

## TRAFFIC

Continued from A1

She said cars parked at the curb, on the blocks of Cherry Street between Campbell and Washington, can make it difficult for drivers to see other traffic.

"I've heard from so many people who have lived here their whole lives that it's getting worse and I don't know if it's because people are moving here from some of the bigger cities or if it's just because nobody's getting stopped," Harff said.

Owen said she is pondering the possibility of making the intersection of Cherry and Church streets — about midway between Campbell and Washington — a four-way stop.

The reason, Owen said, is not because traffic volumes or speeds justify the stop signs, but because of "sight distance issues." These can include the parked cars Harff mentioned, as well as mature trees, fences and other structures that could impede drivers' views at intersections.

Owen said a Baker City Police officer watched that intersection for a brief time this summer. The average speed of the 15 cars that passed was 22 mph, Owen said. The officer stopped one driver for excessive speed, she said.

Neither statistic justifies a stop sign, even a two-way, at the intersection by traffic engineering standards, Owen said.

But the sight distance issue might warrant stop signs on both Cherry and Church streets at that intersection, she said.

The city doesn't have crash data for Cherry Street or for other residential areas.

The Oregon Department of Transportation counts traffic accidents only on sections of streets, such as 10th, and sections of Broadway, Main and Campbell, that are also state highways.

Harff contends that city officials should consider how people are driving, and not just statistics.

"Somebody said they have some kind of traffic engineer that has all these things that they figure out, statistics or something, and that doesn't do any good," she said. "Why don't you come out and sit and watch it? And nobody wants to do that. They just are sitting there going, 'oh, well we can't stop the traffic.' It takes five to 10 seconds to stop at a stop sign. That's not much to possibly save somebody's life."

Harff said she is concerned about the kids going to and from Brooklyn Primary School, on Washington between Clark and Oak streets. She said there are two day cares on her block as well.

"All it takes is somebody throwing a ball and a kid flying out in front of it," Harff said.

"The city needs to actually stop and think," she said.

"What I hear from so many people is, Baker City, they don't want to do anything or change anything in the city. Everything stays the same for eternity here. I still think the biggest thing is there's not enough traffic to affect the flow of traffic on these side streets. So there's no reason not to put some stop signs up. I'd rather save a person's life than care about a car having to stop at a stop sign."

Owen said she understands why residents believe stop signs would reduce the likelihood of crashes.

Although the city doesn't

have detailed statistics, Owen said that based on police reports historically, crashes are more common at controlled intersections — those with stop signs or signals — than at uncontrolled intersections.

She said that's to be expected, considering traffic volumes are lower, and often much lower, at uncontrolled intersections — one of the main reasons they lack stop signs. But Owen said another factor contributing to the relatively low crash rate is that some drivers — though unfortunately not all, she concedes — drive more cautiously on streets with uncontrolled intersections because they recognize there are no stop signs and they must yield to traffic on the right.

Installing stop signs at intersections with relatively low traffic volumes can potentially have the opposite of the intended effect, Owen said, as some drivers might go faster, between stop signs, than they would if they were driving through a series of uncontrolled intersections.

She agrees with Harff that drivers need to drive cautiously on streets with uncontrolled intersections.

"This is a good opportunity, I would think, to remind people to yield," Owen said.

She said she's looking at making the intersection of Washington and Clark, just west of Brooklyn Primary, a four-way stop rather than the current two-way, with stop signs on Clark but not on Washington.

The goal there is to potentially reduce the risk to students and other pedestrians at the school, Owen said.

Jayson Jacoby contributed to this story.

# Truck rolls, spills plastic bottles into Burnt River



Oregon State Police/Contributed photo

Plastic bottles slated to be recycled were strewn across the bank of the Burnt River southeast of Baker City after a truck crashed and rolled Saturday morning, Sept. 25.

### Baker City Herald

A commercial truck hauling bales of recyclable plastic bottles crashed through a guardrail on a bridge along Interstate 84 southeast of Baker City on Saturday morning, spilling part of its load into the Burnt River.

An excavator was called in to remove some of the crushed bottles from the river, according to Oregon State Police.

