

# Quake

Continued from A1

“There’s more left to do for Eastern Oregon,” said Jason Yencopal, Baker County emergency manager. “It started on the coast and moved to Central Oregon, but now we need to focus on Eastern Oregon.”

Baker County emergency officials made progress June 27-28 when they hosted a regional Cascadia earthquake exercise at the Baker County Health Department.

Officials from Union, Umatilla and Harney counties also participated at their respective emergency headquarters.

Yencopal said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is helping Baker County and other counties set up exercises.

Several state agencies also participated, including the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Transportation, along with a handful of county agencies including the road,

planning and health departments.

During the exercise, Yencopal and others worked with a FEMA contractor to create a list of possible scenarios that could occur in an earthquake. A worker in Umatilla county relayed these scenarios to Baker County, and responders dealt with them as if they were happening in real time.

The exercise started with communications practice. The team dealt with a scenario where usual radio communications were down and they had to rely on handheld radio correspondence to Haines and Halfway.

**Effects of ‘the big one’**

The Cascadia Subduction Zone in the Pacific Ocean, about 70 to 100 miles west of the Oregon coast, is where one tectonic plate is plunging under another. Scientists estimate that this fault produces a mega-earthquake, potentially magnitude 9.0 or higher, every 300 to 700 years. According to Oregon.gov., scientists give a 37% chance that the fault will produce an earthquake in the next 50 years.

And since physical damage in Western Oregon would be significant, transportation in Eastern Oregon could be a problem.

In one hypothetical scenario during the June 27-28 exercise, 20 buses and 200 cars full of evacuees arrived in Baker County, prompting Yencopal and his crew to register them at a Red Cross shelter.

Despite Baker County’s distance from the fault, it would still experience some shaking, Yencopal said, although it’s hard to determine how much. That means emergency officials still need to be ready for physical damage locally, such as ruptured pipes and wastewater issues. Yencopal said they practiced related scenarios in the second half of the exercise.

Yencopal said that while the exercise covered major issues in earthquake response, responding to an actual earthquake, as one might imagine, would be a more intense experience.

“We only took one thing at a time, water, gas, fire,” Yencopal said. “But re-

ally, everything would be happening at once.”

Yencopal said there are still other aspects of emergency response the exercise didn’t address, such as distributing information to the public.

“I kept this (exercise) small on purpose, and I’m looking forward to future large scale exercises,” Yencopal said.

**How to prepare**

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) recommends people prepare a bag with two weeks worth of food, water and critical supplies for when “the big one” — or any other significant natural disaster — strikes.

ODEM also recommends developing an emergency plan and signing up for emergency alerts.

Baker County has an emergency notification system that provides critical information in the event of an emergency. Register a cell phone to receive alerts on the county’s website, baker-county.org.

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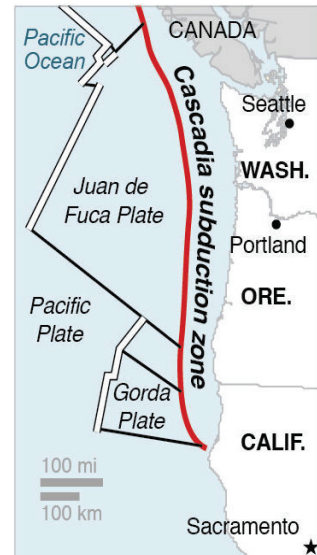
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A subduction zone off the Oregon coast — where one tectonic plate is diving under another — is expected to generate a major earthquake, possibly within the next few decades.

# Jubilee

Continued from A1

Unlike last year, when the Jubilee parade was in jeopardy due to a lack of entries, this year Cutler had about 25 floats signed up by Monday, and she was expecting many more through the week leading to the 11 a.m. parade downtown.

The route starts at Baker Middle School, then heads east on Broadway to Second Street. Floats go south on Second to Valley Avenue, then east to Main Street, and north on Main to finish at Madison Street.

