

The Baker County Press

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Reality series features Hells Canyon cabin with Unity ties

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Two days ago, “Unplugged Nation” on the FYI Channel, began airing a show about life off the grid.

The setting for the debut episode? A cabin in Hells Canyon, accessible only by boat, and owned by Dale and Betsy McGreer of Clarkston.

“It was quite the humorous undertaking for Dale and I,” said Betsy McGreer.

According to a recent article in Inland360.com, the show “follows couples and families who test out the unplugged lifestyle in remote locations across America. Trailers for the series show scenes from an Atlanta couple’s stay in a luxury cabin in Hells Canyon.”

When asked how real their realty TV experience was, Betsy said with a laugh, “Oh, it was absolutely staged all the way around.”

Betsy said their adven-

ture began just after they’d listed the cabin with a realtor, Gary Bergan of Century 21, who was then contacted by a film crew.

Within two weeks, the international crew of five showed up to begin a four-day shoot.

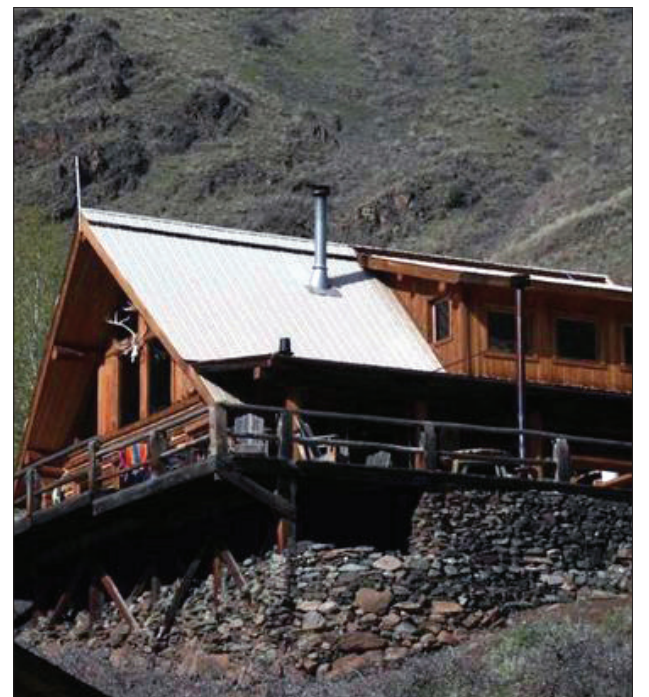
“The whole idea,” said Betsy, “was to find a couple interested in living off the grid and pair them up with the right place. We knew the minute they showed up with three young children that it wasn’t going to work.”

The McGreers have Baker County ties—relatives in Unity who have eagerly been awaiting the show to see whether it all “worked” or not—for a very personal reason.

Betsy’s sister and brother-in-law, Jan and Ken Alexander, live in the Unity area, where they raised their two children, Brian and Pam.

The family helped build the featured cabin back in 1992.

SEE REALITY SERIES PAGE 5



Submitted Photo.

This hand-crafted cabin featured on “Unplugged Nation” is for sale for \$425,000 on Realtor.com.



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Jeff Sizer (right) and wife, Gina, performed at Earth & Vine last weekend, just after returning from Pasco on a house-hunting trip.

Beloved band teacher to move

• AFTER 15 YEARS TEACHING HERE, JEFF SIZER ACCEPTS JOB IN PASCO

BY BRIAN ADDISON
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Baker School District’s loss is the Pasco, Washington school district’s gain as beloved Baker High School and Middle School band instructor Jeff Sizer has accepted a new job beginning this 2015/2016 school year. Sizer has led the Baker City school band programs at the high school and middle school since 2000.

“I’ll miss the kids here, the kids are just great,” Sizer said, as he cleaned out his office at the Baker High School band room during an interview July

28. “I’ve had a whole bunch of outstanding students and I’ve always said this is the best job in town. Teaching kids music, what could be better?”

