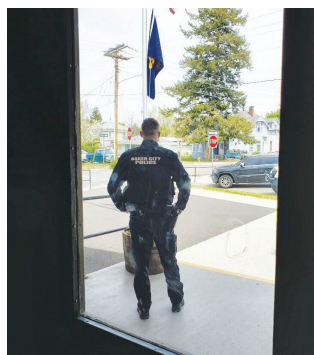


Baker schools lock down after threat

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Baker High School freshman Sofie Kaaen was having a normal lunch at a nearby restaurant, until a classmate got a phone call from a parent with the news that someone had made a threat about a shooting at the school.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
A Baker City police officer stands outside South Baker Intermediate School early Thursday afternoon, May 26, 2022.

Nobody was thinking much about their meal at Paizano's Pizza, just a couple blocks west of the BHS campus, after that call just after noon on Thursday, May 26.

"Everybody started calling their parents and leaving," Kaaen said. "It was really chaotic."

She didn't think then about the shooting two days earlier at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, in which 19 students and two teachers died, and 17 other people were wounded.

But Kaaen thought a lot

of about that tragedy later, after the initial shock had receded.

"Afterwards I realized that was a weird coincidence," she said. "I feel like what happened (Thursday) really put the Texas shooting into perspective, and having that fear for the people still at our school made me reflect on how serious

school shootings really are."

There was no active threat at Baker High School.

But the threat, which police said was posted on social media, prompted Baker City Police to respond and the Baker School District to institute "a lockdown" as a precaution.

During a lockdown, all outside doors are locked, and students and staff remain inside the school. Classes and other indoor activities continue as usual.

A lockdown is a different procedure, intended for an active threat. In a lockdown, students are told to stay out of sight and be quiet, and interior doors are locked and lights turned off.

During the incident, which lasted about an hour, police officers were posted outside the entrance to each school.

At about 1 p.m., the school district sent automated notices to parents stating that the lockdown had ended.

BHS students describe their experiences

Anthony Christopher, a junior, said he usually leaves campus during lunch, but on Thursday he "didn't feel like driving."

When the lockdown was announced, and students who were eating lunch outside told to return to the school, Christopher said "in the moment it was kind of scary, but they handled it really well."

He said the Texas shooting "probably went through my head like twice."

Freshman Jayden Whitford said she was also thinking about what happened in Texas when the lockdown started.

"I was outside at lunch with a bunch of my friends when we saw cop cars and police enter and (Skye) Flanagan (BHS principal) told everyone to go inside," Whitford said. "Then we just were told to stay in our next class until further notice and we weren't allowed to leave the

class. It was scary since I didn't know what was going on. I made sure I told my loved ones about it cause I was just scared. I did think it was a real threat but I tried not thinking about it cause it would probably freak me out even more."

In a press release, Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby said the department on Wednesday, May 25, received a potential threat of a shooting at Baker High School involving a BHS student.

Police investigated that report Thursday morning and found it to be unsubstantiated. Students from Baker Middle School posted and shared messages on social media regarding a school shooting in the works, according to the press release.

That prompted the school district to start the lockdown, which is standard protocol in such situations.

Officers from Baker City, the Baker County Sheriff's

Office and Oregon State Police all responded to schools.

Initially it appeared that the postings from Baker Middle School referred to a new threat.

But "after some investigation officers were able to determine that postings by middle school students referenced the first incident that had already been handled and found to be unsubstantiated," according to Duby.

Another separate threat came in later regarding a shooting threat at the middle school. Baker City Police identified a 12-year-old BMS student as the source of the threat. The student was cited for first-degree disorderly conduct.

"I want to publicly thank the Baker 5J School District, the Baker County Sheriff's Office, and the Oregon State Police for acting quickly and working in coordination to resolve the incident," Duby said.

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Circuit Court May 25

Daniel Antonio Lopez, 35, pleaded guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle, felon in possession of a firearm and second-degree theft in connection with an incident that happened on Feb. 15. Two additional charges, possession of a stolen vehicle and unlawful possession of a firearm, were dismissed. Lopez was sentenced to 18 months in prison with credit for time served. He was also ordered to submit to one year of post-prison supervision. In two separate cases, Lopez pleaded guilty to third-degree theft in connection with a Feb. 16 incident and failure to appear for a March 16 court date. An additional charge of second-degree failure to appear was dismissed. In each of those cases he was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for time served. All the sentences are to be served concurrently.

