

Black Lives Matter protesters, counterprotesters in Prineville

By Kyle Spurr
The (Bend) Bulletin

PRINEVILLE — For the third time since the end of May, Black Lives Matter protesters and counterprotesters lined an entire city block outside the Crook County Courthouse on Third Street.

Rumors of violence and looting drew a larger crowd Saturday, with hundreds of people on each side of the street, the busy main drag through Prineville. Many counterprotesters, who did not want the demonstration in their town, were heavily armed.

Law enforcement from several agencies made certain the protest would stay peaceful.

Cement barriers were set up along the street outside the courthouse with signs that told people to use the crosswalks or face arrest if they entered the roadway. Prineville Police reported no arrests.

Toward the end of the protest, people from both sides used the crosswalks so they could confront each other in heated conversations. No fights were reported.

Both sides felt it was necessary to be in Prineville on Saturday, despite two earlier rallies that produced death threats toward organizers.

The Black Lives Matter protesters came from across Central Oregon to spread their message about police brutality and racial inequality. The issues were sparked last month when a Black man, George Floyd, died in police custody after a Minneapolis officer kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Counterprotesters saw the demonstration as an attack on their police department and a way to paint the town's residents as racists. They were motivated to protect their town.

As the Black Lives Matter protesters chanted, the counterprotesters across the street stood stoically. Some held their guns, while others held "Trump 2020" flags.

Tom Clark, a 76-year-old retired attorney from Bend, brought a sign to the protest that read, "No Hate, No Fear." Clark said his main reason for attending the protest was to support the Black Lives Matter movement, not to demonstrate against the city of Prineville.

"It's not about Prineville."



Ryan Brennecke /The (Bend) Bulletin

Black Lives Matter protesters line the sidewalk in front of the Crook County Courthouse in Prineville on Saturday.

neapolis officer kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Counterprotesters saw the demonstration as an attack on their police department and a way to paint the town's residents as racists. They were motivated to protect their town.

As the Black Lives Matter protesters chanted, the counterprotesters across the street stood stoically. Some held their guns, while others held "Trump 2020" flags.

Tom Clark, a 76-year-old retired attorney from Bend, brought a sign to the protest that read, "No Hate, No Fear." Clark said his main reason for attending the protest was to support the Black Lives Matter movement, not to demonstrate against the city of Prineville.

"It's not about Prineville."

It's not about Crook County," Clark said. "It's about America."

Bend resident Hannah Terrell, who attended the protest with her husband, Chris, said their Christian faith motivated them to support the cause, since they believe every single person deserves to be treated equally.

"To me, it's very obvious that Black people are not just incredibly marginalized but are victims of the result of hundreds of years of systemic racism," Hannah Terrell said. "And we have to acknowledge that. It would be inconsistent with my faith if I just kept quiet."

Joshua Hernandez, a 39-year-old Bend resident, said he was invited to the protest by some friends who live in Prineville and helped

organize the event. Hernandez has attended several other protests in Bend, and is focused on speaking out against police brutality.

Hernandez said he thinks about his 9-year-old daughter and how she might be treated by police when she is older.

"That's why I'm here," Hernandez said. "I want to make sure she grows up in a world where she isn't afraid to drive down the street."

Many businesses stayed open Saturday and welcomed people from both sides of the street.

Some business owners spent the afternoon outside of their shops to protect their property if the protest turned violent.

See **Prineville** / Page 5A

LOCAL BRIEFING

Baker Ladies Golf and Bridge Association plans season-opening lunch July 1

The Baker Ladies Golf and Bridge Association will have its season-opening luncheon on Wednesday, July 1, at Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave.

Weather permitting, golf will start at 8:15 a.m., with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. and bridge following lunch.

Prices are the same as last year — \$9 for lunch, \$1 for 50-50. Masks will be optional for bridge. Those who don't feel well are asked to please not attend.

All new and former members are welcome. For lunch reservations, call Dianne Ellingson at 541-523-4553 or 541-519-4703 by Tuesday evening, June 30.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 2A

James Parker has also been convicted of second-degree criminal mischief, driving uninsured twice and driving with a suspended license twice.

Before the outbreak, the church's Facebook page published updates nearly every day. The church stopped posting on its public Facebook page Wednesday, June 17, and has deleted all posts from after June 12. On June 17, it created a private Facebook page.

A person who answered the phone at the church June 15 hung up when asked about the Union County coronavirus outbreak. Every day since, the church has not answered the phone or responded to emails.

In a now-deleted daily devotional video published June 16 on Facebook, Pastor James Parker appeared to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I appreciate everybody being cooperative with what was decided and doing your best to help," Parker said. "In the end, our fruit will show that what we're doing is the right thing, and more people need to do what we did. The more people that do the right thing, the easier it's going to be for the rest of the world to combat this pandemic that we're going through."

Parker did not further explain what "the right thing" is, and the church did not respond to a request for clarification.

CART

Continued from Page 1A

Scheler says that the ore cart, along with the auger, tools, and tracks it was found with, will be placed on a pedestal at the entrance to Western Heights for anyone who wants to see the relics.

Scheler also said he's hoping someone in the community might know more about the history of the objects.

COVID-19

Continued from Page 1A

Among counties neighboring Baker, only Grant has also had just one confirmed case of the virus.

Malheur County has had 51 cases as of Monday, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Wallowa County's total is 8.

As of Monday, a total of 399 Baker County residents had been tested. That compares with Union (1,255 people tested); Malheur (1,083); Wallowa (358) and Grant (164).

BOTTLE

Continued from Page 1A

He was fascinated.

