

*“We’ll be camping right there on the fairgrounds, so we’re gonna have about 33 military vehicles there for them to walk around, talk to our people, look at the vehicles.”*

— Dan McCluskey, convoy commander

## Convoy

Continued from A1

“We’ll be camping right there on the fairgrounds, so we’re gonna have about 33 military vehicles there for them to walk around, talk to our people, look at the vehicles.”

All the vehicles are privately owned by the people participating in the convoy, who are all MVPA members.

Founded in 1976, MVPA is a nonprofit with more than 100 affiliates worldwide “dedicated to providing an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport,” according to its mission.

McCluskey estimated that about 30%, and maybe more, of the participants in this year’s convoy are military veterans.

When the convoy reaches Baker City it will be on day 11 of a 15-day, 1,600-mile historical loop taking the convoy through Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Parts of the loop overlap with a longer, 6,350-mile highway the National Parks Service established in 1924 — the National Park-to-Park Highway — that encompasses all the national parks in the 11 western states.

The convoy’s schedule includes visits to the Lewis and Clark Trail, Mount Rainier National Park, Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood, Washington’s Pacific Coast, Oregon Trail sites, Hells Canyon and other significant military sites after leaving Kamiah, Idaho, the start point, on Aug. 14.

Occasionally, McCluskey said, members from MVPA affiliations along the route join in for segments of the journey. MVPA has affiliate clubs in Woodland, Washington, and in Wilsonville.

McCluskey said the vehicles — from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and current eras — can’t travel faster than 35 miles per hour.

“That’s our max speed,” he said. “A lot of times it’s a lot less because we are going up over hills. These old military vehicles are definitely not doing 60 miles per hour going over the grades.”

Three units make up the convoy during travel: the “heavies,” 1.5- through 5-ton vehicles, lead the charge, followed by ¾-ton Dodge cargo trucks, followed by the jeep unit.

McCluskey said they travel anywhere from 85 to 170 miles per day.

This 1,600-mile trip isn’t the longest McCluskey and the MVPA have completed. They traveled the Lincoln military highway, which spans from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco, in 2009, and completed the Bankhead Route from D.C. to Seattle in 2015. They also drove from Seattle to Plymouth Rock last year.

McCluskey said people usually show their support when they see the convoy.

“Along the way, we’ll have people out at the end of their driveways, waving flags, waiting for the convoy to go by,” he said.

The convoy will leave the Baker County Fairgrounds at 7 a.m. on the morning of Aug. 25 and stop in Oxbow, at the Oregon/Idaho border, for lunch. It will then head north for an afternoon display in Joseph and spend the night at the Eagle Cap Shooters Association in Enterprise.

## Race

Continued from A1

Four of the seven positions on the council will be up for election. Those positions are held now by Joanna Dixon, Waggoner, Guyer and Damschen.

The three other Baker City councilors — Kerry McQuisten, Shane Alderson and Jason Spriet — are serving terms that continue through the end of 2024. All three were elected to four-year terms in November 2020.

# Huntington man accused of domestic violence

BY JAYSON JACOBY

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

A Huntington man is charged with multiple domestic violence crimes after an incident early Thursday, Aug. 18 in Huntington.

David Carson Weiss, 19, was arrested around 5:30 a.m. at 145 E. Madison St. in Huntington, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash said.

Weiss is charged with menacing, harassment and strangulation, each involving domestic violence, as well as recklessly endangering another person, and resisting arrest.

The strangulation charge is a Class C felony. The other charges are misdemeanors.

Weiss was in the Baker County Jail on Friday morning, Aug. 19. He was scheduled to be arraigned Friday afternoon in Baker County Circuit Court.

Ash said Weiss’ girlfriend and mother, who were in the home, called 911 about 3:46 a.m. to report a domestic disturbance. Weiss doesn’t live in the home, Ash said.

Ash said that when he and Deputy Kyle Ebeling arrived in Huntington, Weiss’ girlfriend and mother had left the home along with Weiss’ 4-month-old child. The child’s presence is the reason Weiss is charged with reckless endangering, Ash said.

Ash said Weiss, who was alone in a room converted from a garage, was “very aggressive” when officers arrived, yelling and apparently under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

Ash said the two women said Weiss had put his hands around his girlfriend’s throat, which led to the strangulation charge.

He also allegedly verbally threatened his mother, Ash said.

Ash said Weiss denied the claims.