Oregon State Police

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending May 25:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 10
- Average inmates: 9
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 4
- Arrests: 3
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 3
- Civil papers: 15
- Warrants processed: 0
- Assist/welfare check: 2
- Search and rescue: 1

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending May 25:

- Traffic citations filed: 8
- Misdemeanors filed: 2
- Small claims filed: 1
- Cases on probation: 42
- Hearings held: 5
- Driver's license suspensions: 7
- Violation of the basic rule: Daniel Glynn Pouch, 22, Portland, April 29, 85/55 zone, fined \$265.
- Violating the speed limit: Kyle Schlagenhauf, 53, Arcata, California, 85/65 zone, fined \$265.
- Driving while suspended or revoked: Sherry Lee Ann Nye, 42, Payette, Idaho, March 15, fined \$440; Thomas Harry Stephens, 60, Canyon City, May 1, fined \$440; Joseph Michael Warren, 38, Canyon City, May 1, fined \$440; Thomas Edward Pfeifer, 52, Prairie City, March 13, fined \$440.
- No operator's license: Douglas Delando Reece, 43, Spring, Texas, April 12, fined \$265.
- Driving uninsured: Thomas Harry Stephens, 60, Canyon City, May 1, fined \$265; Joseph Michael Warren, 38, Canyon City, May 1, fined \$265; Douglas Delando Reece, 43, Spring, Texas, April 12, fined \$265.

Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 150 calls during the week ending May 25, including:

- **Oregon State Police**
May 20
3:34 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 157.
- May 21**
8:11 p.m.: Advised of cows on Highway 26 near milepost 147.
- May 24**
7:32 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 160.
8:45 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 near milepost 159.
- May 25**
10:48 a.m.: Advised of garbage coming out of a truck on Highway 26 near milepost 157.
- **Grant County Sheriff**
May 18
8:22 a.m.: Responded to Grant Union High School for a public assist.
11:53 a.m.: Responded to Dairy Queen, John Day, for a report of animal abuse.
5:01 p.m.: Responded to Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, for a suspicious person.
9:46 p.m.: Received a report of a stolen vehicle from South Canyon Boulevard, John Day.
- May 19**
12:20 a.m.: Received a report of shots fired on Southwest Brent Street, John Day.
9:06 a.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near milepost 156 with Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Transportation for a fallen tree on the highway.
9:16 a.m.: Responded to Prairie City School for a public assist.
12:55 p.m.: Responded to Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day, for a welfare check.
1:34 p.m.: Received a report of possible elder abuse.
2:12 p.m.: Responded to Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day, with John Day Ambulance for a 79-year-old male with memory issues.
4:35 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a report of a domestic assault.
5:58 p.m.: Responded to Second Street, Prairie City. Ronald James Salazar, 34, was arrested on charges related to domestic violence.
6:57 p.m.: Responded to the Elks Club, John Day, for a suspicious person.
7:33 p.m.: Advised of a theft of cans from the can return at Chester's Market, John Day.
- May 20**
12:20 a.m.: Tiffany Rose Tkachenko, aka Tiffany Rose Sanders, 36, of Redmond turned herself in at the Grant County Jail and was arrested on a Grant County warrant.
7:42 a.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 153. Cassidy Williams, 21, of John Day was cited for violating the basic rule (84/55 zone).
10:07 a.m.: Responded to Highway 395 South near milepost 4C for a single-vehicle crash.

John Day Fire, John Day Ambulance and Oregon State Police also responded.

4:02 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 145. Stanley Lochrie, 71, of West Linn was cited for violating the basic rule (80/55 zone).

May 21

12:49 a.m.: Responded to Front Street, Prairie City, for a trespassing complaint.
2:13 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 395 South near milepost 9C. Driver warned for violating the basic rule.
3:32: Advised of a fraud report from Williams Street, Prairie City.
5:09 p.m.: Responded to OK garage in Long Creek for a harassment complaint.
5:28 p.m.: Responded to Canyon City. Leland Turner, 88, of Canyon City was cited for hit and run.
6:26 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 near milepost 158. Driver warned for violating the basic rule.
8:32 p.m.: Responded to Southwest First Street, John Day, for a welfare check.
9:09 p.m.: Responded to Oxbow Restaurant, Prairie City, for a report of trespassing and criminal mischief.
9:19 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near Johnson Avenue to assist a motorist.
10:10 p.m.: Responded to Canyon Creek Lane, Canyon City, to remove a hazard cow from the road.

May 22

10 a.m.: Responded to Clyde Holliday State Park, Mt. Vernon, for a driving complaint.

May 24

12:01 a.m.: Advised of a reported burglary on Northwest Third Street, John Day.
7:27 a.m.: Responded to Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day, for a report of custodial interference.
5:42 p.m.: Responded to Meadowbrook Apartments, John Day, for a verbal domestic dispute.
6:52 p.m.: Grant County Search and Rescue Team responded to Highway 395 and Forest Road 3900 for a missing person report.

May 25

1:04 p.m.: Responded with Oregon State Police to Lower Yard Road, John Day, for a report of shots fired. Christopher Hoppe, 39, of John Day was arrested on multiple charges. No injuries were reported.
4:29 p.m.: Took a report from Mt. Vernon of an assault on a child.
6 p.m.: Responded with Oregon State Police to Len's Pharmacy, John Day. Michael Shane Griffin, 45, of John Day was cited for hit and run.
9:19 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a domestic dispute. Jessica Anne Thomas, 38, of John Day was arrested on an

assault charge.

• John Day Ambulance May 18

4:13 p.m.: Dispatched to Jenkins Road, Mt. Vernon, for an elderly female with a medical issue.
8:54 p.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for a medical welfare check. No transport.