"I thought, 'holy cow, that's been there as long as that tree's been growing,'" Reindl said. "It was an amazing it was in such good condition."

Particularly after he banged it with his shovel.

"It's really stout," Reindl said.

He and his partner, Cindy Birko, went online to do some sleuthing.

They were not without clues.

The base of the bluish-green bottle is emblazoned with "A.B.G.M.

Co." arrayed in a rainbow shape around the numbers "4" and "5."

Reindl and Birko quickly learned that the bottle was likely made by the Adolphus Busch Glass Manufacturing Company, and probably in the late 1800s or early in the 1900s.

Busch was a co-founder, with his father-in-law, Eberhard Anheuser, of perhaps the most famous beer-brewing outfit in history.

Anheuser-Busch created the Budweiser brand, and the bottle's original contents might well have been about a pint of that very beer.

"It's really fascinating," Birko said. "We think it's tied into the

mining history of the area."

Birko said the first structure on the 5-acre property where she and Reindl have lived since 2017 was a miners' cabin, although they don't have any detailed information about the cabin or when it was built.

Reindl said he has found one other artifact, a rusty gold pan, in the creek.

"I haven't done a lot of looking," he said.

Reindl said he's thankful that the blow that revealed the bottle was made with the shovel rather than with the other tool with which he

was battling the roots.

That's a pulaski — a firefighting tool that has an axe on one side of its head and an adze on the other.

Either implement would have been more likely than the shovel to shatter the bottle.

Reindl and Birko plan to keep the bottle, at least for now. They said they might consider donating it a museum, such as the Baker Heritage Museum.

And they'll be looking for other bits of history while clearing brush and doing other work on their place.

"I'd love to have a metal detector," Birko said.

WYDEN

Continued from Page 1A

In responding to a question from Phyllis Hemeon of Vale about limited testing for COVID-19, Wyden took President Donald Trump to task for making what Trump's staff now claims was a joke about deliberately limiting testing to keep coronavirus case numbers down.

Wyden said he heard Trump make the statement Saturday at a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"It just shook me right to the bone," Wyden said. "I want Oregonians to know that when 120,000 Americans die, it is no joke."

And whether Trump was making a joke or if he really did want to curtail testing to lower the numbers to make himself look good, Wyden said leadership is what the nation needs at this time.

"We need from the president of the United States, a national strategy ... for a properly funded testing program, PPE (personal protective equipment) and contact tracing," he said.

Wyden said he hopes he and his colleagues in Washington can agree on ways to work toward a solution together.

"Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, No. 1, you're going to say ... this is no laughing matter, and No. 2, we've got to find a way to come together and set in place a strategy to deal with

"We need from the president of the United States, a national strategy ... for a properly funded testing program, PPE (personal protective equipment) and contact tracing."

— **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon**

this," Wyden said.

The nearly hour-long session was started by Beth Spell of John Day, a retired teacher who won the Democratic nomination in May to face Mark Owens, the Republican incumbent, in November for the District 60 seat in the Oregon House of Representatives. The district includes all of Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur counties and a portion of Lake County.

Spell asked Wyden for help in solving the "overwhelming polarization" between urban and rural, Republican and Democrat, and other social and political divisions.

"It seems people can't come

to the middle and talk about the issues that are weighing us down in our small communities and in our larger communities," Spell said. "It's almost dangerous sometimes to have a differing opinion. What can we do to bring our conversations back to middle ground?"

In responding, Wyden pointed to past political eras in Oregon when Republicans such as Mark Hatfield and Tom McCall could work together for the good of the state with more liberal legislators such as Vera Katz, a Democrat.

"But all three of them focused on trying to come up with fresh solutions," he said.

In the same way, Wyden said he and Mike Crapo, an Idaho Republican senator, have worked together to help support rural communities through the PILT program, which provides federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes because of the nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries.

"When he and I get together ... we talk about what is it going to take to get urban legislators in particular to support the kinds of ideas that are so important for our rural communities," Wyden said.

Peter Hall, a member of the Haines City Council, asked Wyden how police departments can maintain account-

ability while also continuing to operate independently without becoming corrupt.

Wyden said a bill he is supporting titled "The Justice and Policing Act" is aimed at solving some of the recent issues in that regard highlighted by the death of George Floyd, who was killed in Minneapolis on Memorial Day while he was in police custody.

"It could also be called, from my standpoint, the Transparency and Accountability Legislation," Wyden said.

In addition to banning racial profiling, strengthening the way in which investigations are covered and ensuring that the use of force is only a last resort, the act also

would create a register of officers involved in violence and brutal conduct and ensure that if they are involved in such activity in one jurisdiction he or she could not just simply move elsewhere to continue the behavior.

Other questions posed to Wyden during the virtual town hall meeting ranged from unemployment benefits, to rural health district funding and the digital divide in rural Oregon.

Wyden said he and his staff are always willing to listen to his constituents and to provide help when possible.

"As I look to Oregon and our future, we're doing a lot of things really well," he said. "We have better days ahead and I'm excited about that."

"So much of who we are is where we have been."

Baker Valley Travel (541) 523-9353

With summer here, there is lots of traveling. Be safe & have fun!

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

New Name. Same Great Team. Same Exceptional Service.

Travis T. Hampton, D.P.M.
Foot and Ankle Surgeon

La Grande
1408 N Hall Street

Enterprise
601 Medical Parkway

Baker
3175 Pochontas Rd.

GRANITE VIEW
Foot & Ankle

541-963-0265
888-843-9090
www.GVfoot.com