Ash said that Weiss, when told he was under arrest, refused to get out of the chair he was sitting in and became “belligerent.”

Ash said he and Ebeling were able to maneuver Weiss’ hands behind his back and handcuff him.

Weiss’ girlfriend had minor injuries but she didn’t need medical treatment, Ash said.

On Feb. 6, 2021, Weiss pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault, constituting domestic violence, in an incident that happened Dec. 28, 2020, at the same home in Huntington where he was arrested on Thursday.

Weiss was sentenced to 18 months probation and ordered to do 80 hours of community service and complete a domestic violence intervention program.

## Splash

Continued from A1

In deciding what type of project to raise money for, Penelope settled on a splash pad, an area with water features that have become popular attractions during the summer in many cities.

Baker City doesn’t have a splash pad — the closest are in La Grande and Ontario.

“I just think Baker really needed one,” Penelope said. “We go to other places to go use a splash pad. And why not have one here? I think Baker just really needs something besides the river to play in.”

The Powder River, which runs just east of Central Park — between Washington and Valley avenues — is a favorite spot for kids to take a dip, but Penelope said a splash pad, unlike the river, would be accessible to all kids, including those in wheelchairs.

Charline Simmons said they are raffling off a shotgun donated by Trader Ray’s, a rooster weather beam donated by Oregon Trail Landscapes and Nursery, and a full vehicle detail donated by RM Detail & Car Wash.

“We set up at the farmers market every Thursday, then we did Community Night Out on August 2, we did the parade for Shriners, and then we’re doing the car show,” Charline said. “We’ll have a table set up there with raffle items at the car show.”

The latter reference was to the Baker City Memory Cruise, set for this Saturday, Aug. 20, at Geiser-Pollman Park.

They have also discussed



Samantha O’Conner/Baker City Herald

**Penelope Simmons, 17, is raising money as a Girl Scout Gold Award project with a goal of helping to build a splash pad at Baker City’s Central Park.**

having fundraisers at the Christmas bazaars.

So far, the duo have raised \$800 out of the approximately \$300,000 they need.

“We’ve got a ways to go,” Charline said.

Joyce Bornstedt, the city’s technical administration supervisor, said the city is not involved in the Simmons’ fundraising project, but adding a splash pad to Central Park is a city goal.

“I think it’s a good idea — there has been a lot of interest in having a splash pad for a long time,” Bornstedt said. “I think it kind of fits well

within the scope of the planning for that park.”

The master conceptual plan for the park includes a water feature, she said.

Penelope said she had her Gold Award project approved by the Girl Scouts in late 2019, but then the pandemic hit, pausing the project.

She said a committee supporting the splash pad project started planning in October 2021.

The idea is to buy the splash pad with items from Northwest Playground Equipment of Washington. The water features will cost

\$103,208, and Charline said they would need half that amount by Nov. 1 to place an order to allow installation in 2023.

“We didn’t want to start raising money for it until we had a plan because then what are you going to do with the money if it never comes to anything?” Charline said.

The daughter-mother duo are working with the Baker Lions Club, which is helping them apply for grants and holding the money they raise. The Lions Club is a tax-exempt nonprofit, so donations can be claimed on tax returns.

Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome to contact the Simmons through Facebook.com/bakercitysplashpad where Penelope’s phone number is available. They can also email her at Bakercitysplashpad2023@gmail.com.

People can also go to Community Bank to put in a money donation by saying they want to donate for the Lions Splash Pad.

“We’re just trying to get the community behind it,” Charline said. “It’ll be a nice thing for our community and everybody, we haven’t had anything negative about it.”

## Move

Continued from A1

He said the sidewalk outside the new office has been recently repaired.

The new office is in the southern section of the Health Department building, with the door facing out toward the lawn. In addition to Gloria’s office, there’s a waiting room and a bathroom.

He said the Health Department has more parking and less traffic than the area around the courthouse.

His office is complete with memorabilia from Gloria’s time in service — he served 22 years with the Oregon Army National Guard.

But his current position, which he’s had for about eight years, is his “dream job,” he said.

Gloria said he’s actively managing about 1,500 veterans, many of which have come to see him at the office. He said it can be challenging since county veterans service is a one-man operation.

“People say, ‘Rick, you need to slow down, you’re going to burn out. I say, ‘What do you mean, burn out?’” Gloria said.

