

Some face masks in short supply

■ Buyers claimed many N95 masks months ago, but there are some alternatives

By Sam Anthony
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Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, face masks have become a part of everyday life, and people have begun to look in unconventional places to find them.

While auto parts and hardware stores might not be the first place you think of, those businesses often carry the same types of masks that health care workers are using.

The N95 masks are also useful in protecting people while painting, sanding or doing other types of work that produce airborne contaminants.

Those highly publicized masks have been popular items.

“We got cleaned out there in the beginning of March,” said Ed Vaughn, who works at the NAPA auto parts store in Baker City.

Cliff Parker, an employee at O'Reilly Auto Parts, said the store usually stocks both N95



Sam Anthony/Baker City Herald

Thatcher's Ace Hardware has had face masks in stock. and 3M masks, but they've been out since February. The situation is the same at some hardware stores. “We were wiped out months ago, and don't know

when our next supply will be,” said Richard Hindman, who owns Cashway Lumber Co.

Jim Bjork, manager at D&B Supply in Baker City, said that they've also been out for months, and that the next shipment is likely at least six weeks away. However, the store does sell bandanas and other face coverings.

Thatcher's Ace Hardware in Baker City has KN95 masks, which are comparable to N95 masks. The Centers for Disease Control have authorized the use of KN95 masks in place of N95 versions.

The Baker City Rite Aid has disposable masks in stock while supplies last.

Some people are also using handmade fabric masks.

Baker County's COVID-19 website — www.bakercountygovid19.com/community-information-resources/ — includes a list of local businesses that sell fabric face masks.

Huntington man charged with robbery

■ Justin Bridwell, 31, accused of using force to steal handgun from another man

By Chris Collins
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Baker County Sheriff's officers arrested a Huntington man who's being held at the jail on multiple charges accusing him of using force to steal a handgun.

The District Attorney's Office has charged Justin Dean Bridwell, 31, with one count of first-degree theft and one county of unlawful use of a weapon, both Class C felonies; two counts of second-degree robbery, a Class B felony; and one count of menacing, a Class A misdemeanor,

or, court documents state.

Bridwell is accused of taking a handgun belonging to Christina Hoberg on Sunday, June 21, at 405 E. Jefferson St. in Huntington. The court records allege that Bridwell, who was aided by another person, threatened Roman Rhodes with “the immediate use of physical force,” to compel Rhodes to deliver the gun to him.

The other robbery charge and the



Bridwell

unlawful use of a weapon charge allege that in addition to threat of physical force, Bridwell also “represented by word or conduct” that he was armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon that he intended to use to force Rhodes to give him the handgun. The menacing charge claims that Bridwell placed Rhodes “in fear of imminent serious physical injury by pointing a gun at him.”

Upon conviction, second-degree robbery carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 70 months.

Baker man dies from heart attack while driving

By Chris Collins
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A Baker City man whose pickup truck crashed into a field east of Highway 30 near Haines Monday night probably died of a heart attack while he was driving, Dr. James Davis, Baker County medical examiner, said Tuesday.

Eric Wayne Sherman, 43, was unresponsive when Haines first responders arrived at the scene, according to an Oregon State Police report.

Davis said that Sherman's death was not related to the

minor crash.

“It was the result of whatever medical condition incapacitated him while he was driving,” Davis said, which he believes most likely was a heart attack.

Sherman was driving east on Haines Cemetery Lane about 7:30 p.m. Monday when he experienced a “medical event” and lost control of his Dodge pickup truck, police stated. The vehicle crossed Highway 30 and went through a fence before coming to rest about 100 yards east of the highway. The pickup sustained minor damage.

ELECTION

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Mayor Loran Joseph and Councilor Randy Schiewe can't run for re-election due to the term limits clause in the city charter.

People who are registered voters in Baker County and have lived within the Baker City limits since at least Nov. 3, 2019, are eligible to file as candidates.

Prospective candidates for the nonpartisan seats can pick up petitions from LaFavor at City Hall, 1655 1st St.

They'll also need to fill out two forms — SEL 101 and SEL 121 — available on the city's website at bakercity.com/2248/City-Council-Elections

Once LaFavor receives the forms, she will verify that the person is eligible to run for City Council, at which point the candidate can start collecting the 46 signatures from registered voters required to qualify for the ballot. LaFavor recommends people collect more than 46 signatures.

The deadline to turn in signatures to LaFavor at City

Hall is 4 p.m. on Aug. 25.

Among the six candidates who will be elected Nov. 3, the top three will serve 4-year terms. The three others will serve 2-year terms.

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RODEO

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The schedule is:

- Friday, July 3: slack, 8 a.m.; rodeo, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, July 4: rodeo, 1:30 p.m.

Rodeo officials have been working to prepare for the annual event, including installing lights at the catch pen.

Bain said officials will mark bleachers to remind spectators about social distancing, sanitize bleachers between events, and take employees' temperatures before the events start.

The beer garden is canceled but attendees can bring their own beer provided it's in a can rather than a bottle.

Bain said rodeo officials want to emphasize that although they are doing all they can to make the event safe, attendees are still responsible for both social distancing and attending at their own risk.

The rodeo will be livestreamed on the Blue Mountain Translator's District's website — bmtd.org — the Haines Stampede Facebook page and YouTube.

Those who are feeling under the weather are encouraged to stay home and watch from their living rooms.

COUNCIL

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Congress is also considering a slate of reforms related to police.

Duman said one possible change at the federal level that concerns him is removing qualified immunity for police officers who use force. Qualified immunity makes it more difficult for people to sue police in federal court for allegedly violating their constitutional rights while using excessive force.

Among the changes Oregon lawmakers will consider are outlawing techniques that block a suspect's ability to breathe and creating a public online database of police discipline records.

“Realistically, the choke hold and karate holds will be gone, they're looking at having a public list of officer misconduct that anybody can actually pull up and be able to look at which is great, I think, the transparency needs to be there,” Duman said.

Councilor Arvid Andersen asked Duman if the chief believed an officer, in worrying about potential liability, might act more cautiously.

“I guess what I'm trying to say is, because of all the things that are happening, can you see that being an issue with the Baker City Police Department?” Andersen said.

“If you're looking at use of force situations like that's occurred in Minneapolis and Atlanta, we have in Oregon what we call Senate Bill 1-11,” Duman said. “So, any deadly physical force incident is investigated per that Senate bill and that we have to have an outside agency come in.”

“I think (officers) will follow what they've been trained to do, I don't see them stepping back and saying ‘this is changing,’ but for any incident they respond to, they're going to, in my opinion, they're going to deal with it correctly the first time and if there are issues that come out of that, we will deal with it,” Duman said.

Councilors on Tuesday also voted 5-0 to approve the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

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