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A NEW TEAM BEGINS AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Swearing-in ceremony held



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

L-R: Mark Bennett, Cindy Carpenter, Alice Durlinger and Bill Harvey took their Oaths of Office on Tuesday, December 30th at the Baker County Courthouse.

By Todd Arriola
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On Tuesday, December 30 at 10 a.m., friends, family, and co-workers gathered in the Commissioners Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse to attend the swearing-in ceremony for Bill Harvey, County Commission Chair; Mark Bennett, County Commissioner; Cindy Car-

penyer, County Clerk; and Alice Durlinger, County Treasurer, all elected to their positions this November.

Tami Green first administered the Oath of Office to Carpenter, who is replacing Green as County Clerk. Both held up their right hands, and Carpenter repeated (filling in her name):

"I, Cindy Carpenter, do

solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and the law thereof, and will faithfully and honorably demean myself in the office of County Clerk, to which I've been elected, to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Durlinger, Bennett and Harvey were all sworn in

following Carpenter, repeating the same oath, the only difference being their name and the position to which they were elected.

Each received their own applause, and upon completion of the oaths, an enthusiastic, "Here, here," with further applause, was heard from the crowd.

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Murder for hire plot

BAKER CITY POLICE FOIL LOCAL WOMAN'S PLAN TO HAVE EX-BOYFRIEND MURDERED



Submitted Photo.

Emily Munsell, 24, of Baker City, was arraigned Monday.

By Kerry McQuisten

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Emily Munsell, age 24 and a resident at 1356 Dewey Avenue in Baker City, was arrested last Friday and charged with one count of solicitation to commit murder.

According to an initial press release from the District Attorney's office and other reports, the Baker City Police Department received a tip from one of Munsell's relatives that Munsell was looking to hire a hitman to murder her ex-boyfriend—who is also her son's father.

The local police initiated an undercover sting operation, which resulted in Munsell's arrest after she tried to hire the officer for the murder. Munsell was allegedly willing to pay up to \$1,000 for the murder.

Munsell was arraigned this Monday.

Though a Class A felony if convicted, the solitary charge might only carry a three to five year prison sentence—but as a guidelines sentence the range could potentially be broader and carry a tougher sentence dependent in part on factors such as the accused criminal background, according to District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff.

This particular crime would not fall under Oregon's Ballot Measure 11. Measure 11 was a citizens' initiative passed in 1994 and sponsored by then-State Representative Kevin Mannix, which established minimum sentences for certain criminal offenses.

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Huntington awarded \$3 million grant

By Eileen Driver

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The City of Huntington has been awarded and has accepted a \$3 million grant from the Infrastructure Finance Authority, or IFA, to totally replace the City's existing sewer system.

According to Tracy Mclean, the Huntington City Recorder, "This is the largest grant we have ever received and the largest project we have ever undertaken."

The current system, which was built in the 1960s and revamped in the 1980s, has been the subject of much debate for the last several years between City Officials and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

See **\$3 MILLION GRANT** / Page 5

When the freeways close ...

ODOT ADVISES AGAINST USING UNFAMILIAR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

By Brian Addison
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The mountain passes between Baker City and Pendleton, and the curves and shady spots between Baker City and Ontario offer some of the most treacherous winter driving conditions in the U.S. Every year drivers traveling through this region become victims of slick roads with Interstate-84 setting the scene of several devastating motor vehicle accidents in the past several years.

Sometimes these accidents prove fatal.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recognizes the safety hazards posed by harsh winter conditions in this region combined with heavy semi-truck and pas-



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Dooley Mountain is closed to big rigs including tour busses as an alternate route during freeway closures.

senger vehicle traffic and have road crews working 24-hours per day, seven day per week to make the

thoroughfares passable. Even with this intensive effort, many times between November and March

ODOT makes the decision to close the interstate.

See **ODOT** / Page 8



Friday

Mostly cloudy. Partly sunny and cold, highs in the mid 20s. Nighttime low around 15.



Saturday

Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of an early morning snow shower. Chance of precip is 20%, highs in the upper 20s. Low around 14.



Sunday

Mostly cloudy. A chance of snow, light accumulations are possible. Chance of precip is 30%. High of around 30 degrees. Low of 25.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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