

# Local

## Huntington holds town hall for commissioner candidate

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In a special town hall meeting held Monday night April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, the citizens of Huntington got the chance to meet and talk with one of the candidates for Baker County Commissioner, Kody Justus.

Justus wanted to talk with the people to find out what their concerns are and to let them know what goals he hopes to work toward for the betterment of Baker County should he be elected.

Kody Justus and past generations of his family have resided in and around Baker County since 1891 and are currently cattle ranchers with strong ties to the community. He was accompanied by his wife Heidi and his young daughter Zoey.

Rather than stand up and give a speech Justus sat among the people present and encouraged them to ask the questions that concerned them.

When asked what he sees as his goal for Baker County he told the assembly that he wants to work to ensure that Baker County gets to keep what it has and that control of



Submitted Photo.

A small group gathered to meet Justus during a Huntington visit.

local lands and resources stays in local hands.

He believes that government needs to work together with each other and especially with the people and not arbitrarily on their own.

Justus stated, "When people get to the point they are not being listened to and think they have

nothing left to lose is when trouble starts."

He wants the people to know that he is listening.

The Huntington citizens present talked with him about their concerns about bringing jobs to the area, their feelings of loss of control to BLM and Idaho Power over their main resource, the Snake River

and that they feel they are often left out the loop when it comes to what's happening in the rest of the county.

For more information on Kody Justus you can go to [JustusForBakerCounty.com](http://JustusForBakerCounty.com), Justus For Baker County on facebook or call him personally at 541-519-4061.

## OTEC plays part in drill



Submitted Photo.

Lara Petittlerc-Stokes/Haines and Medical Springs fire crews direct mock crash victim, Anderson, to stay in the vehicle and maintain a safe distance from the simulated accident. Demonstrating an awareness of the dangers of "step potential" in power pole accidents.



Submitted Photo.

Lara Petittlerc-Stokes/Mock crash victim, Jeff Anderson (OTEC's Manager of Loss Control) debriefs with Baker County's Emergency Management team and fire crews from Haines and Medical Springs on Saturday, April 16.

There were more than a few concerned faces slowing down and taking a second look back on Saturday morning as OTEC's Manager of Loss Control Jeff Anderson began building what was to become a mock automobile accident.

With his Chevy truck bumped up against a power pole and billowing smoke, Anderson gingerly draped what looked like an energized power line across the top of his rig and said, "maybe next year I'll suggest we move this off of the main road so people don't get too concerned as they drive past."

The finishing touch for Anderson's crash scene was a red and white jar of I Can't Believe It's Not Blood that he strategically poured over his head and onto his crisp white t-shirt.

"I wore this white shirt special so it would have maximum impact," Anderson added.

And that is the whole point of this safety training – maximum impact.

This is the twelfth year the Baker County Emergency Management team has been performing these exercises. For this training they had four scenarios set up across town with true-to-life, life threatening situations for emergency crews to train with.

"All crews participating are going to receive a dispatch call today and, just as in a genuine emergency situation, they are not going to know what they will find until they arrive," said Anderson.

At the OTEC site, what crews found was an injured driver in a truck that had hit a power pole, appeared to be on fire, with a live power line draped across its top.

"When current is flowing from a downed power line into the earth, a high-voltage condition is created," explains Anderson. "When faced with this emergency scenario, it is important for crews to remain a safe distance away until given the all-clear to move in. Voltage can be radiating from the downed line into the ground. If responders step too close, electrical voltage can come back up through the ground and electrify the emergency crews trying to save an accident victim. This is called 'step potential.'"

"We have been training with every one of these departments this past year reviewing the dangers of voltage and 'step potential'," said Anderson. "This is a little 'in the field' test to see what happens."

Anderson advises, "If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, the best thing to do is to try and remain calm and not get out unless the vehicle is on fire. If you must exit because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together, maintain balance and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock."

"Providing this opportunity for training was no small task and took the coordinated efforts of multiple emergency response departments across the county," noted Anderson. "Crews will be scored on their response, and resolution to each scenario and given professional advice, where needed, to make the teams stronger when they truly get called out."