May 19

12:30 a.m.: Dispatched to Cottonwood Street, Mt. Vernon, for a person with mental health issues. Grant County Sheriff's Office also responded.
9:09 a.m.: Dispatched to Valley View Assisted Living for a 74-year-old female with shortness of breath.
7:36 p.m.: Patient transport to St. Luke's Boise Medical Center.

May 20

4:41 p.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for a 58-year-old female with difficulty breathing.

May 21

5:31 p.m.: Dispatched to Dugout Lane for a 92-year-old male having a stroke.

May 22

6:23 a.m.: Dispatched to Valley View Memory Care for a n 86-year-old female with low oxygen saturation.

May 23

8:58 a.m.: Patient transport from Valley View.
10:50 a.m.: Dispatched to Thomason Lane for an 89-year-old man with a fall injury.

May 23

12:06 p.m.: Dispatched to Front Street, Prairie City, for a male having a seizure.

May 24

2:11 a.m.: Dispatched to Canyon Creek Apartments for a 35-year-old male vomiting.
2:55 a.m.: Dispatched to Dayton Street for a 28-year-old female who had just given birth.
11:27 a.m.: Dispatched to Southwest First Avenue for a male subject with dizziness. Patient refused transport.

May 25

11:09 a.m.: Responded to Northeast Elm Street. Female transported to hospital.
11:40 a.m.: Dispatched to Aldrich View Place for a female who fell down the stairs. Patient transported to hospital.

• Seneca Ambulance May 19

3:30 p.m.: Dispatched to A Avenue for a 65-year-old female with pain and swelling in her feet. John Day Ambulance also responded.
4:39 p.m.: Dispatched to Park Avenue for a 52-year-old male having convulsions. John Day Ambulance also responded.

• Monument Ambulance May 23

3:10 p.m.: Dispatched to Third Street for a male with neck pain. John Day Ambulance also responded, transported subject to hospital.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald, File

Holcomb Park is on the north shore of the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir about three miles east of Richland. Baker County owns and operates the park along with its neighbor, Hewitt Park.

Stranded boats return safely

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City herald

RICHLAND — Four people in two separate boats made it safely back to Hewitt Park, on the Powder River arm of Brownlee Reservoir near Richland, after both vessels had fuel problems on Monday afternoon, May 23.

The incident started around 1:17 p.m. when Baker County Dispatch received a cellphone call from a boater, said Ashley McClay, public information officer for the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

The caller said the 21-foot boat had run out of gas and lacked oars. It was in the middle of the river near Brownlee Dam.

(McClay said there is no report on the incident and she hadn't confirmed the names of any of the four people involved.)

There were two people and one dog aboard, McClay said.

While Marine Deputy Wayne Paxton and Deputy Brian Harvey were en route to the scene in a patrol boat, the Dispatch Center received a second call.

A woman from La Grande said she had spoken by cellphone with her husband and son about 12:58 p.m., and that the motor in their boat,

in the same area of the reservoir, would not start.

The woman told a dispatcher that the call ended and she couldn't reach her husband and son again.

Then Dispatch received a third call, this one from one of the people on the first stranded boat.

The caller said another boat was towing them back toward Holcomb Park.

The dispatcher asked the caller to describe the people on the second boat, and it became clear that the rescuers were the father and son from La Grande, McClay said.

But the problems weren't over.

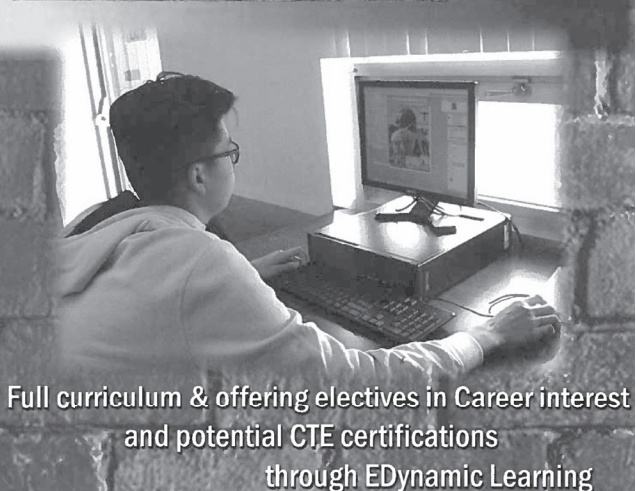
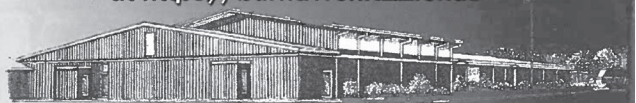
While the La Grande father and son were towing the other boat, their own boat, a 1978 Marlin Sidewinder, also stopped running.

When Paxton and Harvey arrived later in the afternoon, they poured fuel into the first boat, which started.

The issue with the second boat was that it hadn't automatically switched from the empty tank to a tank that still had fuel. The boat owner fixed that issue and all three boats, with the Sheriff's Office vessel in the rear, returned to Hewitt Park, McClay said.

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