

Man accused of using bear spray against pair

Baker City Herald

A Baker City man is accused of using bear spray against two other men during an altercation Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4.

Nicholas Allen Sorensen, 32, is charged with two counts of unlawful use of tear gas, along with two counts of fourth-degree assault.

Both are Class A misdemeanors.

Sorensen was taken to the Baker County Jail after his arrest at around 10:17 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. His bail was set at \$37,500. He could be released by posting 10% of the bail.

According to a report written by Baker City Police officer Mark Powell, he was called to a suspicious situation about 2:19 p.m. Saturday in the 2300 block of Hughes Lane.

Powell wrote that when he arrived, he found Tyler Sorensen lying on the ground near his Ford Bronco.

According to Powell's report, Tyler Sorensen said he and another passenger, Logan Nielson, were passengers in the Bronco, which Nicholas Sorensen, who is Tyler's

cousin, was driving east on Hughes Lane.

During a verbal argument, Nicholas Sorensen sprayed both Tyler and Nielson with bear spray while they were in the vehicle, Tyler told Powell.

Shortly after Powell interviewed Tyler, police also talked with Nielson, who "reported a similar story," according to Powell's report.

Both Tyler and Nielson had watering eyes and were treated by an ambulance crew, Powell wrote.

The next morning, Sunday, Powell wrote that he went to an address on Kirkway Drive where Nicholas Sorensen lives.

Powell wrote that a neighbor told him someone wearing a silver jacket had run from the property, crossed the Powder River and headed south on the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway.

Powell wrote that he and officer Justin Prevo found Nicholas Sorensen in a field near the Baker Sports Complex and arrested him.

Powell wrote that he found a bottle of bear spray about 25 yards from where he arrested Sorensen.

SKI

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The outpost will have Nordic trail passes and hot drinks, among other services.

The Anthony Lake Guard Station, which formerly served as the Nordic center, is now available for overnight rentals during the winter, an option that was popular last year, Judy said.

The trailhead parking lot has more space for vehicles than the site near the guard station, she said.

New options for new skiers and riders

The gentle slope near the lodge where fledgling skiers and boarders hone their technique has a new look.

And a new name — Alice's Wonderland.

The ski area has replaced the "carpet," which conveyed skiers up the hill, with a covered conveyor nicknamed the Caterpillar (hence the reference to Lewis Carroll's beloved fantasy tale).

Judy said visitors whose skills surpass the challenge of Alice's Wonderland can move on to the Mad Hatter Handle Tow, previously known as just the handle tow. The Mad Hatter also accesses the Rabbit Hole

terrain park for beginning skiers and riders.

Future characters, in the same theme, are in the works.

Alice's Wonderland, as distinct from "Alice in Wonderland," honors Alice Trindle, a Baker County native and lifelong Anthony Lakes skier, and longtime ski school instructor and member of the board of directors for Anthony Lakes Outdoor Recreation Association.

Trindle recently stepped down from her board role but she remains an integral member of the ski school, where she started teaching in 1978.

Supporting locally owned businesses

In place of Anthony Lakes' previous half-price Thursday lift ticket promotion, the resort is offering \$25 lift tickets on Thursdays — the usual price is \$45 — for visitors who bring a receipt showing they had spent at least \$40 in the previous week at a locally owned restaurant or shop in Baker, Union, Grant or Wallowa counties.

"We're encouraging people to get out and shop locally," Judy said.

She encourages people to check the resort's website, anthonylakes.com, for the latest snow conditions, schedules and other updates.

COVID cases drop slightly

By JAYSON JACOBY

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Baker County's COVID-19 case rate dropped slightly last week, the second straight weekly drop.

The Baker County Health Department reported 34 new cases for the week Nov. 28-Dec. 4. There were no cases on Saturday, Dec. 4 or on Sunday, Dec. 5.

There were 37 cases for the previous week, Nov. 21-27, and 46 cases for the week Nov. 14-20.

The county's test positivity rate dropped from 11.6% from Nov. 21-27, to 10.7% from Nov. 28-Dec. 4, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Statewide during the latter week, 5.9% of tests were positive.

Vaccinations

The Health Department is seeking to boost the county's vaccination rates with a series of drive-thru clinics later this month in Baker City, Halfway and Huntington (see related story on Page A2).

Although Baker County continues to have the fifth-lowest vaccination rate among Oregon's 36 counties — 54.2% of residents age 18 and older — the number of doses given in the county more than doubled in November compared with September.

A total of 1,707 doses were administered in the county during November, according to the OHA.

