

## HYDRO-DIP

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They also wanted to live closer to La Grande, where they grew up. "I love it here — for me this is coming home," Scott Springer, 47, said. Hydro-Dip is at 2300 Windmill Lane, east of Interstate 84 near the Campbell Street interchange.

### Company history

Hydro-Dip started when the brothers were unemployed and looking for something new to do. "We were always outdoors men, we loved hunting, we loved fishing and dipping wasn't being done on a retail level at that time," Todd, 45, said.

Prior to starting the business neither brother had experience managing or owning a business. "We weren't going to have employees, we knew nothing about managing employees," Scott said.

But as the business grew it wasn't possible to handle all the work with just the two of them. Hydro-Dip has employed as many as 14 people, although its current workforce numbers seven.

"We are not really HR guys, we are get-it-done guys, so to worry about everybody's feelings and learn all the things involved with managing employees that's been probably the most difficult part of the business," Scott said.

The Springers' first contract came a lot sooner than they expected. The brothers were working at their parents' embroidery shop when they received a call from an aerospace company. At the time they didn't even have keys to the building where their tank was located.

Growing the business was challenging.

They worked 20-hour days and seven days a week at times. Todd says he once went 168 days without taking a day off.

"We didn't realize it was as involved as what it really became," Todd said.

Damion Holmes, 40, has been with Hydro-Dip for about two years and is in charge of the company's retail projects.



Casey Crowley / Baker City Herald

Graphics can be applied to items such as motorcycle helmets and water bottles.

Retail projects usually have a \$100 dollar minimum. In the case of a single item that would cost less than \$100, Holmes tries to encourage the customer to have multiple items hydro-dipped rather than just one.

"There is not a template for every person, it all needs a personal touch because some people might not be entirely sure what they are getting into," Holmes said.

While some customers think the process of choosing a design is simple, Holmes says that process can sometimes require something like an interview.

Designs vary in cost depending on how complex the patterns are and the type of finish.

### Finding employees

The Springers said they have had trouble finding employees locally.

The company has been looking for painters as well as general labour but has not found enough applicants despite advertising the positions.

The company has hired one employee since moving to Baker City. Before moving to Baker City they had heard that finding employees could be challenging here,

but they thought they may have an easier time because of the outdoors-inspired culture of the company.

The process to become proficient at using the hydro-dip tank can take up to two years, he said.

"Every new employee can't wait to get to the dip tank," Scott said. "Once they get there they realize, 'holy hell, I need out of here.'"

Because of the hiring struggles the company is willing to hire employees who would need training on how to do the painting and hydro-dipping.

At first most people have a failure rate of around 30 percent when hydro-dipping, but after training and practice that number drops to around 10 percent.

Todd holds himself to the standard of only 3 percent. If an item dip fails, it has to restart the whole dipping process which includes it sanding and repainting the item before dipping it again.

"There has been a big learning curve over the last decade — it's never easy, it's never the same," Todd said.

In addition to doing hydro-dipping for a wide range of products, the company also sells do-it-yourself hydro-dip kits online for individuals and small businesses.

## OBITUARIES

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### Perry Yowell

Halfway, 1929-2018

Born in Baker on Jan. 14, 1929, the son of a gold miner, Perry grew up in Halfway and entered the Merchant Marines at age 16. He later served in both the Navy and Army as a helicopter pilot. Perry spent the better part of four decades in the military and was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He retired as Chief Warrant Officer in 1974 with 20 air medals, among other awards.

Perry enjoyed playing guitar, building kit cars, fishing and tinkering with just about anything.

He is survived by his daughter, Pamela Allen; his stepchildren, Robert Keller, Michael Keller and Valorie Mast; his grandchildren, John, Ben and Caitlin Odom; and his sister Veva Jefferson.

He was preceded in death by his son, Perry Yowell; his brother, Gayle Yowell; and his sister, Charlotte Peterson.

Those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of PT may do so to the local VFW or charity of your choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

### Hazel Emery

Baker City, 1927-2018

Hazel Emery, 91, of Baker City, died Sept. 4, 2018, at Boise.

A celebration of Hazel's life will take place on Friday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. at the VFW Memorial Club, 2005 Valley Ave. at Baker City with continued celebration and dancing to Frank Carlson from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Emmett Cemetery in Emmett, Idaho.

Hazel Wanida Emery was born on April 20, 1927, to Chris and Olga Fenton. She was raised in Emmett. She met James Howard in Boise

and they were married in 1950. They had two children, Sherry and Darell, and divorced in 1953.

She married Jerold Lovell in 1955. They had two children, Danny and Melva, and later divorced.

In 1971 she married James Emery Sr. and they spent many wonderful years together at the South Slope house in Emmett. She received her GED in Boise in 1976.

