

Local & State

Portland man in serious condition after car plunges off Hells Canyon road

By Chris Collins
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A Portland man whose vehicle went off the Kleinschmidt Grade road on the Idaho side of Hells Canyon Tuesday night and plunged into a deep ravine was listed in serious condition Thursday in a Boise hospital.

Donald B. Jordan, 44, was trapped in the vehicle overnight before he was rescued early Wednesday morning by members of the Baker County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team and other volunteers from the Halfway and Oxbow areas.

Jordan was driving up the steep, switchbacking Kleinschmidt grade when his 2011 Chevy Tahoe went off the road and plummeted to the bottom of the ravine, according to an Idaho State Police press release.

The unpaved road runs from the Snake River Road to Cuprum, Idaho.

Officers in Adams County, Idaho, received a call report-



Submitted photo

Crews used cables and winches during the rescue.

ing the single-vehicle crash at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, the press release stated. A friend of Jordan's, whose

name was not available in time for this story, found him using GPS spot locators. Jordan was trapped in the vehicle from 9:30 p.m. Tuesday until the rescue was completed at 5:39 a.m. Wednesday, police said.

The Baker County Search and Rescue Team was activated at 2 a.m. Wednesday to help bring Jordan up from the "incredibly steep grade," a Baker County Sheriff's Office press release stated.

Sheriff Travis Ash and SAR members responded and began a technical rope rescue to reach Jordan.

Members of the search and rescue team and volunteers with the Halfway Fire and Halfway-Oxbow Ambulance worked together using a rope-and-winch system to carry Jordan up the steep hillside.

Jordan, who police said was not wearing a seatbelt, was flown by air ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise.

BID

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Baker County will be requesting an additional \$211,300 from the block grant program to reach the program maximum of \$1.5 million, commissioners decided Wednesday.

The Eagle Valley Fire Department is also seeking grants from the Leo Adler Foundation and other sources.

Gyllenberg's bid was the lowest of the four the county received.

The company's original bid of \$1,475,000 was reduced by eliminating some items, including air conditioning.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners designated ECO West as the sole source provider for seeking permits for a project to install a hydroelectric plant at Mason Dam, which forms Phillips Reservoir on the Powder River about 17 miles southwest of Baker City.

Dredge tailing mining

Erik Tofsrud attended Wednesday's meeting to discuss his proposal for leasing 35 acres of county property in the dredge tailings in Sumpter Valley for exploratory mining.

Tofsrud said his com-

pany has a revised proposal to address concerns brought to him before the meeting by Commissioner Mark Bennett, including a security fence and security gate into the property.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said the county sent a request for proposals for other companies that might be interested in leasing county land in the tailings. Because the county didn't receive any proposals, it can negotiate directly with Tofsrud's company, Shukrain Investment Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia. Tofsrud said his goal is to return to the county with a timeline by the middle of November.

Weed department

Baker County Weed Supervisor Arnie Grammon gave an update for commissioners. He also announced his retirement in 2020, saying his goal is to leave the noxious weed program on solid financial footing.

In other business, commissioners amended the agreement with Timothy Bishop and Baker Co. Unlimited to move out the renewal date for the contracts to give commissioners more time to decide on contracts.



Submitted photo

Dennis Teskey, left, and Dave Lindley work to reset a veteran's gravestone at Mount Hope Cemetery on Oct. 26.

RESPECT

Continued from Page 1A

Baker City formed an advisory group in 2011 to look at ways to improve the appearance of the veterans' section at Mount Hope.

Teskey said members of the Baker City Rotary Club discussed the issue and decided to take on the project.

Volunteers from the Rotary Club and the community have gathered annually, not long before Veterans Day on Nov. 11, to work on selected gravestones.

This year's event on Oct. 26 included members of the Rotary Club and volunteers from Gray's West & Co. and Stone Tributes Monument Company.

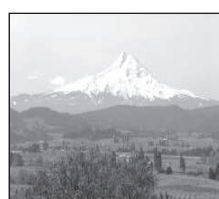
Volunteers included Lon Chavez, Riley Chavez, Brent Kragness and Jim McElroy, Rotarians Lloyd Nelson, Dave Lindley, Dottie Miles

and Dennis Teskey, and Gray's West owner Troy Hanson, his son, Hayden Hanson, and Henry Benavidez from Stone Tributes.

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Free concert Saturday at Presbyterian

A free concert including bronze handbells and piano is set for Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1995 Fourth St. in Baker City.

The Ring Praise concert is woven with hymn history and scripture.

Phyllis Tincer, handbell soloist, and Sean Rogers, pianist, will perform a variety of songs focusing on praising God. Through hymns,

contemporary praise songs and reflective pieces, they tell the saving story of Jesus Christ. In addition to accompanying, Sean will also play a few piano solos. Phyllis rings 3 octaves of Schulmerich handbells and mixes in 2 octaves of handchimes. During the concert the audience will have an opportunity to ring handchimes as everyone sings. No music experience is needed.

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