OTEC offers public safety training to schools, emergency response organizations and government agencies. For more information, contact your local OTEC office or email Jeff Anderson at: [janderson@otecc.com](mailto:janderson@otecc.com)

## Snake River open for spring chinook

Spring Chinook fishing in northeast Oregon kicks off on Saturday, April 23 with the opening of the upper Snake River to salmon fishing.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will open the upper Snake River for spring chinook fishing under the following regulations:

Open to sport fishing seven-days-a-week from Dug Bar Boat Ramp to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam. The fishery will remain open until a notice of closure is announced.

The daily bag limit is four hatchery spring Chinook salmon (adult and jacks) per day, no more than two can be an adult salmon more than 24-inches long.

Anglers must stop fishing for salmon for the day when they have kept four jack salmon (equal to or less than 24-inches long) or two adult salmon, whichever comes first. Only barbless hooks may be used. Anglers are reminded to review the 2016 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for other applicable regulations.

ODFW and Idaho Fish and Game fishery managers, who co-manage the upper Snake River sport fishery, anticipate over 2,700 hatchery adult salmon will return to the base of Hell's Canyon Dam. "Currently, the run is coming in later than expected but we're optimistic we will have a good Snake River fishery this year" said Jeff Yanke, ODFW district fish biologist in Enterprise. "We expect the catch rates to pick up in the upper Snake around mid-May," he said. Managers are also

monitoring detections of Chinook salmon stocks that support fisheries in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers. Spring Chinook returns to these basins are much lower than previous years "Our pre-season projections suggest there may be enough fish in both the Imnaha and Grande Ronde basins to have limited opportunity", Yanke said.

Season changes and closures announcements will be posted on the ODFW website and released through local news outlets.

## Local police target distracted drivers

On April 22, 2016 the Baker City Police Department and the Oregon State Police will conduct a "Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign" in Baker City.

Officers and Troopers will primarily be looking for motor vehicle operators

who are using their cell phones while driving their vehicles.

Law Enforcement officers will be on foot in the downtown area, primarily near the Main and Broadway intersection and the Main and Campbell

intersection, looking for violators.

If a violation is observed, they will radio vehicle and driver information to police units staged in the area, which will then conduct the traffic stop.

The State of Oregon has

seen a rise in traffic fatalities recently and it is our goal to remind motorists of the need to remove distractions when operating motor vehicles.

## County has board vacancies open

Baker County has vacancies on the following boards/committees:

- Baker County Museum Commission
- Baker County Cultural Coalition
- Baker County Fair Board and Fair Advisory

Board

- Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Advisory Committee
- Transportation/Traffic Safety Committee
- Early Learning Council
- Parks Advisory Board

Persons interested in volunteering to serve on the above boards are asked to fill out a volunteer form and return it to the Commissioner's office prior to April 30, 2016.

The form is available at [www.bakercounty.org](http://www.bakercounty.org) or

in the Commissioner's Office located at 1995 Third Street, Baker City, OR 97814. Questions may be referred to Heidi Martin at 541-523-8200.

## Hospital employees arraigned on drug-related charges

Two former St. Alphonsus Valley Medical Clinic employees were recently arraigned in Baker County Circuit Court.

Sarah Marie Rea (DOB 6-19-1995) of 1717 Washington Avenue, Baker City, Oregon, and Kara Joyce Delcurto (DOB 3-7-1984)

of 42173 Moody Road, Richland, Oregon, were both indicted by a Baker County Grand Jury for two counts of Tampering with Drug Records, a Class C Felony, and two counts of Unlawful Possession of Oxycodone, also a Class C Felony.

Both are alleged to have been involved in forging a prescription and unlawfully obtaining oxycodone at a local pharmacy. These cases are being handled by Erin Landis, Malheur County Deputy District Attorney, due to a conflict of interest as Baker County

District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff is chairman for the St. Alphonsus community hospital board.

Hearing pleas are scheduled for Delcurto on May 5, 2016, and for Rea on April 25, 2016.