According to a 2022 report from news outlet Stackler, data from the US Census Bureau shows that roughly 15% of residents in Baker County are veterans, the highest percentage of veterans per capita out of all the counties in Oregon.

Gloria encouraged veterans who haven’t registered for their eligible benefits or those seeking service to come into the office, or call in.

“Veterans, this is your home, I’m just managing it,” he said.

For the federal fiscal year 2020, which ended Sept. 30, 2020, benefits to Baker County veterans totaled \$24,451,000 — an increase of almost \$2.6 million from the previous year, Gloria said.

That amount included:

- \$12,710,000 in disability

and pension payments.

- \$11,255,000 in medical services.

Baker County commissioners decided in August 2020 to buy the Fourth Street building for \$500,000 from New Directions Northwest, which formerly used the structure, built in 1970. The building is about 5,000 square feet.

The county used federal pandemic relief money for the \$150,000 down payment and for much of the remodeling, which cost around \$80,000.

The county is paying the remainder of the price over 10 years at 3% interest.



**Rick Gloria has worked as Baker County’s veteran service officer for the past eight years.**

Clayton Franke/Baker City Herald

### Elaine Logsdon

January 31, 1943 - August 12, 2022

Elaine Logsdon, 79, of Baker City, died on Friday, August 12, 2022 at Settler’s Park Assisted Living Facility. A Graveside Service will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 - 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City, Oregon.

Elaine Marie was born on January 31, 1943 in Prairie City, Oregon to Joe and Leona (Medlin) Logsdon. The family moved to Baker City, where she was raised, attended school and graduated from Baker High School class of 1961.

Elaine met Joe Barton through a mutual friend. On June 21, 1961, they married in Weiser, Idaho and they had two sons. She later married Bob Lees in 1991, they later divorced.

During her life she worked as a waitress, secretary for Lake County Chamber of Commerce and was manager for the West Park Plaza Mall in Ontario, Oregon. She also broadcasted the Chamber Chatter program on Radio KQIK, secretary/treasurer of the Lake County Horse Racing Commission and a board member of the Lake County Activity Center. Elaine served as a state officer of the Eagles Auxiliary in many offices, including State President in 1972.

She enjoyed crochet, knitting, yard ornaments, beading, playing guitar and singing. Her favorite color was red and she enjoyed the summer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Lyle Barton, and her brother Howard Logsdon.

Elaine is survived by her son Richard “Rick” and wife Janine Barton; sister Caroline Barton; 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Elaine, she asked that they go to the American Cancer Society in memory of her son Lyle through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com



### Helen Jean Heizer

August 24, 1937 - July 27, 2022

Helen Jean Heizer was born on August 24, 1937, in Weiser, Idaho. She passed away on July 27, 2022, at Settlers Park Assisted Living Community in Baker City, Oregon.

Jean married Bill Heizer in 1974 in Ontario, Oregon. Jean and Bill enjoyed traveling and made several long trips across the country and up and down the West Coast on their Gold Wing Honda. Jean and Bill enjoyed working on and living in their secluded beautiful home at the base of the Elkhorn Mountains, complete with fish ponds, elk, deer, bear, geese, cougars, and very few neighbors!

Jean was a very astute businesswoman who owned and operated the Gourmet Goose in Baker City for many years. She sold everything from heating stoves to gifts and was an accomplished florist. She loved creating floral arrangements and was a very hard worker. She could often be found working side by side with Bill maintaining their many rental properties in Baker City.

Jean loved animals and always seemed to have a pet dog nearby. For the last several years of her life Jean attended McEwen Bible Fellowship in Sumpter Valley where she was loved and enjoyed by many people. The people at that small church were blessed by her generous donation of padded pews for the entire sanctuary.

She is survived by her son, Brent Ricks, nieces, Marietta Holman and Monica Walker, nephew, BJ Walker, stepchildren, Dallas Kyriss, Wendy Ricks, and Kelly Baker, and stepgrandson, Christopher Kyriss.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Sydney and Helen Dolores Babcock Walker, her brother, Butch Walker, and by her husband, Doctor Bill Heizer, a longtime local dentist.

A memorial service will be scheduled and announced later this year. Those wishing to make memorial contributions in her memory may direct them to Orpheum Theater or Best Friends of Baker, this may be done through the Coles Tribute Center 1950 Place St. Baker City, OR 97814.

If one wishes to light a candle in memory of Jean, please visit www.colestrIBUTEcenter.com.

