

WHISTLES

Continued from Page 1A

"I have also had customers call the office and ask if we are located near the tracks," Folkman wrote. "While we are located over half a mile from the rail line, the horns blow in such a manner that we might as well be. This has negatively impacted my business."

Others attending Tuesday's meeting voiced concerns about train whistles harming South Baker students' health and interfering with their ability to learn.

Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty and school board member Julie Huntington wrote a letter to the Council supporting the Quiet Zone proposal.

Councilor Ken Gross said he wants to see closer to a majority of people supporting the Quiet Zone. He also would like to see citizens help raise money to make a Quiet Zone possible.

To qualify for a Quiet Zone, the city would have to install new equipment at railroad crossings to ensure vehicles can't get to the tracks. La Grande, which recently received a Quiet Zone designation, is spending about \$200,000 for its five cross-

ings, the same number as in Baker City.

Quiet Zone proponents say that eliminating train whistles would improve safety due to the upgrades at crossings.

In other business Tuesday, County Commissioner Chairman Bill Harvey told councilors about the county's plan to hire an employee to coordinate economic development efforts in the city and county.

The coordinator's primary function will be "to focus on the establishment, implementation and follow through of business development efforts designed to increase the number of family wage jobs in Baker County."

Commissioners this summer ended the county's contract with economic developer Greg Smith.

Councilors on Tuesday also:

- Recommended the Oregon Liquor Control Commission approve a liquor license for a brewery that John Coop and Twila Lavery plan to open next spring in the basement of the Ison House, 1790 Washington Ave.

- Tabled a discussion about asking voters to make changes to the city charter related to the requirement that voters approve the sale of city property.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Simplot, based in Boise, will pay \$235,620 for the property in the northeast corner of the Industrial Park, which is west of 17th Street and south of Pochontas Road.

The price of \$16,500 per acre is the same as what the city received for 2.2 acres it sold earlier this year in another section of the 64-acre Industrial Park, which the city owns.

Current businesses in the area include Behlen Manufacturing, Cutters

Edge Saws and Powder River Precision.

Simplot owns a fertilizer distribution plant near the railroad tracks north of Broadway Street.

Simpson said the company can "hardly handle the volumes we have."

"Our company is making a commitment to be in this community and moving forward to building and owning a piece of property and operating it long term," Simpson said.

Councilor Lynette Perry raised concerns about the new plant emitting odors. Simpson said the site won't

produce smells or smoke.

"We want to be here, we want to be a good neighbor, and a good steward of this community," Simpson said.

He said workers at the Baker City facility will mix nutrients with fertilizer based on customers' needs.

According to a staff report to the City Council, Simplot will retain its current local workforce and add one or two jobs at the new site in the Industrial Park.

City Manager Fred Warner Jr. told councilors Tuesday that the facility will employ six full-time workers and four part-time.



Photos courtesy of Idaho State Police

Donald B. Jordan's Chevrolet Tahoe SUV after it plunged off the Kleinschmidt Grade on the Idaho side of Hells Canyon.



Photos courtesy of Idaho State Police

Jordan's vehicle is visible in the lower center of the photo (red arrow).

Trooper describes car's plunge off Hells Canyon road

■ Donald Jordan's SUV went off Kleinschmidt Grade on Nov. 5

By Chris Collins
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A Portland man who was seriously injured when his vehicle landed in the bottom of a ravine off Kleinschmidt Grade on the Idaho side of Hells Canyon last week has been released from St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Mark Snider, hospital spokesman, said Tuesday.

Snider had no other details about the condition of the victim, 44-year-old Donald B. Jordan.

He was trapped in his 2011 Chevy Tahoe overnight after he drove off the left shoulder of the steep winding road, about 75 miles east of Baker City, and rolled to the bottom of the

ravine the night of Nov. 5.

Jordan was rescued early the next morning by members of the Baker County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team and other volunteers from the Halfway and Oxbow areas. Members of the Adams County Sheriff's Department, ABT Towing and the Idaho State Police also were involved in the rescue.

Idaho State Trooper Andrew Fisher, resident trooper at Meridian, provided a few more details of the crash and rescue effort in an email to the Herald.

The rescue effort got underway about 1:30 a.m. PST on Nov. 6 when he received a call reporting the single-vehicle crash.

Fisher said Jordan went off the road about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday about 1.8 miles up the grade. The unpaved road starts at the Snake River Road below Oxbow and leads to Cuprum, Idaho.

Fisher said Jordan was traveling with a friend, whose name was not available in time for this story. The friend, who was in a separate vehicle,

began looking for Jordan after Jordan failed to arrive at their hunting camp.

Jordan and his crashed Chevy Tahoe were found at about 12:30 a.m. PST at the bottom of a ravine. Once he and his vehicle were found, a GPS spot locator was activated and emergency resources were notified, Fisher said.

Jordan was trapped in his vehicle for about 9½ hours, Fisher said.

The Baker County Search and Rescue Team was activated at 2 a.m. to help bring Jordan up the steep grade.

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

The SAR team and volunteers with the Halfway Fire and Halfway-Oxbow Ambulance worked together using a rope-and-winch system to carry Jordan up the hillside.

Jordan next was taken by ground ambulance to Hells Canyon Park where an air ambulance was waiting to transport him to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise.

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