

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17

■ **Baker City Planning Commission:** 6 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St., Public hearing on a requested variance to allow construction of a single-family dwelling on a parcel smaller than the minimum size in the residential-medium density zone at 804 Auburn Ave.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald November 15, 1971

About 26 of Oregon's counties have indicated they will participate in the juvenile court subsidies program before the 1969-71 biennium. Baker is not one of them, according to juvenile officer Ed Barnette.

"Baker County's child risk population is 4,146 between the ages of four and 17," he said. "This means the state would have contributed \$4,444, but the county would have had to spend \$1,905 in order to get it."

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 15, 1996

The Baker Ranger District on Thursday tried for the second time, and failed for the second time, to find a buyer for a timber sale in Baker City's watershed.

No one bid on the sale, which consists of 4.76 million board-feet of timber in the watershed and adjacent Washington Gulch area.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald November 16, 2011

Baker City will have to correct an omission in the annual water quality report it mailed to its 4,400 customers this summer.

But the city apparently won't be punished for failing to tell residents that two water samples collected during 2010 contained cryptosporidium, a microorganism that can cause diarrhea and vomiting in healthy adults, and in rare cases can prove fatal for people with severely weakened immune systems.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald November 17, 2020

Baker County's recent increase in the rate of COVID-19 infections continues, and with Thanksgiving barely a week away, Nancy Staten is hoping residents will heed advice about how to protect themselves, their family and friends from contracting the virus.

Staten is director of the Baker County Health Department.

For the 7-day period Nov. 9-15, the county reported 39 confirmed or presumptive cases, the highest one-week total since the pandemic started in March.

That includes 12 new cases on Friday, Nov. 13, the second-highest daily total. On Nov. 4, 13 new cases were reported in the county.

The previous record for new cases in one week was 38, from Nov. 2-8.

Staten said on Monday, Nov. 16 that contact tracing shows that the recent trend has been driven largely by social gatherings such as household parties and other events involving families and friends getting together indoors.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, Nov. 13
15 - 18 - 23 - 24 - 34 - 36
Next jackpot: \$5.7 million

POWERBALL, Nov. 13
8 - 15 - 26 - 35 - 45 PB 9
Next jackpot: \$180 million

MEGA MILLIONS, Nov. 12
30 - 32 - 42 - 46 - 48 Mega 15
Next jackpot: \$63 million

WIN FOR LIFE, Nov. 13
10 - 18 - 20 - 75

PICK 4, Nov. 14
• 1 p.m.: 5 - 2 - 8 - 9
• 4 p.m.: 3 - 2 - 8 - 3
• 7 p.m.: 1 - 9 - 1 - 9
• 10 p.m.: 3 - 6 - 9 - 9

LUCKY LINES, Nov. 14
3-6-11-14-19-22-25-30
Next jackpot: \$17,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Tuna salad, croissant chips, pickle wedges, pickled cucumber and onion salad, pudding
- **THURSDAY (Thanksgiving lunch):** Roasted turkey with stuffing, butternut squash with apples and cranberries, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, broccoli-bacon salad, pumpkin pie
- **FRIDAY:** Baked ziti, garlic bread, carrots, green salad, ice cream
- **MONDAY (Nov. 22):** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, biscuits, coleslaw, cookies
- **TUESDAY (Nov. 23):** Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, rolls, mixed vegetables, ambrosia, pudding

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

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Man who police say lives in his car accused of theft spree

By JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Baker City Police believe a 27-year-old man who they say lives in a 2003 Mercedes sedan is responsible for stealing multiple items from outside Baker City homes and from unlocked vehicles.

Police arrested Brendon Michael Smith on Monday, Nov. 8 at about 11:30 a.m. on East Campbell Street, where he was parked in his Mercedes.

The car has Washington license plates, BHW2889.

Smith, who is in the Baker County Jail, was arraigned in Baker County Circuit Court on Tuesday, Nov. 9. He is charged with second-degree burglary, second-degree theft, third-degree theft and three counts of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.

Judge Matt Shirliff set Smith's bail at \$40,000. Smith is scheduled to enter a plea on Nov. 23 at 1:45 p.m.

On April 18, 2017, Smith, then 22, pleaded guilty in Baker County Circuit Court to first-degree burglary, third-degree theft and possession of methamphetamine. Smith, who admitted entering a home and stealing items, was sentenced to 45 days in jail and three years of probation.

Smith pleaded guilty

to second-degree criminal trespassing on Nov. 9, 2016, also in Baker County Circuit Court. He was sentenced to one year of probation.

On April 29, 2016, Smith pleaded guilty to harassment.

During Smith's arrest on Nov. 8, police found multiple items that had been taken from outside homes and from unlocked vehicles, according to a press release from Baker City Police.

Police Chief Ty Duby said the police department had received multiple calls about Smith in October, from residents who said they had seen the black Mercedes parked in their neighborhoods.

On Oct. 27 a resident on Indiana Avenue called police and reported that a man was sitting in a black Mercedes outside the caller's home.