The crash happened

about 10 a.m. on the eastbound freeway near Milepost 339, between the Lookout Mountain and Rye Valley exits.

A truck driven by Dakota D. Grey, 27, of Muskegon, Michigan, went off the freeway on a curve, crashing through the guardrail and damaging a fence and the edge of the bridge before overturning and spilling its load, according to an OSP report.

Grey was not hurt.

## New At The Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Baker County Library's new additions include 16 new bestsellers, 18 new audiobooks, six new movies, and 106 other new books, including 82 that are available online. See everything new this week to Baker County Library District at [wowbrary.org](http://wowbrary.org). Materials featured, and in library collection, does not indicate endorsement or approval of contents by the library. Selections are based on factors such as demand, public interest, diversity of viewpoint, community relevance, and others.

### FICTION

- "Daughter of the Morning Star (Longmire Mystery, Book 17)," Craig Johnson.
- "Matrix," Lauren Groff.
- "Falling," T. J. Newman.
- "The Seed Keeper," Diane Wilson.
- "The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu," Tom Lin.

### NONFICTION

- "The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783," Joseph J. Ellis.
- "Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law," Mary Roach.
- "How Stella Learned to Talk: The Groundbreaking Story of the World's First Talking Dog," Christina Hunger.
- "The Reckoning," Mary L. Trump.
- "The Ultimate Retirement Guide for 50+: Winning Strategies to Make Your Money Last a Lifetime," Suze Orman.

### MOVIES

- "The Boss Baby (2): Family Business" (Family)
- "The Gateway" (Drama)
- "The Misfits" (Action)
- "Together Together" (Comedy)
- "Zack Snyder's Justice League" (Sci-Fi)

## NURSERY

Continued from A1

Their goal was to figure out the causes for the abuse, and come up with new ways to avoid it.

Collins said the Relief Nursery program has identified 47 "significant risk factors" or "stressors" that increase the likelihood that an adult will abuse or neglect a child.

"We're talking about (things) like a spouse walking out on you, or died, or was incarcerated, the death of a child, drug abuse or recovery from drug abuse," Collins said.

Other factors include social isolation, children with special needs, mental or physical health challenges, or recovery from domestic violence.

Identifying the stress factors, and helping parents deal with them, can reduce rates of abuse and neglect, she said.

"The model really works," Collins said. "How we find those families is word of mouth. When people find that our model works, they recommend us to their other friends and family."

Collins said parents often are surprised at how quickly

multiple stress factors can pile up.

Some factors that can contribute to abuse, such as parents who themselves were abused as a child, can be difficult to deal with. And although the Relief Nursery doesn't handle those situations directly, it can help parents who struggle with their own history of abuse.

"Our staff can make referrals and make sure they can find resources to help with that," Collins said.

She said the Relief Nursery model is two generational, which means the staff works with children as well as parents, through regular home visits.

"We'd like to be able to serve more families," Collins said. "We're fairly new but we want to be able to serve more families and their precious little ones."

Collins said the Relief Nursery works not only to protect children from abuse and neglect, but to help them avoid turning to drugs or alcohol to cope with traumatic experiences.

Collins said community support will be vital to the success of the Baker Relief Nursery.

Lew Brothers Les Schwab Tire Center in Baker City will have a diaper and baby wipe collection drive during October.

"Les Schwab is known for its commitment to the communities in which they operate," Diana Brown of Lew Brothers said in a press release. "We are proud to help with this effort, knowing that taking one big stress off a family's plate — even if for a short time — can make a big difference."

Donations can be made at Lew Brothers, 210 Bridge St., from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

**PICK'N PATCH**  
**We will be OPENING on October 1st!**  
**Where:** Corner of Booth Lane and Lower Cove Road  
**When:** Friday and Saturday: 9am-6pm  
 Sunday: 10am-4pm  
 Monday-Thursday: By appointment  
**What you will find:**  
 Small corn maze, several varieties of pumpkins and gourds, straw bales, corn stalks.  
 If you would like to schedule a school field trip or other event, please call the number listed below.  
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