That's up from 1,048 doses during October, and from 776 doses during September.

There were 633 doses given in the county during August, and 398 in July.

The highest vaccination rate for Baker County is among residents 65 and older. There are about 4,850 people in that age category in the county, and 68.4% have received at least one dose (64.9% are fully vaccinated, according to the OHA).

Also, 31% of residents in that age group have received a booster dose.

PARADE

Continued from A1

Cutler said the parade had the most entries in her records, and the attendance might also have been the biggest.

"I kept hearing from folks that they were just so glad to be among their friends and family," she said.

Most of the entries signed up in the few days preceding the parade.

At the start of last week, just nine entries were registered, Cutler said.

She said the folks at Commercial Tire helped get the word out about the need for more entries.

"The applications just started flooding in and I couldn't have been happier," Cutler said.

Following the parade, the community Christmas tree was illuminated in the Court Street Park, between Main and Resort streets.

Cutler thanked city officials for approving the parade and for buying new lights for the tree. She also thanked the Oregon Department of Transportation for closing Main Street to traffic during the parade and tree-lighting ceremony, and the Baker Lions Club for setting up the fire barrels and serving hot chocolate.

"It was so, so nice to have everybody happy and the kids. The faces of those kids just lit up," Cutler said.

The parade is over, but the season's festivities continue.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Cutler encourages people to enter the Chamber's lighting contest, with an application deadline of Dec. 15.

"We want to keep this Christmas spirit going the rest of this month," Cutler said.

Participants can enter their home or nominate a home they've seen. The contest is open to all residents with a Baker County address.

Entrants should upload a photo of the home to the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau Facebook page by 10 a.m. on Dec. 15. The Chamber's board of directors will judge the entries.

More Christmas events across the county this month

• Richland Tree Lighting,



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Friday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

• Sumpter Valley Railroad Christmas trains will run Dec. 10-12.

On Dec. 10, the train will leave the McEwen Depot at 7 p.m.

On Dec. 11, the train will leave the Sumpter Depot at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

On Dec. 12 the train will

leave the McEwen Depot at noon.

• Sumpter holiday celebration, Saturday, Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Events include horse buggy rides, vendors, including food and drinks, ornament making, burn barrels, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, photos and a twilight parade at 5 p.m.

RODEO

Continued from A1

Brown is sitting fourth in the average with a time of 18 seconds on four runs. He is just 2 seconds off the leaders — Tristan Martin and Riley Duvall.

"With how much money there is in each round, the

standings will change each night," Brown said.

Brown has kept busy with appearances and signings the past few days, and Saturday, Dec. 11, he will be helping out with the Rascal Rodeo — a simulated rodeo for people of all ages with physical and developmental disabilities. The program is near and

dear to Brown, who wears the program's logo on his shirts.

"They have it at the (Columbia River) circuit finals every year and a bunch of us bulldoggers go to that," Brown said. "They are a pretty cool company."

Brown qualified for the National Finals Rodeo for the first time in 2020.

The event was moved that year from its traditional location at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas to Arlington, Texas, due to the pandemic.

In the 2020 event, Brown tied for first on the first of the 10 consecutive daily competitions. He ended the season ranked 13th in the world, with earnings of \$88,558.

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

FIRST-DEGREE BURGLARY, FIRST-DEGREE CRIMINAL Trespassing, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, HARASSMENT: Juan Pablo Burgos, 60, Baker City, 10:51 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3 in the 2200 block of 10th Street; jailed.

INTIMIDATION (Oregon State Parole Board warrant): Kyle Allen Brown, 34, Baker City, 10:10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3 at Campbell and Clark streets; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office Arrests, citations
CONTEMPT OF COURT, FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County warrants): Robert Wayne Jarboe, 46, Huntington, 6:32 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 in Huntington; jailed.

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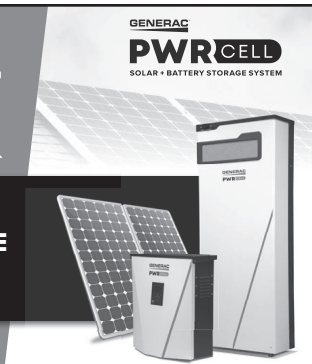


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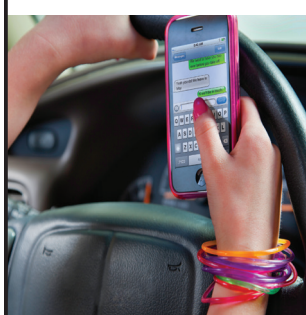
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