

Passenger hurt when vehicle rolls

DURKEE — A 21-year-old Vale man was hurt Thursday evening when the vehicle he was riding in rolled and pinned him beneath it.

Tell Deroin was taken first to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City, and then to Saint Alphonsus in Boise, where he was in fair condition Friday afternoon.

He was riding in a late model Jeep driven by Deward Thompson, 63, of Durkee on Vandecar Road north of Interstate 84 near Durkee, according to the Baker County Sheriff's Office. Thompson lost control and the Jeep rolled over. The accident was reported to county dispatch at 7:49 p.m. Thursday.

VIRUS

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"The community has been working together," said Bennett, who is also serving as the county's incident commander during the pandemic.

According to a press release from the governor's office, counties are placed on the watch list "when COVID-19 is spreading quickly and public health officials cannot trace that spread to specific sources — creating a potentially dangerous dynamic."

"I want to commend county officials and community members in Baker County for their efforts in curbing community spread of COVID-19," Brown stated in the press release.

Baker County had only one COVID-19 case, reported May 6, until the last week of June.

The county had eight cases the week of June 28-July 4, then nine additional cases the next two weeks

leading up to Brown adding the county to the watch list on July 15.

Counties that remain on the watch list are Jackson, Jefferson, Malheur, Morrow and Umatilla.

Bennett said that in some respects Baker County benefited from being on the watch list. That status gave the county priority for state resources for controlling the spread of the virus.

But he also acknowledged that being on the list also created a stigma that could have misled people that the situation was worse than it actually was.

Conversely, Bennett said the county's removal from the list shouldn't give people a "false sense of security."

"This should not be a time of complacency," he said. "We need to maintain the vigilance — masks and social distancing."

Almost one-third of Baker County's 77 cases were reported between Aug. 9 and 22, according to the

Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

That coincides with the county's only outbreak tied to a single facility, starting Aug. 9 at Meadowbrook Place assisted living community.

According to the OHA, there were 16 cases in that outbreak, including the two deaths related to COVID-19 in the county.

Of the 77 cases, 69 are county residents who tested positive, and eight others are "presumptive" cases — people who have not tested positive but who had close contact with someone who did.

Although the county's number of new cases has declined the past two weeks — four cases from Aug. 23-29, and seven this week — the number of residents tested has also dropped.

The highest weekly test total, 192, of which 178 were negative, was from Aug. 9-15, the week the Meadowbrook Place outbreak was announced.

Test totals were 53 from Aug. 16-22, and 64 from Aug. 23-29.

In an email responding to the Herald's question about the drop in test numbers, Holly Kerns, a public information officer for the county, wrote that "Since tests are ordered by the patient's primary care provider and not by Health Department staff, the Health Department doesn't have specific insights into why there were more tests were ordered that week (Aug. 9-15). There are a number of factors that contribute to tests being ordered, including patients that are experiencing signs and symptoms, pre-surgery tests, and tests required by a workplace."

Kerns said Baker County has had ample testing supplies to meet demand, and that Health Department officials weren't aware of any situations when a resident met the criteria for being tested but wasn't tested due to a lack of supplies.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald September 5, 1970

Anthony Lakes ski area is featured once again in the September issue of the world's leading ski magazine, *Ski*.

In an article written by John Hoefling the background and history of the ski area are traced. It is described as one of the first areas in the West with a rope tow.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 5, 1995

Lightning sparked two fires and a person, possibly a shivering hunter, caused a third over the weekend on the Burnt-Powder Fire Zone.

The newest and largest blaze, the Baboon fire, was sparked by lightning. It had consumed about two acres by this morning and was burning in a thick Engelman spruce and subalpine fir forest high on Elkhorn Ridge north of Phillips Reservoir, said Angelica Johnson, information assistant for the fire zone.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald September 6, 2010

The Baker City Municipal Airport is getting a much needed facelift.

But not until next year.

In 2009, Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed the Connect Oregon III Grant — a transportation grant for communities to pay for improvements on rail, traffic and airports.