Police found Smith in the car with multiple items that had been stolen, according to the press release. Smith had other items that police believe were stolen, but they couldn't find the theft victims.

Smith was cited and released on Oct. 27, Duby said.

On Nov. 5, owners of Hills Auto Parts and Repair at 800 Campbell St. reported that several vehicles, some

belonging to customers and some to the business, had been entered, with items taken from inside. The value of the items is approximately \$1,950, according to an affidavit filed as part of the case by Baker City Police officer Johnathan Parsons.

Smith was identified as a suspect through video surveillance at the business, Duby said.

On Monday morning, Nov. 8, police again talked to Smith after he parked in a lot on East Campbell Street, Duby said. They found more stolen items. Police arrested Smith and this time he was lodged in the Baker County Jail.

Duby said Smith told police that he drives around the city, taking packages from porches and other items outside homes.

Duby said Smith also said that he goes through parking lots at local motels, looking for unlocked vehicles and stealing items from those vehicles.

Duby said Smith has "addiction issues." He said he believes Smith owns the Mercedes, although he doesn't have insurance on the car.

Baker City Police are following up on other theft reports, and additional charges against Smith could be filed.

In his affidavit, Parsons wrote that among the items that Smith had in his car when he was arrested Nov. 8 is a Madrid brand skateboard, with an approximate value of \$500, that matches the description of a skateboard reported stolen recently from the basement of a Baker City home.

Parsons wrote that Smith told him someone had given the board to him.

Parsons also wrote that Smith had in his car a black zippered document folder, which he opened for police.

The folder contained Social Security cards and tax forms for a local woman who reported to police that someone had taken a folder with tax documents from her car on Nov. 7.

Parsons also wrote in the affidavit that he had talked with a Baker City resident whose son's bicycle, valued at about \$600, had been stolen from an enclosed carport on Oct. 30.

The bicycle was returned to the owner a couple days later, according to Parsons' affidavit, after an anonymous caller told the bike owner's parents that Smith had the bicycle but that it would be returned.

According to Parsons' affidavit, Smith admitted during his Nov. 8 arrest that he had stolen the bicycle.

— OBITUARY —

Duane Motley

Fossil, 1942-2021

Duane William Motley, 79, of Fossil, died Nov. 5, 2021, with his family by his side.

The family will have a private memorial service at a later date.

Duane was born on July 29, 1942, in Spokane, Washington, to Vernon and Coy "Zimmerman" Motley. He graduated from Montgomery High in the year of 1960 and was self-employed. He married Sally Draheim in 1996 at Camp Sherman, Oregon. He loved to garden and was a member of the Church of God.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Motley of Fossil.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Coy Motley; and his brothers, Don and Dale Motley.

To leave an online condolence for the family, go to www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

— NEWS OF RECORD —

DEATHS

Larry Morris, 77, of Baker City, died Nov. 13, 2021, at his home. A celebration of life will take place Saturday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane. A potluck reception will immediately follow the service at the Family Life Center at the church. Please bring and share your memories and stories of Larry as we celebrate a life well lived. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Michael Myers-Gabiola, 30, of Baker City, died Nov. 14, 2021, in Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Kirk William Roberts, 58, Baker City, 3:51 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15 at Cedar and C streets; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING: Laura Ruth Duckworth, 56, Ontario, 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14 in Sumpter; cited and released.

Noxious weed of the week

By JEFFREY PETTINGILL

The enemy

Common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* L.).

This North American annual plant grows up to 4 feet tall. Unlike common burdock, cocklebur has much smaller and rough leaves, which are attached to a thick, purplish-green stem with distinct purple to black spots.

The plant produces a purple flower which turns into a woody seed (which floats), which have spines with two hooks on their tips which allow it to be transported on most furry animals that pass by. Each hook contains a seed, one of which germinates in the spring, and one in the fall.

The plant will usually remain erect all winter long, thus disseminating seeds throughout the winter.

The attack

This plant can be found on disturbed sides, abandoned lanes, rundown sandy pastures, and roadsides. The plant can be found along the Snake River reservoirs as water recedes, and the floating seeds pile up in lateral



Rich Olds/Contributed Photo

Common cocklebur produces woody seeds that get caught in the fur of passing animals.

lines along the shores.

The seeds can devalue wool prices when they get caught in the animal's fur. The seeds and seedlings are both toxic to livestock. We generally find this weed growing in riparian areas as this is the area where animals travel for water and rub the seeds off as they pass.

The defense

As this is an annual, mechanical control can be an effective means of control. Simply make sure that you get at least two inches of the root out of the ground. Minimizing soil disturbance

during this activity will keep the weed from reinvading.

Herbicides such as Escort XP (one ounce per acre), Opensight (3.3 ounces per acre), Milestone (seven ounces per acre) and Tordon 22k (one quart per acre) are quite effective in pastures and on roadsides. Opensight and Milestone can both be used up to the water edge on any creek, stream, river or lake. Applications should be any time prior to plants getting to the bud stage.

Jeffrey Pettingill, supervisor of the Baker County Weed District, can be reached at 541-523-0618 or 541-519-0204.

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