

TAYLOR

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The Herald also moved last May from its former longtime quarters at 1915 First St. to 1668 Resort St.

Taylor said he hadn't heard of Baker City before learning that he'd be spending his summer in the town as a Snowden intern. And information provided in the program packet he carried with him as he headed east from his home at Roseburg led him to believe he'd be working from the Herald's former First Street office.

"I was fine anywhere they placed me," he said. "Every place is different and every place is special. I'm a little bit happier I came out here in rural Oregon."

Taylor is one of 18 students from throughout Oregon chosen for this year's prestigious University of Oregon Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism, and the 16th to spend the summer with the Herald staff.

Taylor said he's eager to witness firsthand the differences between the blue and red political perspectives in Oregon.

"I was very amazed to see that they held that rally in the rain," he said of the 40 or so people who gathered with the Baker County Republican Party at Geiser-Pollman Park Thursday in support of the 11 Republican senators who fled the Oregon State Capitol in protest of the proposed bill that would have created a carbon cap-and-trade system.

Taylor's father's military career took him and his two sisters, one older and one younger, from childhood homes in Okinawa, Japan, where he attended elementary school, to El Paso, Texas, for Grades 7-9, and then to Fallbrook High School, about 50 miles north of San Diego, for the last three years of high school.

When his father retired from the military he brought his family to Oregon and settled at Roseburg, where he had other family members and friends.

Brandon says his interest in journalism goes back to his freshman year of high school, where he learned an important lesson from his journalism teacher.

"If you want to be a journalist, remember this: Always have a pen and always have a backup pen," he told him.

"I've always been somewhat of a writer," Taylor says.

And he believes his travels with his father's military career have piqued his interest in different topics and cultures.

He began his post-high school journey toward a journalism degree at Lane Community College in Eugene. He stayed in Roseburg for his second year en route to an Oregon Associate of Arts transfer degree, with which he planned to enter the University of Oregon at Eugene the next year.

His plan was slightly derailed during the year at UCC, which got off to a devastating start.

The 2015 school year was in just its fourth day when the college students and staff were attacked by an armed student who shot and killed nine people inside Snyder Hall on the UCC campus before shooting himself.

It was Oct. 1, 2015, a day Taylor doesn't expect to ever forget.

He was headed to UCC that morning, but he hadn't yet had enough coffee to get his day started. So instead of going to class, he headed first for the library to take a short nap.

"I was supposed to be in that building," he said. "I was tired so I went to the library to sleep a little bit."

That nap kept him away from Snyder Hall, which sat just south of the library. The hall has since been torn down and a new building with a new name has been erected.

Because the school year was just getting started, Taylor said he wasn't well-acquainted with his new classmates. But he remembers Kim Dietz, a 59-year-old woman who was among the nine who were killed.

It was not an easy year for Taylor.

"That first term I dropped half my classes," he said.

But he kept his journalism classes and credits his adviser, Melinda Benton, and the college newspaper with helping him make it through the year.

He wrote a personal column about embarrassing experiences in his life: getting pantsed in front of a girl in middle school for one, and pulling a fire alarm when he was a little kid.

The columns made his classmates laugh.

"It was lighthearted stuff to bring levity back to campus," he said. "I don't know if it helped others, but it certainly helped me."

He completed the year and headed to the University of Oregon in 2016, not quite with all the credits he needed for his associate transfer degree.

"I wanted to leave Umpqua as soon as possible," he said.

As the year began he met Professor Lori Shontz in an introductory journalism class. She explained to her students that she was conducting ongoing research related to the Umpqua shooting and would be releasing a report for the Agora Journalism Center at the U of O's School of Journalism and Communication.

Her research is aimed at examining the relationship between mass shootings and mass media and how the reporting affects the community, Taylor said.

"She was in the intro course and was giving a little information about herself and she talked about the UCC shooting," he said. "I told her I was there — and so it goes."

He made his interest in the project known and helped connect Shontz and others with people in the Roseburg community, including key people at the Sheriff's Office where Taylor's dad works as a detective.

"I had the background, I had the information, I was trying to find a positive outlet for that," he said. "It was something I

had to do."

Taylor conducted and transcribed interviews for the project as well, including an interview with the parents of 20-year-old Trevon Anspach, a basketball player who died in the shooting.

Taylor also speaks with pride of other work he has done as a participant in the School of Journalism and Communication's Catalyst Project during two terms in his senior year.

He collaborated with Snowden intern Asia Zeller, who is spending the summer at the McMinnville News-Register, on an investigative piece published in the Eugene Weekly. The two looked into the rate at which special education students in the Lane County School District are disciplined compared to the rate for their peers who were not in special education. They found that the rate, not only in Lane County, but throughout Oregon and the nation is about two times that of those not in special education classes.

Taylor is continuing to work on a second piece through the Catalyst Project that will examine racial profiling within police departments.

