

NICHE

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He has also recently started selling to Sportsman's Warehouse. In the past, he's made custom orders for foreign dignitaries and Leatherman founder Timothy Leatherman. Through his work, he was invited to join The Royal Privileged Shooting Society — which, founded in 1447 in Bavaria, is the oldest hunting club in Europe.

Originally a logger, Dale sold his arrowheads made in the offseason to help support himself. After heeding the advice of a customer, Dale added a handle to 30 of his blades and sold 22 of them in one day at a flea market in Portland.

From there, it was nothing but growth. He began traveling and showing his wares to



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Several completed knives made by Great Basin Art, ready to be shipped to gift shops and trading posts around the United States on Thursday, Sept. 8.

gift shops and trading posts and soon began receiving

mass orders for his products.

Dale soon stopped traveling due to the number of orders coming in. After filling his first order of 100 knives, his technique improved immensely. He partnered with a marketing firm and set out in earnest.

What began as a mom and pop business has blossomed into a business that is expected to sell over 5,000 knives in this year alone, according to Dale's wife.

Though the style of knives Dale makes have long been obsolete, he says they strike a chord in people.

"It brings out the caveman in you," Claudia said.

Many of the materials Dale uses are local. The obsidian he buys by the ton comes from Glass Butte and other areas around Burns. He tries to buy

antlers locally, but there is often not enough available to fill the demand. It's often a challenge to find items such as badger, fox and elk jaw bones and buffalo ribs, essential to making the knife handles.

"If you don't have the handles, you're dead in the water when people order knives," Dale said.

The jawbone knives are especially popular with kids, Claudia added.

"They seem to love the teeth," she said.

Dale has been approached about selling his business, but without it, he said he and his wife wouldn't know what to do with themselves. At 75, Dale says the only reason he would sell his business would be a major health problem.

Most of Great Basin Art's sales are outside the county,



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Dale Doby assesses a sheet of obsidian before cutting out the profile of a knife blade, Thursday, Sept. 8.

which brings money into the local economy — something the Dubys say gives them a sense of satisfaction.

Dale hired local artist Lynn Thornton to do the scrimshaw engraving on the handles of the knives. Thornton creates the design by etching into the handle with a power tool called a Presto High Speed Handpiece and then dabs ink into the groove and wipes away the excess, leaving only the inked design.

Each knife comes with a wooden stand made in house by Gary Rapp, an experienced

wood worker who also makes furniture for Great Basin Art, which is sold out of their store, Prairie Trading Post, in Prairie City.

Dale is trying to minimize the furniture aspect of his business as the knives are more profitable. In the past, he has made primitive-style lances and tomahawks with obsidian heads but discontinued them for the same reasons as the furniture.

As the demand for Dale's knives continue to grow, so does their business and the niche they've carved for it.

the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

KENDALL HETTINGA

School: Dayville
Grade: 12
Sport: Volleyball
Position: Outside hitter



What I like best about my sport: "I've always been a competitive athlete, and one thing that I really strive for when I play is to make my parents proud."

Coach's Comment: "She is our strongest hitter and does a great job attacking the ball from the front and back rows. I appreciate her love for the game and all of the extra time and energy she puts in to making herself a better player and teammate."
- Coach Tiffnie Schmadeka

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Chief clarifies timeline in Hermiston double murder-suicide

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

Jason Huston made two phone calls in the moments after killing his life-long friend and shooting his ex-girlfriend whom he found sleeping in a Hermiston home.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston on Wednesday

released a more detailed timeline of Huston's deadly actions of Aug. 18.

Edmiston in the written statement said all times are approximate:

10 a.m. — Huston, 45, picked up James "JJ" Hurtado at the boy's grandparents' house in Umatilla. The 14-year-old was the son of Huston's ex-girlfriend, Andria Bye, 35, and Huston was a father figure to him.

10-11 a.m. — Huston drove Hurtado to a location near the Umatilla River and just off Country Lane outside Hermiston. "This was a place Huston was familiar with as he had shot guns with friends at this location numerous times," according to Edmiston.

Huston shot and killed Hurtado with one round from a handgun.

11-11:20 a.m. — Huston

drove into Hermiston from the Country Lane location and parked his vehicle in the lot of Foxwood Apartments at West Hermiston Avenue and Southwest 11th Street.

He walked about 100 yards to 130 N.W. 11th St., the home of his friend and fellow Hermiston High School volunteer wrestling coach, Ken Valdez, also 45.

Huston kicked in the front door of the home and went to the bedroom where Valdez and Bye were sleeping. Huston shot Valdez at least three times with a Glock 9-mm handgun, killing him, and shot Bye one time in the back. Huston then made at least two phone calls.

"One call to his mother, who in turn called 9-1-1 as she believed something was wrong," according to the timeline. "The other call he made to 9-1-1 advising there had been a shooting at that location."

Huston then sat on the bed and fatally shot himself.

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WARNING: Professional rider on a closed course. Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2016 Polaris Industries Inc.

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