties, the \$4 increase will show up in the "delivery charge" section of the monthly bill. That charge will increase from \$29.50 to \$33.50.

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FRIDAY — BAKER CITY WOMAN OPENS PRIVATE INVESTIGATION FIRM