Cutler said ticket sales are brisk for the Baker City Bronc and Bull riding competitions, which are part of the Challenge of Champions Tour.

Bronc riding will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 15, with bronc riding kicking off at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 16. Both events are at the Baker City Fairgrounds north of Geiser-Pollman Park.

Cutler said she’s excited about events planned at the Baker Heritage Museum, just across Grove Street from the

park. The Museum is the temporary home of an Oregon Trail exhibit while the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is closed for renovations.

“It’s been a great collaboration,” she said the exhibit.

Cutler said the Baker High School Class of 2023 is putting on the Jubilee duck race, with ducks on sale for \$2 each on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The race itself is set for noon on Sunday.

The prospect for a vibrant Jubilee — and perhaps as important, a normal event — is exciting for Cutler after the past two years.

The 2020 event was canceled due to the pandemic.

Although the Jubilee returned in 2021, Cutler said the atmosphere for this year’s event feels different.

“I haven’t gotten any COVID questions (from vendors),” she said. “I’m optimistic that we’re well on the way to recovery.”

See GO! magazine, which is included with the Thursday, July 14 issue of the Baker City Herald, for an event schedule and more information about this year’s Miners Jubilee.



Geiser-Pollman Park was bustling during Miners Jubilee in July 2021.

# Stabbing

Fish said the weapon used was a fixed-blade sheathed knife similar to a hunting knife.

The Oregon State Police Major Crimes Unit was requested and responded to assist with the investigation, the release stated. The 911 call requesting medical assistance was made at 11:36 a.m.

The man who is believed to have done the stabbing cooperated with the investigation, Fish said. Ridling’s wife also was interviewed.

No charges have yet been filed. Officials are awaiting the results of an autopsy before making any decision on charges.

“Once we get it all done, it’ll go to the grand jury,” Fish said. “He’s not been charged with anything.”

As a result, Fish declined to identify the Albany man.

Fish stated in the release that there are no known threats to the public following the incident.

# Mushrooms

Continued from A1

According to the Oregon Health Authority, the state agency that is overseeing the state’s new psilocybin system, the substance “will only be administered to persons 21 years or older in licensed service center settings under the supervision of trained and licensed facilitators.”

Such centers can’t be within 1,000 feet of a school.

Measure 109 passed statewide by a margin of 57% to 43%.

A majority of Baker County voters who cast their ballots opposed the measure, however, with almost 64% voting



Psilocybin mushrooms were legalized for therapeutic use in Oregon by a 2020 ballot measure.

product. Oregon is the first state to legalize psilocybin use.

The Oregon Psilocybin Services section will start taking applications for psilocybin businesses and services on Jan. 2, 2023.

The measure does allow cities and counties to pursue either permanent bans or a two-year moratorium on psilocybin — either of which would have to be approved by voters in the jurisdiction — or to regulate the time, place and manner in which the drug is produced or used for therapeutic purposes.

In a staff report to councilors for Tuesday’s meeting, City Manager Jonathan Cannon listed four possible options.

- A permanent ban on psilocybin services. To do so, the city council would need to pass an ordinance that takes the matter to city voters, who would decide whether to approve the permanent ban.
- To qualify such a measure for the Nov. 8, 2022, election, the city would need to submit the measure to the Baker County Clerk’s office by Sept. 8.
- A two-year moratorium on psilocybin services. This would follow the same process as a permanent ban, with a city ordinance and ballot measure.
- An ordinance regulating the time, place and manner of psilocybin services, which

could, for example, restrict such services to commercial or other zones.

- Take no action and allow psilocybin to be regulated by the state.

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# Parks

Continued from A1

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said some users have “different ideas” when it comes to recreating in the parks.

“We needed to tighten these ordinances up with the help of our law enforcement, and because we have been having to use their services a lot more recently,” Harvey said.