Taylor's first week at the Herald has been a busy one.

On the morning of June 26 he hurried to the scene of a police standoff with a man barricaded inside an apartment house just six blocks from the office. He also helped gather information about the closure and reopening of two of Baker City's motels.

He reported on a Sunday town hall visit by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. And on Monday, Taylor traveled to Durkee where U.S. Rep. Greg Walden met with Baker County residents.

Taylor says his experience at UCC and the research work he participated in afterward has helped him better understand the importance of local journalism.

"And how important journalism is to the community and in helping people get through things," he said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Fourth of July run/walk at Haines fundraiser for BHS track, cross country

HAINES — The 12th-annual Fourth of July Fun Run/Walk is planned Thursday, July 4 at Haines.

Two courses, a 5K and a 10K, each start on Main Street at the Haines City Park. Race day registration begins at 7 a.m. Both races begin at 8 a.m. Participants can pre-register by picking up forms at the Baker County YMCA Fitness Center, 3715 Pocahontas Road in Baker City.

The cost of the event, sponsored by Sorbenots, is \$20, \$10 for participants under age 10.

Proceeds benefit the Baker High School cross country and track and field teams.

Baker County students named to scholastic honor roll at Oregon State

CORVALLIS — More than 10 Baker County students were named to the scholastic honor roll for spring term at Oregon State University. To be eligible, students must earn a GPA of at least 3.5 and carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. Students with an asterisk earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

- Baker City — Shayna R. Kennedy*, Courtney M. Lehman*, Casey E. Swanson*, Hannah J. Boruch, Zechariah D. Compos, Jesse J. Johnson, Levi S. Mansueti, Danielle Pierce, Calli N. Ward
- Halfway — Joseph W. Aguilar
- Unity — Shelby D. Swindlehurst

Pothole-filling will result in delays Thursday on road north of Granite

GRANITE — Drivers on Forest Road 52 between the North Fork John Day campground and Ukiah should expect possible delays Thursday, July 2 while Forest Service employees fill potholes on the western portion of the road.

Work will start around 9:30 a.m. and continue until about 3 p.m., according to the Forest Service. The project will happen from the junction of Forest Road 51 (Grande Ronde River road to Starkey) west to the national forest boundary.

Theater auditions set for July 15

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, 2101 Main St., will have auditions at 6 p.m. July 15 at the theater for "A Night on Broadway."

The play, directed by Leanne Hinkle, features two hobos camped in an alley behind a Broadway theater where auditions are happening.

Silliness and bad puns fly as the hobos encounter one rejected actor after another exiting the theater's back door. The actors get the chance to perform their audition songs, which include favorites from shows such as "Wizard of Oz," "The Little Mermaid," "West Side Story," "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Grease."

The director is looking for five males and five females age 14 and up. Come prepared to sing a song with a CD or piano, and to read part of the script.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

ULTIMATE OUTDOOR PROPERTIES!

Richland, OR
July 12th, 2019

1 PM

Very rare opportunity
to buy property on
Brownlee Reservoir!



541-889-5650

37289 Hewitt Dr, Richland OR 97870

Home is a like new 2007 Mobile home with approx. 1008 sq/ft, 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom and a 480 sq/ft basement that has potential for 2 bedrooms with an outside entrance. The home features a living room that faces the reservoir, a large deck and private docks. This house is turn key and fully furnished, ready to be used! Large 686 sq/ft upper deck. Carport 24x19.

37299 Hewitt Dr, Richland OR 97870

Built in 1980, this home offers a large covered deck overlooking the Brownlee Reservoir with private docks. Main level has approx. 660 sq/ft with a living room that faces the reservoir, eating area, kitchen, 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom. Downstairs features an outside entrance and offers a large game room with a pool table, 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. This is a turn key property with all furniture included! Massive 800 sq/ft upper deck and 370 sq/ft lower deck.

NOTES: Very rare opportunity to buy property on the Brownlee Reservoir. Once in a lifetime offering as there are no other properties available on the shores of this reservoir. Located just 42 miles from Baker City, OR and only 3 miles from Richland, OR. There is a landing strip in Baker City and Halfway OR and miles of water to explore. Enjoy endless activities such as water skiing, back country hiking, horse back riding, camping, mining and so much more! Lots of local history all around the greater Baker County area. These properties would make a great family retreat or a wonderful Air BnB investment. Properties are next to the Hewitt Park which has boat landing docks and a recreational area. Call today to preview these incredible properties!

TERMS: This home to be sold at auction with owners confirmation on July 12th, 2019 @ 1pm. Sold As-Is. Close in 30 days. 5% earnest money day of the auction, non-refundable. 5% buyer's premium. Seller to provide title insurance & 1/2 of closing doc fees.

You do not have to have an agent to participate. All real estate agents must register at least 2 days prior to auction and be present day of auction.