



The Baker County Press

75¢

TheBakerCountyPress.com

All local. All relevant. Every Friday.

Friday, October 20, 2017 • Volume 4, Issue 42

Oregon's Supreme Court comes to BHS

• CASES HEARD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

This week, Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Balmer came to Baker City for case hearings held at the Baker High School on Tuesday. Balmer was joined by the six other justices for the Oregon Supreme Court: Meagan Flynn, Jack Landau, Rives Kistler, Martha Walters, Lynn Nakamoto, and Rebecca Duncan.

Balmer was appointed as Chief Justice in 2001 has been a member of the court for 16 years. As Chief Justice, he was elected by other members of the Court and is in charge of the entire state court system.

"When we take the court to schools outside of Salem, where we ordinarily hear arguments, is to meet the local officials and talk to the press and just sort of show the flag and tell them what we do," said Balmer.

Balmer explained the first case discussed a statute that says if a person has been convicted of drunk driving for the third time, they can lose their license forever. For this case, the defendant had two previous convictions, but one was in the state of Georgia and he did not have a lawyer. His lawyer argued that the conviction shouldn't count as he did not have a lawyer to represent him.



Kailyn McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Baker High School's Mock Trial Team had lunch with Oregon's Supreme Court Justices during their visit to the school on Tuesday.

SEE SUPREME COURT PAGE 5

County approves \$99K to City

• \$99K WILL HELP CITY POSSIBLY ACCEPT SAFER GRANT

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its second regular session of the month on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse.

Topics discussed included, among other details, comments from Tom Muller to the Board regarding County Planning Commissioner Rob Crawford's home additions, and approval of \$99,000 to be paid to the City over the course of three years, to assist with funding issues. This funding will help the City to possibly accept a SAFER grant to fund new firefighter positions.

SEE COUNTY PAGE 8

Downing files for County Commission Chair

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Current Baker City Mayor Mike Downing has filed with the Baker County Clerk's Office to run for the position of Baker County Commission Chair.



Submitted Photo.

SEE DOWNING PAGE 5

Mike Downing.

Mechanic helped keep the Blue Angels soaring



Submitted Photo.

Some of the aircraft on which Bennett used to work sitting inside a hangar.

• NAVY VETERAN KNOWS AIRCRAFT

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

For nearly four decades, Navy Veteran Mike Bennett had a career that helped keep military pilots, and even the Blue Angels, up in the air. Bennett, who now cares for his elderly father, worked on military aircraft for 37 years before retiring and moving to Baker City.

Bennett joined the Navy and worked on the McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento Calif., beginning his career with the Civil Service working on F-111s, A-10s and F-15s, before it closed and he was transferred to San Diego, California.

He worked on all the F-18s in the fleet. Bennett said he began as a mechanic and worked his way up to crew leader—and then became a supervisor.

He also helped repair the Blue Angels' aircraft, fixing clipped tips and other necessary touch-ups they needed. Bennett worked on NASA's experimental aircraft F-111.

He was stationed in San Diego and the military has TDYs (Temporary Duty Assignment) where mechanics are sent out to an area where an aircraft has broken down, and they work on it until it is fixed.

In Fallon, Nevada, Bennett worked in The United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program, more popularly known as TOPGUN, as the field supervisor for three months.

SEE NAVY MECHANIC PAGE 9



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Mike Bennett recalls his career.

	Friday Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs near 50. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Night: Mostly cloudy with early scattered showers. Lows near 30. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
	Saturday Mostly cloudy with scattered rain/snow showers. Highs in the upper 40s. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Night: Mostly cloudy and milder with scattered showers. Lows near 40.
	Sunday Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs in the upper 50s. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Night: Mostly cloudy with early scattered showers. Lows near 40.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC CO-OP

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

City / County talk SAFER grant	Page 3
"So I was thinking..." by Jimmy Ingram	Page 4
5 arrested in high risk apprehension	Page 5
"The Outdoor Column" by Todd Arriola	Page 7
Wolf depredations confirmed	Page 7
EORT auditions begin	Page 9

