

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

MONDAY, JUNE 1

■ **Baker City Budget Board:** 6 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St. Residents who want to speak during the meeting or submit comments can email publiccomment@bakercity.com. A second meeting, if needed, will be June 2 at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

■ **Baker County Budget Committee:** 8:15 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St. Second meeting, if needed, will be June 5 at 8:15. Webex information for the meetings will be posted at bakercounty.org

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 30, 1970

Keith R. Kirkwood, present Justice of the Peace, Baker District No. 1, has submitted his resignation to Gov. Tom McCall in a letter dated May 21, and released to the press this morning.

The resignation was tendered because of Kirkwood's anticipated move into private business in Eugene in June.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 30, 1995

Lessons about bugs, plants, wildlife and more came to life for Churchill School sixth-graders in a week of classes at Phillips Park during the second annual Outdoor School May 22-26.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 31, 2010

Bryan Bolin was hiking through the sage, checking range fences, when he saw what looked like bones in a creek bed.

"I kicked the first one, thinking it was a cow bone, but it clanged like ceramic, so I looked a little closer," Bolin said. "It looked like a very large foot bone."

"Personally, I think it's a mammal, possibly a prehistoric mammoth, or possibly a dinosaur, because they were around here," Bolin said.

Since discovering the fossilized bones a couple of weeks ago, Bolin said he has been quietly checking with archaeological experts, as well as gemologists.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 31, 2019

The Baker School District plans to hire a full-time athletic director who would work year-round.

The salary range, on a 260-day contract, is listed at between \$95,193 to \$116,039.

The current athletic director is Tim Smith, a 20-year teacher at Baker High School. Smith teaches science classes for three periods of his day and the other three are dedicated to his work as athletic director through an extra-duty contract.

Smith is employed on a 174-day annual contract as are other teachers.

The current athletic director's extra-duty contract includes stipends ranging from \$4,956 to \$6,019 in two separate payments, one for fall sports and one for winter sports. Smith is at the top of that extra-duty scale. He receives a full-time teaching salary in addition to his athletic director stipends, Superintendent Mark Witty said.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, May 27

1 — 3 — 12 — 20 — 21 — 42

Next jackpot: \$2 million

POWERBALL, May 27

38 — 58 — 59 — 64 — 68 PB 21

Next jackpot: \$125 million

MEGA MILLIONS, May 26

34 — 52 — 58 — 59 — 62 Mega 4

Next jackpot: \$336 million

WIN FOR LIFE, May 27

12 — 20 — 38 — 73

PICK 4, May 28

• 1 p.m.: 5 — 2 — 6 — 3

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 6 — 0 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 8 — 8 — 7 — 2

• 10 p.m.: 1 — 5 — 2 — 7

LUCKY LINES, May 28

4-5-9-13-17-23-26-29

Next jackpot: \$12,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY (June 1):** Chicken broccoli Alfredo over fettuccine, biscuit, fruit cup, lemon bars
- **TUESDAY (June 2):** Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, carrot-raisin salad, sherbet
- **WEDNESDAY (June 3):** Cheese manicotti with beef sauce, peas, bread, fruit ambrosia, cinnamon roll
- **THURSDAY (June 4):** Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, roll, pasta salad, apple crisp
- **FRIDAY (June 5):** Ham and beans, Brussels sprouts, cornbread, coleslaw, bread pudding

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. Due to the coronavirus crisis, meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

CONTACT THE HERALD

1668 Resort St.

Open Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Telephone: 541-523-3673

Fax: 541-833-6414

Regional publisher
Christopher Rush
crush@eomediagroup.com
Publisher
Karrine Brogoitti
kbrogioitti@lagrandeobserver.com
Jayson Jacoby, editor
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com
Advertising email
ads@bakercityherald.com
Classified email
classified@bakercityherald.com
Circulation email
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Driver critical after DUII crash

By Chris Collins
ccollins@bakercityherald.com

An Idaho woman sustained what police termed "life-threatening injuries" when she was ejected from her vehicle as it rolled several times on the eastbound shoulder of Highway 86 about 15 miles east of Baker City Thursday night.

Lisa Dawn Shaeffer, 55, of Nyssa, was listed in critical condition at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Mark Snider, hospital spokesman, said Friday morning.

Oregon State Police Sr. Trooper Nicholas Hagedorn wrote in his media log report that Shaeffer's blood-alcohol content was 0.19.

That is more than twice Oregon's legal limit of 0.08.

"The investigation is open and active and criminal charges for DUII are pending," Hagedorn wrote.

He said the crash happened about 9:45 p.m. when Shaeffer's Toyota 4Runner, which was traveling at an apparent high rate of speed, failed to negotiate a curve. Shaeffer, who was

not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the vehicle as it rolled along the highway's eastbound shoulder.

