

ARREST

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Both Powell and Baker were evaluated at the hospital and released Tuesday morning, Chastain said.

Chastain, who has worked for the Baker City Police for 20 years, said it's quite rare for a local officer to be assaulted by a suspect.

"We really don't see this a lot," Chastain said on Tuesday. "It's an anomaly. The community overall respects what we're trying to do here."

The incident started about 12:18 a.m. Tuesday when police received a call about a vehicle backing into a gas pump at the Jackson's Food Mart, 500 Campbell St.

Chastain said Powell arrived first, followed almost immediately by Officer Rand Weaver.

Peterman, the suspected driver of the 2005 Honda Element that struck the gas pump, initially agreed to undergo field sobriety tests, as Powell suspected that Peterman might be intoxicated, Chastain said.

But before Powell could administer the tests, Peterman said he wanted to be taken to the hospital.

A Baker City ambulance took Peterman to Saint Alphonsus, where he was evaluated and released, Chastain said.

But Peterman refused to leave the hospital after multiple requests, and in the ensuing altercation he punched Baker twice, once on



Jesse Soliz/Contributed Photo

A gas pump at the Jackson's Food Mart lies on its side after being hit by a car allegedly driven by Andrew Lane Peterman, 36, of Boise, around midnight Tuesday, April 6.

the upper lip and once on the side of the head, according to Chastain's report.

Peterman also hit Powell twice in the face, causing a laceration near his left eye and a bloody nose, according to Chastain's report.

Powell used his Taser to try to subdue Peterman, who continued to fight, according to Chastain's report.

Powell and other officers then arrested Peterman.

Peterman, per police department policy when a person is hit by a Taser, was evaluated again at the hospital before being taken to the jail, Chastain said.

The situation was particularly challenging for Powell

because it happened in the hospital, with doctors, nurses and other civilians present, Chastain said.

"That increases the risk of the situation for sure," Chastain said.

Chastain said he didn't have any information about the extent of the damage to the gas pump. He said the Fire Department wasn't called to the scene.

Photos from the scene don't show any liquid on the ground. Chastain said gas pumps are equipped with automatic shutoff valves.

An employee at Jackson's referred questions to the company's corporate office in Idaho, which hadn't

responded to an email from the Herald by press time on Wednesday.

According to Idaho court records, Peterman pleaded guilty on Nov. 13, 2019, to aggravated assault and use of a deadly weapon in commission of a felony. He was sentenced to prison in January 2020, and released from prison, on probation, less than a week ago, on April 1, 2021.

According to an online story from KTVB, a Boise TV station, Peterman, then 33, was arrested in September 2018 after police responded to reports of shots fired in a Boise neighborhood. No one was hurt in the incident.

HOLLAND, A LOCAL HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR, LOST HER UNINSURED HOME TO FIRE IN MARCH

Fundraiser April 17 for Carmelita Holland

By Sherie Kvamme

RICHLAND — A rising and increasingly popular band called The Locals has organized a luncheon and auction for April 17 to help raise money for the Carmelita Holland family, who lost their home in New Bridge, near Richland, in a fire on March 20.

While the family's immediate needs were met, the long-term recovery will be an ongoing challenge as Carmelita Holland did not have insurance.

"We started out with a plan to provide a few sets of music and have Mib Dailey auction off some pies and desserts," said Aline Murray, one of the organizers. "And this whole thing took on a life of its own. Now we are having a roast pig, salads, beans and hot dogs and chips.

"The pie auction grew and I hear that some pretty spectacular pies and desserts are being planned. Then we had auction items being donated and then we added a silent auction. It's just been wonderful. I'm starting to catch my

breath from all of it and we are feeling organized but what an incredible experience."

Donated items for the auction include two prime rib dinners at the Shorthorn in Richland, a 20-volt DeWalt three-tool combo kit from Miller's Hardware, three roadside emergency kits from Commercial Tire, a \$100 gift certificate from Snake River PCS, a \$100 gift certificate at the Shorthorn from Connor Creek Mines, a gift certificate from Sara's for two date night dinners, gift certificates from The Little Pig and from Grocery Outlet in Baker City, and a \$100 donation from Old Pine Market in Halfway.

"We are still collecting donations and are welcoming more as Mib is ready to take on an afternoon of fun," Murray said. "The silent auction will start right away and will be ongoing. If any crafters or artisans would like to donate items, we would appreciate them."

Donation items for both of the auctions, the pies and desserts can be

brought to the pavilion at the Eagle Valley Grange Park on Friday, April 16 starting at 3 p.m., or Saturday morning starting at 10 a.m.

"We would prefer Friday if you can make that," Murray said. "We have access to refrigerators."

Lunch will start at noon. A roasted pork meal is \$10, and a hot dog meal is \$5.

The silent auction starts at noon. At 1:30 p.m. Dailey will start the live auction.

The Locals have a full schedule of music ready and they will also take requests.

In the interest of safety and consideration of each other, social distancing will be respected and masks are required.

More information is available by calling Murray at 541-377-5545.

An account has been set up at the US Bank for Carmelita Holland and a GoFundMe account has been set up on Facebook.

DROUGHT

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Since then the area designated as being in extreme drought has expanded to the south to include parts of the Burnt River Valley.

Much of the rest of the county is in severe or moderate drought.

The exceptions are the eastern and northeastern parts of the county, where conditions are abnormally dry or, in a sliver at the north edge of the county, normal.

Rainfall during March at the Baker City Airport totaled just 0.14 of an inch, about 17% of average for the month.

Since the start of the "water

year," on Oct. 1, 2020, precipitation at the airport is 2.35 inches, 63% of average for the period.

In addition to the lack of rain and snow, frequent windstorms over the past month have leached moisture from the soil, Yencopal told commissioners.