This spring, Jake Jacobs, a member of Baker City's Airport Commission, wrote an application seeking \$1.1 million to fix taxiway hazards, install taxiway lights and create hangar space at the south end of runway 31 at the city-owned airport.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald September 6, 2019

A man wanted for murder in Washington who last month opposed extradition, preferring instead to remain in the Baker County Jail awaiting disposition of local charges, changed his mind this week.

Colby James Hedman, 23, a former Heppner resident, waived extradition Wednesday in Baker County Circuit Court before Judge Greg Baxter. Hedman was taken Thursday to Walla Walla, Washington, where he will face charges of first-degree murder and theft of a motor vehicle.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Sept. 2

4 - 9 - 22 - 30 - 40 - 48

Next jackpot: \$1.4 million

POWERBALL, Sept. 2

1 - 4 - 11 - 20 - 69 PB 18

Next jackpot: \$66 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Sept. 1

15 - 25 - 26 - 38 - 47 Mega 22

Next jackpot: \$88 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Sept. 2

15 - 29 - 44 - 67

PICK 4, Sept. 3

• 1 p.m.: 7 - 8 - 6 - 7

• 4 p.m.: 4 - 1 - 2 - 3

• 7 p.m.: 7 - 9 - 2 - 8

• 10 p.m.: 0 - 3 - 4 - 2

LUCKY LINES, Sept. 3

1-5-11-15-20-22-25-30

Next jackpot: \$59,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **MONDAY:** Labor Day holiday; no meals
- **TUESDAY:** Breaded pork loin, parsleyed red potatoes, green beans, roll, coleslaw, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY:** Hot beef sandwich, potatoes and gravy, broccoli-blend vegetables, carrot-raisin salad, cinnamon roll
- **THURSDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, roll, gelatin with fruit, lemon bars
- **FRIDAY:** Ham and cheese croissant, macaroni salad, fruit cup, cookies

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, under 60. Meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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GRANTS

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To qualify, applicants must either be self-employed and meet income requirements, or have five or fewer employees. Businesses with more than five employees can also qualify if some of the workers meet income guidelines.

In Baker County the income guidelines are:

- 1-person household, annual income of \$32,200 or less

- 2-person, \$36,800
- 3-person, \$41,400
- 4-person, \$46,000
- 5-person, \$49,700
- 6-person, \$53,400
- 7-person, \$57,050
- 8-person, \$60,750

Jeff Nelson, with the Small Business Development Center at Blue Mountain Community College, said he and Bryan Tweit, the county's economic developer, are trying to spread the word to businesses about the new grants.

He said some businesses have been busier this summer than they were during the spring, early in the pandemic, but with the generally slower winter season approaching some will struggle.

"July and August are better than it was in March but they're still down from last year, so they don't have that cushion to go through the winter," Nelson said. "And we're going to hopefully help some of those businesses also."

"It's just finding out which

(grant program) they qualify for and where the need is at and that's what we're really working on right now," he said.

Business owners can learn more and apply through a link on the Baker County Economic Development Facebook page.

More information is also available from:

- Bryan Tweit, bakercountyeconomic@gmail.com, 541-523-5460
- Jeff Nelson, jnelson@bluecc.edu, 541-403-2003

OBITUARIES

'Ginny' Christman

Longtime Halfway resident, 1930-2020

Virginia Lou (Miller) "Ginny" Christman, 89, a longtime resident of Halfway, and more recently of Richland, died Aug. 30, 2020. She had enjoyed a prime rib dinner with family and friends the night before.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. at Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway, where her ashes and those of her late husband, Tom, will be placed together.

Virginia (Ginny) was born on Sept. 9, 1930, at Tetonia, Idaho, to George Albert Miller of Soda Springs, Idaho, and Helen Gladys (Rice) of Springfield, Missouri.

Ginny married Thomas P. Christman of Maplewood, Missouri, on July 23, 1949, in Baker City.

Prior to the move west, Ginny was an accomplished executive secretary working with four senior vice presidents at Ralston Purina Corporation in St. Louis. Her meticulous nature and attention to detail served her well as she was also the main proofreader at the Hells Canyon Journal before retiring.

