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Merkley holds townhall

- **SPEAKING POINTS: RICH SHOULDN'T HAVE TAX BREAKS, CORPORATIONS HAVE TOO MUCH INFLUENCE, TRUMP SHOULD BE IMPEACHED**

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Senator Jeff Merkley (Democrat) stopped in Baker City on Saturday afternoon to hold a town hall at 4:30 p.m. Only 45 or so attended, among them County Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, Baker City Manager Fred Warner, Jr., 5J Superintendent Mark Witty, and City Council Member Arvid Andersen.

Sgt. Mike Regan of the Baker City Police Department provided security.

The crowd was split basically four to one liberal to conservative, and the tone remained calm throughout the event. A number of Halfway residents attended.

Merkley was introduced by Baker City Mayor Mike Downing, who gave a quick biography of the senator.

Merkley then presented a flag flown over the Capitol to the local Lions Club in recognition of their many contributions to the community.

An outline of constituent services was a positive first talking point, as citizens are often unaware of what their elected officials' staff are on hand to provide.

Those services include having a flag flown over the Capitol Building, nominations to U.S. services academies, planning trips to Washington D.C., grant information, and help navigating any issue to do with any Federal agency— the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.

From there, the talking points shifted to those reminiscent of just about all partisan political townhalls—with the first topic being healthcare.

SEE **MERKLEY** PAGE 4

Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Senator Jeff Merkley (left) honors the local chapter of the Lions Club.

Ancient technologies explored

Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Baylie Stillwell presenting to those attending the Engineer It! event at the Baker County Library.

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER
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Last Thursday, the Baker City Library was one of four Baker County libraries to host a program called "Engineer It! Exploring Ancient Technologies."

This event was provided by the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Eugene, led by Baylie Stillwell and Brian Albus.

For part of the presentation, Stillwell and Albus brought different ancient Native American technologies such as Fort Rock Style woven sandals, atlatls and darts, obsidian daggers and points, a bone fish hook, counting sticks, a clam digging shovel, and many others.

Stillwell explained that the ways they know those technologies exist, other than finding artifacts, is by oral traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. They have spoken to different Native American tribes who told them how those artifacts were made and how they came to be.

Beginning the event, Stillwell discussed different modern technologies that we use today, such as lighting, toothbrushes, trash cans, and recycling cans.

The target audience for this event was families with elementary-aged children.

Stillwell discussed that technology is anything designed by a person to solve a problem, and worked with the children to engineer a solution to a problem.

Working with the children, they worked to figure out a way to retrieve an inflated beach ball from a plastic container without needing to get up to retrieve it. She described this activity as the process of engineering. One of the solutions they found was to attach a string to the ball.

"There is more than one solution to the problem," explained Stillwell. "That's another great thing about engineering is that one thing might work, one thing might not work, and then you improve your design and multiple different things work! So we have more than one solution to the problem and it's okay to have some failure, you just need improve on your design."

Stillwell also read "Dipnetting with Dad" by Willie Sellars, a story about a father teaching his son dipnetting, the Secwepemc method of fishing.

Throughout the reading, Stillwell asked the children what different types of technology were used in the book.

There were three different activity tables available for the children to participate hands on in the engineering process.

The first table was building a shelter. The instructions were to build a shelter with only index cards and paperclips to house three wood people.

The structure needed to be six inches tall and could support a beanbag on top.

The second table was fishing for dinner. At that table, the children needed to design and build a fishing tool that could catch at least two kinds of fish.

The paper fish they needed to catch had paperclips attached to them for the kids to catch with their fishing tools. They could make the tools out of straws, string, pipe cleaners, paper clips, tacks, toothpicks, tongue depressors, and rubber bands.

The third table was design a boat with one piece of aluminum foil and they put in pennies one at a time to see how many their boats could hold.

Bodies found in motels

- **DECEASED HAD FASCINATING PERSONAL HISTORY, 'TRAGIC' DEATH**

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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On June 5, 2017, Baker County Consolidated Dispatch received a call from The Oregon Trail Motel regarding the death of one of their guests.

Detective Jay Lohner initially responded as he does with most death calls. "It was immediately apparent the deceased had been there at least a couple of days," Lohner said.

Once the body was removed, he grabbed a few items that might aid in identification such as a wallet and a few scraps of paper with names and numbers written on them, then shut and taped off the door to prevent anyone from entering until the room had time to dissipate the unpleasant odor that decomposition creates.

Lohner, along with Code Enforcement Officer Mark Powell, returned the next day to begin investigating deeper.

SEE **BODIES** PAGE 5

Motorcycle Rally calm for police

The 2017 Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally was relatively quiet for Baker City Police Department personnel this last weekend. All investigatory contacts the Department had were with local citizens.

Below is a summary of the law enforcement contacts the Baker City Police Department handled over the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally weekend:

July 7, 2017 – no criminal complaints

July 8, 2017

12:12 a.m. – Public urination

Two unknown males reportedly urinated on a car on the corner of Washington and Oak Streets. Officer was unable to find suspects.

1:04 a.m. – Disturbance (male v. female)

Officers contacted two pedestrians in the 1700 block of Resort on a witnessed verbal disturbance. No arrests made.

1:05 a.m. – Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants

Mr. Michael Leroy Snyder DOB: 05/24/1958 (1555 17th Street, Baker City, OR) was arrested for DUII after leaving the VFW in his vehicle. He was transported to the Baker County Jail where he rendered an adequate breath sample of 0.17% BAC.

SEE **RALLY** PAGE 5

Friday	Mostly clear and hot, highs in the mid 90s. Friday Night: Mostly clear and seasonable. Lows near 60.
Saturday	Mostly clear and hot, highs in the mid 90s. Saturday Night: Mostly clear and seasonable. Lows in the upper 50s.
Sunday	Mostly clear and not as hot, highs in the upper 80s. Sunday Night: Mostly clear and a bit cooler. Lows in the mid 50s.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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