On a more promising note, Yencopal said, the county's mountain snowpack is above average.

Yencopal said some of the melted snow will flow into reservoirs and thus be available for irrigation this summer.

But he noted that many parts of the county don't have access to reservoir water.

The drought declaration cites Phillips Reservoir, along the Powder River between Baker City and Sumpter. Water from Phillips irrigates more than 30,000 acres, mostly in Baker Valley.

As of Wednesday, the reservoir was holding about 14,200 acre-feet of water — 19% of its capacity.

A year ago the reservoir held about 27,000 acre-feet, nearly twice as much as the current volume.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners accepted a \$15,495 grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture's wolf compensation program. Most of the money — \$13,000 — is to reimburse

the county for its expenses it administering its own program to help ranchers prevent wolf attacks on livestock, and to compensate them from losses.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said he is upset that wolves have killed livestock in the county.

"I want to emphasize that there's very damn little money, excuse my expression, for the ranchers that have to suffer through this and I'm angry as hell that we have to put up with this because there are very few (wolves) on the west side of the state," Harvey said.

Since 2012, Baker County livestock owners

decision was made to utilize an opt-in system this year, which requires action if a parent or guardian wants us to test their student."

As of Wednesday morning, Witty didn't have an estimate of how many parents have

have requested \$269,000 in compensation for confirmed or suspected animal losses or, in some cases, to employ nonlethal measures to deter wolves.

The state has given Baker County \$155,000 — 58% of the requested amount.

Harvey drew laughter when he offered \$500 for every wolf captured and released in Portland.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Local students on honor roll at Oregon State, Blue Mountain Community College

Students from Baker County were named to the honor roll for the winter term at Oregon State University and at Blue Mountain Community College.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- President's list (3.75 to 4.0 GPA): Josie Ash, Lily Bingham, O'Keeya Brown, Addie Flanagan, Lexie Flanagan, Serenity Foersterling, Alexis Johnston, Emma Lowe, William Mercado, Elisabeth Munsell, Naomi Potter, Savannah Potter, Kelly Shank, Maya Smith.

- Vice President's list (3.5 to 3.74 GPA): Andrew Ferns, Pedro Heredia, Vicky Ortiz, Taylor Price, Jackson Rohner, Shaylee Villastrigo, Sara Waldrop, Tiana Williams.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or better with at least 12 graded hours of course work.

- Baker City — Josephine E. Bryan, senior, Design & Innovation Management; Anna C. Carter, freshman, Business Administration; Augustena M. Cook, junior, Agricultural Sciences; Anthony J. Cowan, sophomore, General Engineering; Kaylee R. Dalke, freshman, Agricultural & Food Business Management; Reno R. Hammond, sophomore, Chemistry; Katrina Horn, senior, Spanish; Kourtney M. Lehman, junior, Agricultural Business Management; Kaylan M. Mosser, junior, Natural Resources; Erik L. Ruby, senior, Art; Brandon S. Stairs, senior, Biology; Casey E. Swanson, Post Baccalaureate, Mathematics; Calli N. Ward, senior, Sociology.

- Halfway — Joseph W. Aguilar, senior, Animal Sciences.

OSU Extension Service plans virtual Teens as Teachers camp on April 23

The Oregon State University Extension Service offices in Baker, Grant and Malheur counties will have a free Teens as Teachers virtual camp on April 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will learn about health and wellness, cooking, and how to succeed in business, while connecting with other teenagers in the region and across the state.

To register, go to <https://bit.ly/33LNpbl>. More information is available by calling Katherine Hauser at the Baker County office, 541-523-6418, or email to hauserk@oregonstate.edu

Cascade Natural Gas offering debt relief program for residential customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission on March 25 approved a debt relief program for residential customers of Cascade Natural Gas, including those in Baker City, who have financial hardships and past-due balances.

The company's Oregon customers can call 1-888-522-1130 for more information, or to enroll in the program. Cascade Natural Gas' "Big Heart Grant Program" has two options:

- Automatic Hardship Grant. This is designed for customers with a history of receiving low-income bill pay assistance. Qualified customers will automatically receive a one-time grant equal to the amount of their total past due balance up to \$1,500.

- Financial Hardship Grant. This is designed for customers who have not received energy assistance in the past 24 months but are experiencing financial hardship. Cascade Natural Gas will determine the qualified customer's benefit amount based on household size, income, and account balance. The grant, not to exceed \$1,500, will be applied to the customer's past due balance.

Mt. Hope Cemetery clean up starts soon

Baker City's maintenance contractor, Grass Masters, will be doing the spring cleanup at Mount Hope Cemetery, including removing deteriorated decorations and flowers, from April 12-26.

The city is asking people to remove those items before April 12. They can be replaced starting April 27. Items that are left and that the contractor has to move will be stored, except perishable items, until Nov. 1, 2021.

A copy of the cemetery rules is available at www.bakercity.com, and more information is available by calling 541-524-2047.

TESTING

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An exception was the spring of 2020. Because students were taking online classes only, state tests were canceled last year, said Mark Witty, Baker School

District superintendent.

State testing this year will be conducted between April 13 and June 11. The district has mailed opt-in forms to parents of students from grades 3-8, and juniors, who haven't previously opted out of testing.

"State testing is really important," Witty said in a press release. "But since we expect the results to be skewed for the 2020-21 school year due to multiple changes in education delivery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the

decision was made to utilize an opt-in system this year, which requires action if a parent or guardian wants us to test their student."

As of Wednesday morning, Witty didn't have an estimate of how many parents have

decided to have their children take the tests, which are in English/language arts, mathematics and science.

The letter the district mailed to parents asked them to return the forms by today, April 8.

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