Ginny was a good artist prior to having children. After her retirement she picked up oil painting again and became an excellent artist, selling and sharing many paintings with family and friends.

Ginny loved most dogs, reading, and once upon a time she really enjoyed camping, fishing, golf and more recently old movies on the TCM channel. What she loved the most was being with family and friends.

Ginny is survived by three of their five children: Terry Christman of Halfway, Kate Spauer (Robert) of La Grande, and Mark Christman (Jennifer Davis) of Halfway; eight grandchildren: Timothy Christman of Seattle, Eliza-

beth Tuthill of San Antonio, Texas, Gina Chiodini of St. Louis, Brian Sprauer of Phoenix, Arizona, Jacob Sprauer of Richland, Julia Sprauer of Eugene, Paul Hutton of Boise, and Ryan Rhyneer of Wentzville, Missouri; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and nieces and nephews.

Ginny was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 68 years, Thomas; her daughter, Julia (Sam); her granddaughter, Jessica Rose; her son, Thomas Jr.; her sister, Sherrill Pflueger; and her brother-in-law, Bobby Christman.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Ginny, her family suggests either Heart 'N Home or the charity of your choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

'Julie' French

Baker City, 1942-2020

Julia Anne "Julie" French 78, a longtime resident of Baker City, died Aug. 19, 2020.



Julie French

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, 2235 First St. in Baker City. Rev. Suresh Telagani will celebrate the Mass. Interment will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery. Due to COVID-19 regulations, masks and social distancing are requested. A luncheon in the St. Francis Parish Hall will follow the interment. The Mass will be live streamed and it can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTOgtOg_f7HWOs8sIL9gCUw

Julia Anne "Julie" MacKenzie was born on May 9, 1942, at Ontario to Elenor and Norman "Scotty" MacKenzie.

After moving 10 times in her first 15 years of life,

Julie found her forever home in Baker. She arrived at St. Francis Academy a shy sophomore but soon settled in, joining the Glee Club, Pep Club and was on the Chimes Staff (yearbook). She made true lifelong friends, some of whom became family when she married James French, a Baker native, in 1961. Their backyard was full of flowers, children, rabbits, laughter, Easter egg hunts and volleyball.

Julie was an amazing wife, mom, Scout leader, roller skater, grandma, friend and community volunteer. Her early retirement from the Baker County Health Department coincidentally coincided with the births of two of her six grandchildren. She loved being with the grandkids and took them for days at a time so cousins could spend more time with cousins — and she could spend more time with them. They painted ceramics, played dress up, went swimming (followed by ice cream at Charlie's) and baked sooo many treats. She somehow never noticed that more sprinkles went in their mouths than on the cookies.

Julie enjoyed brunch with friends after church, browsing nurseries and yard sales on a sunny day. Julie was an active member of the St. Francis de Sales Parish and Altar Society and helped wherever needed. She served lunch to seniors in the community even when needing oxygen herself, and boarded planes to travel with her granddaughters, in spite

of a fear of flying.

As Julie's illness progressed, she never lost her faith, her sense of humor, or her amazing strength and spirit. Nurses said they fought over caring for her — and we believe them! her family said. She continued teaching us about love, strength and gratitude until her final day.

Julie passed in her sleep, in her own bed, and we believe, on her own terms. Our family would like to thank her wonderful, amazing friends for your support these last few years. It meant the world to mom and to us.

Julie is survived by her children: Susan (Russ) Doescher of Pendleton, Cheryl (Craig) Austin of Wilsonville, and Jim (Amber) French of Terrebonne; six grandchildren: James and Michael French, Alexis and Cole Austin, and Jacob and Britney Doescher; two great-grandchildren; her brother, Finlay MacKenzie; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Any flowers received will be redistributed after the service to Heart 'N Home hospice patients as mom so enjoyed posies.

To those wishing to make contributions in Julie's memory, the family suggests St. Francis de Sales, or the Lupus Foundation of America. Donations can be directed through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in Julie's memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com

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