



The Baker County Press

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New lieutenant sworn in

• DUSTIN NEWMAN TAKES HIS OATH

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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On Friday, May 29, Patrol Sergeant Dustin Newman was sworn in as the Baker City Police Department's new Lieutenant.

Newman, who joined the Baker City Police Department March 4, 2014, replaces Kirk McCormick who left the Department in April to take a Police Chief position out of the state. Newman began his

career in 1999 as a reserve with the Polk County Sheriff Department, and has been in law enforcement for over 15 years.

Most recently, Newman was a Patrol Sergeant with Polk County, spending his last five years with the Department in that role.

"I left a Patrol Sergeant spot to come over here for an officer spot and got promoted shortly after," said Newman.

Only months after arriving in Baker City, in July of 2014, Newman was promoted to Patrol Sergeant, filling a vacancy created

when Sergeant Josh Bryant left the Department.

Newman and his family, he said, "Love Baker City; it's a neat place. We came over to raise our kids and it's done everything we could've imagined."

City Recorder/Human Resource Manager Luke Yeaton Administered the Oath to Newman in City Council Chambers to a small crowd that included Newman's family, City employees, law enforcement for the City Police Department, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, and members of OSP.

Newman's parents, who were traveling from the west side of the state were held up by a truck wreck near milepost 259 outside of La Grande, delaying the ceremony.

A tractor trailer pulling two flatbeds of lumber failed to negotiate a curve, resulting in a rollover that spilled the lumber across all lanes of travel closing the interstate for hours while the lumber and wreckage were removed. ODOT took time to inspect a bridge support that was struck as well.

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Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

Lt. Dustin Newman shows a softer side, hugging his mom who traveled to witness his swearing in.



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

Local home food storage expert Janice Nelson displays home food storage techniques and hands out dehydrated fruits and vegetables during the Emergency Preparedness Fair, held at the Baker City National Guard Armory, Saturday, May 30.

Citizens come out to prepare

• COUNTY'S FIRST ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS FAIR HELD AT ARMORY

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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A diverse group of individuals and organizations came together Saturday, May 30, to offer the Baker City community the first Emergency Preparedness Fair.

The event was presented by Baker County Emergency Management and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Jason Yencopal, manager of Baker County Emergency Management and newly appointed director of 911 Consolidated Emergency Dispatch, was key in organizing the Emergency Preparedness Fair and hopes to build upon the positive start and make it an annual event.

Yencopal targets the month of September for next years' Emergency Preparedness Fair to align it with national emergency preparedness month.

The fair was supported by community partners including the American Red Cross, the Baker County Chapter of the Oath Keepers, The Baker County Sheriff's Department, the City of Baker City, and The Baker County Press.

About 60 people attended the event throughout the day and were offered classes and vendor displays to learn how to recognize and prepare for emergencies and how to assemble an emergency survival kit.

"The purpose of the Emergency Preparedness Fair is for people to get general information on different types of emergencies and to begin making plans, building emergency kits, and being informed," said Yencopal. "Regardless of the type of emergency, the kit won't change—it'll work for all types of emergency."

Upon entering the Baker City National Guard Armory, participants were greeted by Torie Andrews, Baker County Public Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Andrews helped citizens sign-up for the Code Red Emergency telephone notification system. While all landlines in the Baker County area are automatically part of the system, Andrews explained that not all people have landlines and instead carry cellular phones. These individuals must sign-up and register their cellular phone numbers to be included in the Code Red Emergency system.

The Code Red Emergency phone calls go out to inform citizens of public health emergencies which may include evacuation notices, missing children alerts, air quality warnings during fire seasons, food and disease outbreaks, or severe weather events.

Most recently the Code Red Emergency system was deployed in 2013 to inform local citizens of the cryptosporidium contamination to the city water supply, according to Andrews.

Anyone may register for the Code Red system by signing into the data base at: www.baker911.org.

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Toddler on road to recovery

• 15-MONTH-OLD NEARLY DROWNS, SIBLINGS ASSIST IN SAVING HIS LIFE

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Next Tuesday at the Haines School's year-end assembly, two grade-schoolers will be honored. Caleb and Wesley Kerns, in third and second grades respectively, were instrumental in saving their little brother, Thomas, from a near drowning last week.

According to the Baker County Sheriff's department, on May 26, 2015 at about 4:17 p.m., Baker County Consolidated Dispatch received a 911 call from mother, Ori Kerns, after her 15-month-old son, Thomas had been found floating in a pond at her residence and was not breathing and unresponsive.

Thomas had been found in the pond by his sister, Kiley (age 5) and was pulled from the water by his brother Wesley (age 8). Thomas' other brother, Caleb (age 9) dialed 911 for his mother.

SEE TODDLER RECOVERING PAGE 8

Baker City man missing since May 18

• STREET WAS SCHEDULED FOR HEARING, WIFE 'VERY WORRIED'

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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The family of a Baker City man, Ken Street, recently filed a missing persons report with local law enforcement.

According to Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, and Street's wife, Sherrie, he was last seen on May 18, when he said he was leaving to go work at a house or cabin in the Medical Springs area. Law enforcement investigated the cabin but found no evidence as to whether Street had been there or not, said Lohner.



Photo Courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Kenneth Street.

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	Friday	Partly cloudy. Mostly clear skies with the minimal threat of a shower/thunderstorm. Highs around 78 and a low around 54.
	Saturday	Partly cloudy. Mostly clear skies with a more probable threat (30%) of a shower/thunderstorm. Similar high/low to Friday.
	Sunday	Partly sunny. Mostly clear skies with a 30% threat of showers/thunderstorms in the afternoon hours. High around 79. Low around 56.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



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