Sizer and his wife Gina will not only be missed in the local academic community but also among local music lovers as they’ve cultivated an audience of those who appreciate jazz.

The Sizers are well-known throughout the northwest as accomplished jazz performers with Jeff on trombone and keyboard and Gina strumming guitar and singing at local venues.

While Sizer is moving to teach elementary music students in Pasco, he and Gina will maintain ties to Baker City keeping their Haines area property with plans to retire here. Jeff said he plans to enter retirement in about five

years.

Among Sizer’s accomplishments at Baker High School are helping teach, guide and encourage a long list of talented musicians who’ve gone on to study and make career plans within the field of music.

Just in the past couple years, Sammie Stone has gone on to play in orchestra and jazz bands as a music major at Willamette University.

He thinks Sammie will likely become a college music professor someday. Bryan Ames attends St. Olaf College and holds the lead alto position in the college’s first jazz band.

Cody Gyllenberg continues his music studies and performs in the jazz band at Washington State University.

Jace Roland plays in the jazz and wind ensemble bands at Central Washing-

ton University with a goal of graduating with a Music Education degree.

Naomi Smith attends Central Washington University on a full-ride music scholarship while her sister Ember, a trombonist, played in an orchestra and attended a music conservatory in the Czech Republic.

Isaac Mansueti performs as a pianist in the jazz ensemble at University of Portland.

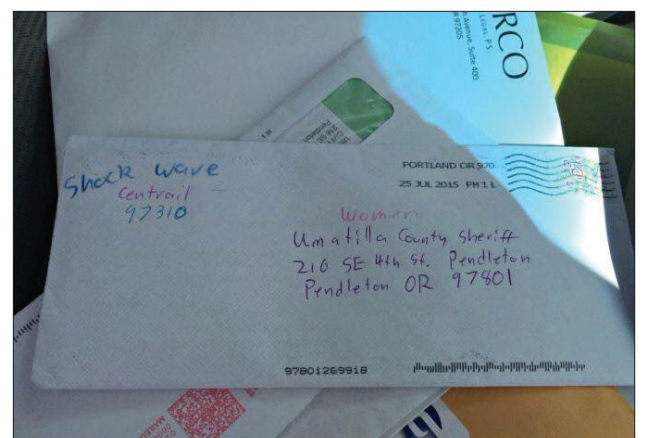
Mitch Sandufer is an active bassist studying and performing at Colorado College.

Rebekah Rushton plans to attend Boise State University to study flute performance. Sam Ragsdale studies as a music major at Eastern Oregon University.

Aria Carpenter takes her trumpet skills to University of Utah this Fall.

SEE SIZER PAGE 13

Envelope-sender identified, cause of Sheriff’s illness unknown



Submitted Photo.

This envelope received in Umatilla County did not contain any toxic substance.

• NO TOXINS IN ENVELOPE RECEIVED AT THE BAKER COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Early Monday afternoon, reports began coming in that the Baker County Sheriff’s Department had been one of numerous government offices targeted in a mailing that sent envelopes containing a suspicious substance to government offices across Oregon. Those reports proved true—but only in part.

SEE ENVELOPES PAGE 8

Political intrigue abounds in Sumpter

• THREE MORE RECALL PETITIONS FILED

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
Meghan@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Forget speculation over upcoming presidential races. Those interested in political intrigue need look no farther than Sumpter, Oregon, where one completed and three prospective recall petitions have been filed.

A prospective petition to recall Mayor Melissa Findley, who took office in January, was filed by Chief Petitioner Alan D. Patton on July 7th. The completed petition, with 34 signatures, was submitted on July 23rd.

SEE SUMPTER PAGE 10

Friday Hot with abundant sunshine. High in the mid 90s. Mostly clear with cool overnight temperatures. Lows in the mid 50s.

Saturday More clouds than Friday, still hot. Highs in the mid 90s. Another cool night with mostly clear skies. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday Hot and mostly cloudy, slight chance of an afternoon thunderstorm. Chance of precipitation is 30%, highs in the mid 90s.

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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