

FLAGGER

Continued from Page 1A

A flagger was hit and injured Sept. 11 on Highway 26 near Mount Vernon.

Alex Olsen-Smith owns BSD Enterprises LLC Traffic Control Flagging. He started his business 10 years ago in Tillamook and is now based at Dallas, west of Salem.

Olsen-Smith said two AFADs make a unit and each has two cameras, rear and front facing, allowing operators to see oncoming and outgoing traffic.

"We're still here, we're still watching you," he said. "We can set these up on a timer but it's only recommended to set these up on a timer in shorter distances."

AFADs stand about 8 feet tall and have a red and yellow light. The arm is flexible and if someone drives through it, the arm will pop off not causing damage to the car.

When that happens, an alarm goes off and the other arm stays down to prevent incoming traffic until it is reattached.

"Once the arm comes off it



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The auto flagger unit was set up recently at various locations along Old Highway 30 south of Baker City during a utility line installation.

shuts everything (down), it's an emergency," Olsen-Smith said. "And so all the other sites won't open, they won't do anything, even on an auto timer it will just sit there."

He said the light will turn red and the cameras will count how many cars run the red light.

Flashing yellow means go, solid yellow means prepare to stop, and red means stop.

Olsen-Smith said he's been testing AFADs since Aug. 8 to figure out the "kinks, quirks, and bugs" in their operation.

AFADs are waterproof and can be out in rain, sleet, snow, and other weather conditions. Alex said they weigh 200 pounds, including batteries.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has several AFADs for use in Eastern Oregon, and the agency is

looking to buy more, said Tom Strandberg, a spokesman for the agency in La Grande.

ODOT is using the devices on its maintenance projects, and also talking to contractors about employing them, Strandberg said.

A pair costs about \$25,000, an ODOT employee in Klamath Falls told a TV reporter in 2018.

VIRUS

Continued from Page 1A

The health department also didn't disclose the condition of the two people and whether either had been hospitalized. The virus generally causes mild flu-like symptoms, but it can also lead to severe illness and in rare cases can be fatal.

The most recent confirmed human cases of West Nile virus in Baker County were in 2014, when two women who live at New Bridge, about 3 miles north of Richland, were infected. Both women recovered.

This year there have been five other confirmed cases of Oregon residents contracting West Nile virus while in the state — three in Harney County and two in Malheur County.

Earlier this summer four groups of mosquitoes trapped in Baker County

tested positive for the virus. All of those mosquitoes were trapped in the Keating Valley, about 15 miles east of Baker City.

Health officials are advising people in Baker County to take precautions against mosquitoes to avoid the risk of infection, including preventing mosquito bites.

About one in five infected people may show signs of West Nile virus. People at risk of serious illness include individuals 50 and older, and people with immune-compromising conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

West Nile symptoms may include fever above 100 degrees and severe headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, muscle weakness, shaking, paralysis or rash. People should contact their health care provider if experiencing any of these symptoms.

The incubation period is usually two

to 14 days. Rarely, infected individuals may develop an infection of the brain or spinal column that can be severe or may cause death. This is especially of concern to those who have a compromised immune system, or the elderly.

Dr. Emilio DeBess, veterinarian at the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division, recommends people and animals be protected against mosquito bites.

DeBess offers these tips:

- Eliminate sources of standing water that are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. This includes watering troughs, bird baths, clogged gutters and old tires.

- When outdoor at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, protect yourself by using mosquito repellents containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or Picardin, and follow the directions on the container.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Richard Martin Strange: 89, of Baker City died on Sept. 19, 2019. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Richard or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS and DRIVING WHILE OPERATOR'S LICENSE SUSPENDED (Baker County Circuit Court warrant):

Daniel Jose Harding-Ortiz, 19, of La Grande, 11:02 p.m. Monday, in the 900 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER: Kirk William Roberts, 46, of 2439 Estes St., 3:33 p.m. Monday, at his home; jailed and later granted a conditional release.

SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Jacob Lee Mccusker, 39, no fixed address, 10:49 a.m. Tuesday, at Campbell and Main streets; cited and released.

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT (Domestic) and UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE: Mayron J. Harding,

18, of 880 Elm St., 11:15 p.m. Tuesday, at Fourth Street and Washington Avenue; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff
OREGON STATE PAROLE BOARD WARRANT: Michael Allen Payne, 36, transient, 4:53 p.m. Monday, at the sheriff's office; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): George Patrick Wesley, 44, of 2323 Third St., 2:51 p.m. Monday, at the jail where he was being held on other charges; he later was granted a conditional release.

Oregon State Police

FAILURE TO DRIVE WITHIN LANE and DRIVING UNINSURED: Kaitlan M. Galvan, 21, of Haines, 7:09 p.m. Sept. 13, on Interstate 84, about 10 miles south of Baker City; police said Galvan was traveling eastbound in a Ford Taurus when the vehicle left the highway and rolled at least twice. The crash damaged about 100 feet of Oregon Department of Transportation fence. Galvan and her two passengers, Jacob Anthony Galvan, 40, and Frank Nathan McNair, 39, of Baker City, all declined medical treatment, police said. They were transported from the scene by a friend.

OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 2A

'Gene' Zacharias

Formerly of Haines, 1936-2019

On Nov. 24, 1956, Gene married Gwendolyn Thomas, at Ardenwald Congregational Church in Milwaukie, Oregon. The two were introduced by Gene's mother who worked with Gwen at Wallowa Lake Lodge near Joseph.

Theirs was a love that would last a lifetime and would carry them into the headwaters of the Amazon jungle, where for many years they served the tribal peoples of Ecuador with Wycliffe Bible Translators/Summer Institute of Linguistics. As support staff, Gene was engaged in teaching indigenous tribes farm and timber management skills in a frantic effort to bridge the chasm between prehistoric culture and the 20th Century with the central goal of preserving their independent livelihoods on their own lands.

In the late 1960s while Gene was working with the "Auca" (now known as Woadani), a polio virus hit the tribe. For the first time Gene reported feeling blessed in being a polio victim, as he was uniquely suited to lead the Woadani victims through all the physical therapy routines he had learned years

earlier in his own recovery at Shriners Hospital.

Gene and Gwen continued in their faithful service to the Lord upon their return to Oregon. Gene pastored at Haines Baptist Church of Haines, Oregon, for 15 years before his retirement. He also shared his love of Jesus with 27 different congregations traveling throughout Oregon filling pulpits as a "substituting" minister. Gene could not have a conversation without mentioning God's boundless love for humanity.

When he wasn't preaching, Gene could often be found driving some sort of farm implement or working in the woods somewhere. His most prized possession, next to his Bible, was a John Deere Gator given to him by his brother, Bob.

Gene loved holding grandchildren in his lap and driving them around in that Gator.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Gwen, daughter, Gloria Zacharias Steele, and her husband, Bill Steele, all of Salem; sons, Timothy W., and his wife, Karen, of Redmond, and Mark V. of Baker City; brothers, Bob of Joseph, William "Bill" of Oregon

City and John of Salem; and sister, Patricia "Pat" of Salem; 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and two more greats 'en route' for whom he faithfully prayed for daily.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Shriners or March of Dimes, and that people ensure their children and grandchildren are immunized.

"I would not want anybody to deal with what I have," Gene said. "It makes me want to cry to see these little ones that are being exposed to things no one would get if they would only be vaccinated."

Good Luck with fall sports, kids! Have Fun & Be Safe

Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.
2390 Broadway, Baker City
541-523-5223

Best Friends of Baker Saturday Market

Open EVERY Saturday 8 AM - 2 PM

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER? WE ARE!

