

# Local

## Ore-Ida loses potato load



Top: Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press  
Below: Courtesy of Jesse Soliz

Monday morning, a truck carrying a load of Ore-Ida frozen potato products crashed near the I-84 N. Baker exit 302. Traffic routinely slowed to look, but the wreck was in the median, not blocking traffic. Tow trucks were in place that morning, with the cargo unloaded and the semi beginning its haul down the freeway around 4:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of The Depot Inn

Todd Hoffman with The Depot Inn's Weldon Reedy.

## Gold Rush

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Reedy explained that Todd Hoffman lives in Sandy and grew up riding his dirt bike and camping in the Sumpter area. He has a friend who owns a cabin in Sumpter and periodically still comes to visit. According to the Discovery Channel, "Todd Hoffman came up with his plan to mine for gold in Alaska in 2010 after watching the steady decline of his avia-

tion business in Oregon. While the economy stalled, he watched the price of gold rise and rise. Inspired by his father Jack's own gold mining adventures back in the 1980s, which ended in failure, Todd sourced a viable gold claim and then assembled a team of his unemployed buddies and the equipment they would need to start a full-scale mining operation." The Reedys belong to the Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club and Weldon rides out from the hotel every day. He posts updates on the Depot Inn Facebook page at facebook.com/SumpterDepotInn and is also

willing to answer questions about riding conditions. The Reedys are also gearing up for the Snowmobile Poker Run on February 14th, hoping to see both plenty of snow and plenty of participants come to Sumpter. In the recent past, other television shows such as "Ghost Mine," as well as one episode of "The Dead Files" have been filmed in Sumpter. New episodes of Gold Rush air Fridays on the Discovery Channel. Hoffman could not be reached for comment in time for this article.

## Sumpter rings in 2015 with bonfire, chili feed



Meghan Andersch / The Baker County Press

Sumpter residents stayed warm roasting hot dogs around the fire.

By Meghan Andersch  
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Despite temperatures hovering around 0 degrees, hardy Sumpter residents turned out on the evening of New Year's Eve to celebrate at the Fairgrounds with a bonfire, chili feed, and fireworks. The Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club hosted the event, which was free, though donations were accepted.

Hotdogs with fixings, marshmallows, and plenty of long sticks for roasting were provided. Chili, hot drinks, and desserts were served up in an onsite building, which, with several heaters running, also served as a point to periodically defrost fingers and toes. The ten-and-under set enjoyed stomping through the snow and flinging themselves off the snow

bank, while most of the older folks huddled around the fire to socialize. The Snowmobile Club hosts the Chili Feed and Bonfire annually on New Year's Eve and hosts a Poker Run and Outhouse Races on President's Day weekend. More information about the upcoming events can be found at [sumptersnowmobileclub.wordpress.com](http://sumptersnowmobileclub.wordpress.com).

## New Skills USA club at BHS

Skills USA is a new club at Baker High School. A division of the Baker Technical Institute (BTI), Skills USA offers students a chance to advance their strengths in various areas such as welding, ag mechanics, art, construction, drafting, engineering, health services and aquaponics.

As a club, members will work on various community projects; in addition to

testing our skills through competitions with other chapters in Halfway, Vale and Elgin. The Skills USA club currently have 16 members. If students are interested in joining or want to find out more information, please plan on attending the next meeting on January 20th at 3:35 p.m., Room 138 at Baker High School.

## Bandstand project a go

The Baker City Bandstand Committee/Soroptomist International of Baker County has received an "Over the Top" grant from The Ford Family Foundation to start construction of the bandstand this spring. Eighteen local individuals and families gifted \$1,000 each and 350 individuals and businesses purchased bricks and tiles. Over 4,500 volunteer hours have been given to the project.



**SUPPORT BHS'S Future Business Leaders of America!**

The Baker County Press is proud to team up with our local FBLA in a fundraising effort to help send qualifying students to the State competition in Portland and then Nationals in Chicago this year!

*We will donate \$10 per e-subscription and print (delivery) subscription, and \$5 for each print (mailed) subscription sold by a member of FBLA, now through January 31, 2015.*

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