She joined the VFW in 1972 at Emmett and became a life member of the Baker City VFW. Her favorite color was red, favorite flowers were roses, favorite season was summer, favorite poem was "Miss me but let me go," her favorite saying as an expletive starting with "s" and her special pets were her poodles, Tammy and Tinker.

During her life she lived mostly in Emmett or Horseshoe Bend in Idaho; and Imnaha and Baker City in Oregon. She worked mainly as a cook in Emmett. She enjoyed dancing and snowmobiling.

Memorable times in her life were camping in Idaho with her sister, brother-in-law and husband.

Hazel would like to be remembered for being a three-time cancer survivor.

Hazel is survived by her children, Sherry Given and Darell Howard of Baker City; her son-in-law, Ryan Butler of Baker City; her stepson, James Emery Jr. of Alaska; her stepdaughters, Julia Dykema and Kathy Brown of Idaho; her sisters, Irene Harden of Salem and Flora Barnowski of Boise; nine grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Emery Sr.; her children, Danny Lovell and Melva Butler; her stepdaughter Linda Bray; and her brother, Delbert Fenton.

Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Hazel may do so to the VFW through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## THEFT

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The state medical examiner's office determined that Gonzalez died from a self-inflicted gunshot, Shirtcliff said.

Moore has been charged with two counts of first-degree theft. Both he and Blood are in the Baker County Jail. Both had bail set at \$45,000.

Shirtcliff said he also looked into charging Moore with tampering with physical evidence, a Class A misdemeanor, but a recent ruling by the Oregon Court of Appeals made that charge problematic in this case.

That ruling was based on a case involving the state law regarding tampering with a witness, but Shirtcliff said the relevant language is identical in the statute covering tampering with evidence.

The key clauses require that the person who tampers with evidence both know that the item would be "used in an official proceeding" such as a grand jury meeting or a trial, Shirtcliff said, and remove the item with the intent of preventing its use in that proceeding.

Meeting both those legal standards would be difficult in Moore's case, he said.

"Six months ago I would have filed it, but the standard has changed," Shirtcliff said Tuesday.

He said officials from the Oregon Department of Justice recommended that he not file the tampering charge in this case due to the Appeals Court ruling.

He hopes the Legislature will change the tampering statute so that suspects in similar cases could be charged.

Shirtcliff said the absence of the gun from the scene at the skate park resulted in it taking longer for officials to determine that Gonzalez died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

"The District Attorney's Office takes removal of any item from a death scene very seriously as that effects investigations and in this case delayed getting answers to a grieving family," Shirtcliff stated in a press release earlier this month. "This is a horrible tragedy and the law enforcement community of Baker County extends its condolences to Izah's family at this time."

Shirtcliff noted that the issue with the tampering statute probably wouldn't have had a major effect on the Moore's potential punishment, since the charge is a misdemeanor while the theft counts are felonies.

## DOGS

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Newman said Segerdahl was cited for not having a kennel permit, which the city requires for residents who keep more than four dogs older than 6 months on the same property.

After the citation, Segerdahl applied for a kennel permit, which he obtained on Jan. 3, 2018.

"Normally, if you've got a kennel permit, it's because you're doing what you're supposed to be doing," Newman said. "If you're having too much of a problem, we will revoke a kennel permit."

To obtain a kennel permit, dog owners must apply and then police conduct a background check and notify neighbors before deciding whether to issue the permit.

Newman said the major issue with Segerdahl's dogs apparently was that they would fight with each other.

District Attorney Matt

Shirtcliff said in a press release last week that evidence "indicated that Mr. Segerdahl may have been attempting to break up a fight between the dogs when he received a fatal dog bite."

Two of the dogs were dead, apparently as a result of the fight.

Police impounded the four other dogs, all of which were euthanized.

"We all knew about the dogs," Newman said, adding that they were well-cared for.

Kiashandra Zimmerman, who said she was a good friend of Segerdahl's, said she trusted his dogs around her three-year-old daughter and that they had never shown any signs of aggression.

"Pit bulls have a stereotype of being who they are because they are overbred in the United States of America and they are used for fighting," said Zimmerman, who herself owns a pit bull named Batman.

Zimmerman said Seg-

erdahl's life revolved around the dogs and that he took good care of them.

Teri Bobo had been Segerdahl's neighbor for about six years.

She said his six dogs probably barked less than her own two dogs.

Bobo said she once saw two of Segerdahl's dogs fighting each other, but they quickly stopped after he poured water on them. She had never seen the dogs act aggressively toward people.

After police found Segerdahl's body, Zimmerman helped secure the surviving dogs and drove three of them to the clinic.

Despite what happened to Segerdahl, Zimmerman thinks the dogs could have been adoptable. If she didn't already have three dogs, she said, she would have offered to take two of Segerdahl's dogs.

"They listened to everything he said," Zimmerman said.

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