Shaeffer was traveling alone. She and her vehicle landed near an irrigation ditch along the eastbound shoulder, Hagedorn wrote.

Shaeffer was treated by Keating medics and transported by Baker City ambulance first to the local hospital, the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center report stated.

Shaeffer later was transferred to the Boise hospital.

WEEDS

Continued from Page 1A

Each piece, if cut and left in the dirt, can produce two new plants, he says.

This proclivity for reproduction is one reason whitetop, although known as hoary cress, is among the "bad boys" of Baker County's noxious weeds, Pettingill said.

Whitetop can also spread by seeds, he said, but its ability to reproduce by underground stems known as rhizomes, makes it difficult to control by mechanical means.

Shovels, for instance.

"You pretty much have to spray it," Pettingill said.

Which is precisely what he was doing on a warm, sunny Wednesday afternoon in the field at the north end of the Baker County Fairgrounds in Baker City.

Pettingill, 56, replaced Arnie Grammon, who retired in April after 19 years running the county's weed department.

Pettingill came to Baker County from Bonneville County in eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls is the county seat), where he worked for the past 20 years as the weed control supervisor.

The two jobs are basically identical, he said, although the weeds on the most-wanted list are a bit different between the counties.

Musk thistle, for instance, is a bane of Bonneville County but rarely seen in Baker County (it's on the local "watch list").

And whitetop isn't a problem in eastern Idaho.

Cheatgrass is a scourge in both places, Pettingill said.

Although Pettingill spends much of his time in decidedly less urban settings than the center of Baker City, he sprayed whitetop at the



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Jeffrey Pettingill, Baker County's new weed control supervisor, explains how whitetop can spread by its underground stems.

Fairgrounds Wednesday at the request of his colleagues at the county.

Pettingill said one of his major goals is to work with farmers and ranchers, helping them combat noxious weeds. That not only helps reduce the spread of weeds to adjacent land, both public and private, but it makes farms and ranches more productive, he said.

The economic benefits can accrue to Baker County's key industries — agriculture and recreation, Pettingill said.

OBITUARY

Kaye Jenkins

Formerly of Baker City, 1949-2020

Kaye Jenkins, 70, of Union died May 25, 2020, at her home in the Ramo Flat Apartments in Union.

Kaye will be buried with her sister, Barbara, and their parents at the Summerville Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center in La Grande.

She was born as Ethel "Kaye" Down to Eldon and Shirley (Keener) Down at Joseph on Nov. 12, 1949.

Kaye moved with her family to La Grande, Baker, Missoula, Montana, Boise and Texas before returning to Boise and then to Union.

She graduated from high school in Missoula, Montana, with the class of 1968. She worked as an administrator for the Albertsons grocery store chain until her retirement.

Kaye enjoyed bowling and tole painting.

Survivors include her son, Greg Malone of Portland; and a sister, Sharon Middleton of Union.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Barbara Woods.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Blue Mountain Humane Association, 3212 U.S. Highway 30, La Grande, OR 97850. Online condolences can be made at www.danielsknopp.com

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police
Arrests, citations
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Jamie Joseph Weiss, 55, transient, 3:03 a.m. Friday, in the 500 block of Campbell Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
HARASSMENT: Heather Marie Harlow, 36, of Baker City, 5:07 p.m. Thursday, at the Sheriff's Office; cited in lieu of custody and released.

"You don't have to know what the plant is, but if it looks out of place, take a picture and text it to me."

— Jeffrey Pettingill, Baker County weed control supervisor

what they think might be a noxious weed.

"You don't have to know what the plant is, but if it looks out of place, take a picture and text it to me," Pettingill said. "Be my eyes, be my legs. I just want to get the word out. If you're wrong (about a plant being a noxious weed), no big deal."

He also encourages residents to call or email with questions about the most effective ways to control weeds on their property.

Pettingill's cell number is 541-519-0024. His email is jpettingill@bakercounty.org More information about the weed department is available at www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html

Pettingill said he hopes to increase the department's online presence by starting a Facebook page.

He also plans to write occasional stories for the Baker City Herald, each featuring a common local weed.

Pettingill started his new job at a potentially precarious period — just a few weeks before county voters decided whether to extend for another four years the property tax levy that provides about 30% of the department's revenue.

Although voters have in the past supported the levy by large margins, Pettingill said economic damage resulting from the coronavirus pandemic made him leery about whether residents would still be willing to pay a bit more in taxes.

But the new levy passed with almost 69% of the vote. The tax rate is about 5.9 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which equates to about \$8.85 per year for the owner of a \$150,000 property.

The weed department's budget for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, is \$270,000, including \$61,000 for the supervisor's position.

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