Harvey said there have been complaints about large groups at Hewitt and Holcomb parks being loud and intoxicated. Some campers were leaving in the middle of the night because it was so bad, he said.

The new ordinance states that “Legal possession and consumption of alcohol, alcoholic beverages and other intoxicants must be reasonable and in compliance with all applicable state laws.”

Other clauses in the ordinance dealing with issues Harvey mentioned include:

“No person shall set up or use a public address system or any sound amplifying equipment without prior written approval from the Parks Department, nor may any person use audio equipment, including radios or other devices or musical instruments, in such a manner as to disturb others.

“Abusive, lewd, or obscene music, language and/or behavior is prohibited in all County parks.

“Physical disturbances, brawls, fights or any other type of physical altercations are prohibited in all parks and will be subject to law enforcement actions.”

County Counsel Kim Mosier said the latter clause, with its language about violators being subject to law enforcement, is one of the major changes in the new ordinance.

But Mosier noted that the county’s goal is to encourage park users to follow the rules without resorting to citations.

“It’s important to keep in

mind that law enforcement still has the discretion to issue a citation or issue a warning and work with folks that are at the park to get compliance before using that tool,” Mosier said.

Another change allows county officials or parks staff to revoke a park use permit if the permit holder won’t comply with the ordinance.

“It’s sort of a graduated approach,” Mosier said. “The hope is that we get compliance just right there at the park.”

**North Baker Improvement Plan**

Holly Kerns, Baker City/County Planning director, requested a continuance of the public hearing amending goal 12 of the Baker County Comprehensive Plan to recognize the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan (NBTIP).

County commissioners unanimously approved the continuance to Nov. 2.

Kerns said the Baker City Council wants to see the survey data to fully understand how the project, which includes a list of possible changes on sections of 10th Street, Hughes Lane and Cedar Street, would affect private property.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is overseeing the project.

Councilors and property owners have previously expressed concern in particular about a proposed revamping of the intersection at 10th Street and Hughes Lane/Pocahontas Road.

“It’s my understanding that ODOT has finished preliminary survey work but the final survey work and the property descriptions aren’t actually due into ODOT until September

1st,” Kerns said.

Harvey said county officials have had ongoing phone meetings with ODOT, and the project’s scope has been greatly reduced due to increasing construction costs.

“It’s not exactly what it was when it was first presented,” Harvey said.

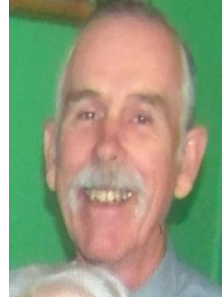
## Wellman Laird “Larry” Keener Jr.

May 21, 1943 – July 3, 2022

Wellman Laird “Larry” Keener Jr., 79, of Baker City, Oregon, passed away on July 3, 2022. Larry was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on May 21, 1943, to Wellman and Estelle Keener. Larry married Martha Lucille Buttram on January 4, 1969. Together they had 3 daughters. He was head custodian at the VOTEC school in Missoula, Montana. He was a jack of all trades - handyman, carpenter, plumber, painter and much more. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening and planting flowers.

In July of 1990 Larry and Martha and their two younger daughters moved to Baker City to help take care of Martha’s parents. He was a board member of the church they attended for many years. His passion was playing the spoons everywhere he went. He played the spoons in church, at home, on road trips - anytime there was music you could bet Larry was playing his spoons. One of his favorite passages from the Bible: “Don’t let the sun go down on your wrath.” He instilled this passage in his daughters and their friends. He lived by this saying. He is now rejoicing with his loved ones who have gone on.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Wellman and Estelle Keener, his wife, Martha Keener, and his daughter, Kelly Keener. He leaves behind daughters, Vicki (Judd) Richards of Missoula, Montana, and Rebecca Rogers of Baker City, and his grandchildren: Laney (Leeman) Matthew of Plains, Montana, Cody (Shelby) Richards of Missoula, Montana, and Rachel and Samatha Rogers of Baker City.



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