

Baker City Herald

September 27, 2019

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Deer-hunting season starts Saturday

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Health & Fitness • Outdoors • TV \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Paul Denlinger of Baker City.

State, 3A

BURNS — After winning a court order limiting grazing, environmentalists are now seeking to overturn the federal government's grazing authorization for two Oregon ranchers convicted but later pardoned for arson.

Dwight and Steven Hammond, a father and son who own a ranch near Diamond, recovered their grazing permits in early 2019 after receiving a full pardon last year from President Donald Trump for setting fire to public rangelands.

BRIEFING

Past presidents dinner at Eagles

The Eagles past presidents club will have a dinner Saturday, Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2935 H St. The menu is steal, baked potato, salad, vegetable and a roll for \$12. Eagles members and their guests are welcome.

Training Helps Law Enforcement Deal With Mental Health Crisis Situations

Crisis Intervention



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Alice Marzano portrays a mentally troubled woman during a crisis intervention training for local law enforcement officers Wednesday in Baker City.

By Chris Collins

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Calvary Baptist Church provided the stage in which scenario-based trainings were acted out Wednesday afternoon in the final phase of a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement and mental health professionals.

The training's main goal is "to support law enforcement professionals in understanding and recognizing a mental health crisis" and to help them consider different ways to respond to achieve the best outcome for community safety, said Kelli Wright, outpatient mental health director for New Directions.

"It builds relationships between mental health and law enforcement so that we can respond together in helping individuals get the help they need," she said.

During the training, police and mental health workers were confronted with simulated scenarios much like the real situations they face routinely in the community.

Glen Smith played the part of an inmate at the Baker County Jail who was depressed and waging a hunger



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Jenny Barrett portrays a homeless mother during crisis training.

strike in an attempt to force further investigation of the allegations against him.

Smith, who is in long-term recovery, works as a certified peer mentor with recovering addicts and alcoholics at New Directions. He also is in training to become a certified alcohol and drug counselor.

In his role as an inmate, Smith was approached in one session by Baker County corrections deputies Matt

Rosin and Maya Lefever, and Rachael Garner, a mental health clinician with New Directions Northwest.

Garner led the team in speaking calmly to Smith and agreed to help him tell his side of the story of an alleged domestic violence assault, by bringing in an officer to photograph his injuries and to make the photos available to his attorney.

See Training / Page 2A

Former Weekly Newspaper Owner Opens Private Investigation Business

Invested in investigations

By Jayson Jacoby

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Kerry McQuisten knows the clichés that private investigators are often saddled with.

But against the glamorous depictions, on screens both big and small, of secret meetings and covert surveillance, McQuisten uses a more prosaic analogy to describe an investigator's work.

"I like putting the puzzle pieces together and coming up with the truth," said McQuisten, a licensed private investigator who recently started her business, Shadow Work Investigations LLC, in Baker City.

"I like to have all the answers."

McQuisten, a Baker High School graduate, said she has long been inter-

ested in the profession.

And she said it was a natural transition from her career as a journalist and newspaper owner.

McQuisten published the weekly Baker County Press from 2014 through January 2018.

Working as a private investigator, she said, is "very much like journalism."

"The interviewing techniques are the same," McQuisten said. "Digging around in public records. It's a lot of computer work and talking to people. You have to be perceptive and intuitive."

She said many licensed investigators formerly worked either as journalists



McQuisten

or as police officers.

"It's the same skill set," McQuisten said.

Although her background is in journalism rather than law enforcement, she said that covering police agencies while publishing the Baker County Press gave her a perspective for police work that's beneficial in her new endeavor.

Despite working now on behalf of individual clients rather than a group of readers, McQuisten said it's equally important to pursue a case, as with a newspaper story, from a neutral perspective.

"You're weighing facts, debunking things in some cases," she said.

See Investigate / Page 6A

D.A. to don judge's robes

By Chris Collins

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Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has appointed Matt Shirtcliff, Baker County district attorney, to replace the retiring Greg Baxter as Baker County Circuit Court judge Nov. 1.



Shirtcliff

Baxter, who has served as Baker County Circuit Court judge since Jan. 1, 2001, announced in July that he would retire Oct. 31.

Shirtcliff has been district attorney since 2001 and has worked for the district attorney's office since 1994.

See Judge / Page 6A

Baker man dies in crash

A 25-year-old Baker City man was killed Wednesday afternoon when the vehicle he was driving went off Highway 7 several miles south of town, hit a rock and rolled into an irrigation ditch.

Evan Simonski-Davis died in the crash, which happened about 3:30 p.m. near Milepost 44, according to Oregon State Police. That's about six miles south of Baker City, where the highway leaves Bowen Valley and enters the Powder River Canyon.

See Crash / Page 2A

Manager: Skeeter season nears end

By Jayson Jacoby

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The risk of mosquitoes transmitting West Nile virus has been diminishing recently, and this weekend's cold, damp weather should accelerate that trend, Baker County's chief mosquito killer said.

"The season's winding down," said Matt Hutchinson, who manages the Baker Valley Vector Control District. "Especially with this upcoming cold snap — I think that's really going to put them to bed for the year."

See Skeeters / Page 6A



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TODAY

Issue 60, 14 pages

Calendar.....2A
Classified.....2B-6B
Comics.....7B

Community News.....3A
Crossword.....3B & 5B
Dear Abby.....8B

Horoscope.....3B & 5B
Jayson Jacoby.....4A
News of Record.....2A

Opinion.....4A
Outdoors.....1B & 2B
Senior Menus.....2A

Sports.....5A
Turning Backs.....2A
Weather.....8B

MONDAY — HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND SPORTS ROUND UP