

Ione man arrested on rape, sex abuse charges

Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Ione man Corey Scott Baker last Wednesday, according to a statement by Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack. Baker, 40, was arrested on one count each of rape I and sexual abuse I, both felonies.

Both crimes were alleged to have happened between July and September of 2016 with a girl under the age of 12.

The arrest was made on a circuit court warrant issued based on a secret indictment March 13 by the Morrow County Grand Jury.

Baker was released on his own recognizance March 22 and is scheduled for arraignment April 20.

Matlack says the investigation is ongoing.

Emergency personnel respond to broken gas line

Morrow County emergency responders turned out in force last week to manage what could have been an explosive situation, according to a statement by Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

At 10:46 a.m. March 20, MCSO dispatch received report of a damaged natural gas line near Morrow Cold Storage in the Port of Morrow area of

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Get Ready to 'Walk MS'



Participants in a past Walk MS Eastern Oregon in Heppner. -Contributed photo

Heppner is ready for the 19th year of sponsoring the Eastern Oregon Walk MS. All towns in Eastern Oregon are invited to join the event on Saturday, April 22.

Pre-registration is appreciated. Pre-register on the web at www.walkms.org or by phone at 1-855-372-1331. Walk-ins also are

Health district discusses feasibility of facility remodels, expansions

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at its Monday night meeting at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, discussed the feasibility of remodeling or building Pioneer Memorial Hospital and remodeling the Irrigon Clinic.

Board member Jill Parker, Boardman, ques-

tioning the sagacity of remodeling the hospital or building a new one, asked MCHD Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney for information on hospital usage that Parker said she could not extract from monthly statistics provided by Mahoney.

When Mahoney told her that five people were

admitted to the hospital over the last month, Parker was surprised at the low number and remarked that she believed that they (the board) were just talking about remodeling the entrance to the hospital and not remodeling or rebuilding the facility. The two options, remodel or rebuild, were earlier discussed in an

earlier presentation to the board put on by architect Scott Combs of the Clark/Kjos architect firm.

Administration had earlier emphasized that the hospital must continue to offer cutting-edge medical services for their patients, using updated equipment,

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Estes retires after 31 years with county

By Andrea Di Salvo

After 31 years working for Morrow County, most of that time in the assessor's office, lead appraiser Cyde Estes will retire this week. Her last day is March 31.

Estes, who will be 61 in May, was born "Here. In the hospital when they could still deliver babies," she says. She was raised in Heppner and, during high school, went to work gaining valuable skills that would serve her later in life. She worked summers in the forests of Eastern Oregon, first for the Oregon Dept. of Forestry out of Fossil,



Cyde Estes retires this week after more than 31 years with the county. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

working lookout towers. She then worked for the U.S. Forest Service, both manning lookout towers and fighting fires on a heli-

tack crew.

"It gave me skills reading maps and things, which I use today, very much," she says.

During the school year, she also worked for attorney Bob Abrams—later Judge Abrams—during his time in private practice. Between school and sports, she did office secretarial work while Abrams' secretary, Mary Bryant, taught her about legal documents and about being a legal secretary. Estes says that experience not only helped her get a job in the district attorney's office later in

life, but has helped her to this day in her role as an appraiser.

"(It's) been very helpful in my job, because we handle tax appeals," explains Estes. "I had some very good training early on from some very good people."

After graduating from Heppner High School in 1974, she attended Blue Mountain Community College for a year, majoring mostly in biology, before getting married and moving to Montana. During her

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Holland, Morgan receive Inspirational Teacher Awards from EOU

LA GRANDE, OR—Two local teachers, Dale



Dale Holland

Holland and Troy Morgan, are among 18 educators from Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington to receive Inspirational Teacher Awards from Eastern Oregon University. First-year honor students at EOU nominated the teachers for the honor.

Students who main-

tained dean's list standing during fall term were given

the opportunity to nominate a high school teacher who influenced them on their road to higher education and academic excellence. EOU presents the Inspirational Teacher Awards annually in recognition of outstanding high school teachers who encourage and represent the importance of higher



Troy Morgan

education to their students.

Patrick Collins, a 2016 graduate of Heppner High School, nominated Troy Morgan to receive an Inspirational Teacher Award.

Morgan is a member of the mathematics staff at Heppner High School.

Jason Juarez, a 2016 graduate of Ione Community School, nominated Dale

Holland to receive an Inspirational Teacher Award. Holland is a member of the mathematics and chemistry staff at Ione Community School.

Heppner native recognized by Forbes as top wealth advisor

Heppner native Kelly Kilkenny Hale was recently named one of America's top women wealth advisors by Forbes magazine. Hale, daughter of the late Bob Kilkenny, is a financial advisor and senior portfolio manager with RBC Wealth Management in Portland, OR.

"It's an honor to have a teammate nationally recognized as one of the best in the industry—because it

means we are serving our clients well," said the company in a statement.

Hale fell at #137 on the Forbes list (which can be viewed at forbes.com/top-women-advisors/); according to the magazine, Hale manages a typical account size of \$2.5 million and has a total of \$2 billion under her management.



Kelly Kilkenny Hale

Hale has more than 35 years of investment industry experience.

After she graduated from Heppner High School, she then obtained a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Oregon. She also serves as an FCAC

advisory member for RBC

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