2950 Church St, Baker City
(first left after Broadway turns into 10th)

We accept debit, credit, cash & checks!
Donations accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9-1
(All proceeds benefit the animals of Baker County)

LOCAL BRIEFING

Herald launches new website

The Baker City Herald launched an all-new website Tuesday morning with a more streamlined look, more photos and a format optimized for display on smart-phones and tablets as well as desktop computers.

The site has simplified menus that make it easier to navigate among sections, including local news, obituaries, opinion and sports. Check out the new site — the address is the same, www.bakercityherald.com — and let us know what you think.

Forest Service office closed Thursday

The front desk of the Forest Service's Whitman Ranger District, in the David J. Wheeler Federal Building at 1550 Dewey Ave. in Baker City, will be closed Thursday, Sept. 26, while employees attend fiscal year-end meetings.

The desk will open as usual on Friday.

Firewood cutting permits will be available on Thursday at D&B Supply, 3515 Pochontas Road, and Forest Service maps are sold at The Trailhead, 1830 Main St.

Astronomy talk, night photography lesson

Go Wild: American Adventures, a local tour company, is selling tickets for an event Saturday that will include an astronomy talk, night photography lesson and live music at Copper Belt Winery in the Keating Valley east of Baker City.

The event runs from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The astronomy talk and night photography lesson are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., with guided star viewing and photography from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Unity fall harvest bazaar October 5

UNITY — Unity's fall harvest bazaar is set for Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Hall in Unity, the Baker County town along Highway 26 about 50 miles south of Baker City.

Vendors will be offering artisan crafts, new clothing and jewelry. Door prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. (must be present to win).

The Burnt River 4-H Club will be serving coffee, muffins, and biscuits and gravy in the morning while supplies last. Starting at 11 a.m. the Club will serve lunch for \$8 per person, with a menu including spaghetti with homemade sauce, a bowl of salad, a slice of garlic bread and a drink. Cookies and pies will also be for sale, by the whole pie or by the slice with ice cream. All proceeds will go to the 4-H Club.

Smart Driver class scheduled for Oct. 24

There will be an AARP "Smart Driver" class Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Baker City Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St. The class will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour break for lunch. Cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers. People who complete the course might qualify for a discount on their auto insurance. To register, call the Center at 541-523-6591.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Councilor Randy Schiewe was absent Tuesday.

Warner told councilors that his staff report in their packet was mistaken in estimating the potential savings to the city if he continued to work after retiring from the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Warner wrote that the city would save about \$33,000 in contributions to his retirement account. But he told councilors Tuesday that the savings would be about \$6,000 per year.

"I thought if you retired before December 31st of 2019 the city wouldn't have to pay the defined benefit piece of the PERS, they are now saying that any retiree that is hired back will pay regardless of when they retired," Warner said.

"I think it's a good thing for me, it's not as good a thing for the city now but it still saves the city money," he said.

In other business Tuesday:

- Warner said the city will finalize its purchase of property for a new wastewater lagoon on Thursday.

- Gary McManus, chairman of the Sally's Addition Homeowners Association in southwest Baker City near the city's water reservoir, asked the city to pave 75 to 100 yards of Indiana Avenue near Reservoir Road.

McManus said there is heavy traffic on the street, which has been chip-sealed but not paved.

- Penny Rienks of Baker City said she's concerned about the number of cats roaming free.

"People say cats need to be allowed to run free," Rienks said. "Allowing cats to run free puts the cats at risk from disease and it irritates the citizens."

Rienks suggested following Australia's law requiring cats to be licensed, fitted with a computer tracking chip, be spayed or neutered and be subject to a curfew.

Your Family Deserves The

BEST Technology... Value... TV!...

\$59.99 MONTH (by 24 months)

190 Channels America's Top 120

Add High Speed Internet **\$14.95** /mo.

CALL TODAY Save 20%! 1-866-373-9175

Offer ends 11/31/19.

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR

1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!