



# The Baker County Press

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## New car 'privilege tax' set for Oregon Jan. 1

• NEW TAX IS PART OF 'TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE'

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Randy Daugherty, owner of Baker Garage, a GMC dealership in Baker City, says his customers can expect an average, instant jump by hundreds of dol-

lars per vehicle just for the "privilege" of owning a new car.

Daugherty said, "We are very disappointed in all of this. To target a certain segment for a sales tax is wrong. The tax will have to be charged to the consumer. In our case it could be up to \$400 on a vehicle depending on how the rules play out."

Come January 1, 2018, the State of Oregon will consider it a "privilege" to sell—or for that matter

own—a new vehicle. And the government has levied a hefty tax to go along with it.

That tax is part of the 150 or so pages worth of new taxes and projects that go along with the new \$5.3 billion Transportation Package that was passed with the 2017 legislative session.

The Oregon Motor Dealers Association (OMDA) vehemently opposed the bill, as did more conservative Republicans. That

Transportation Bill was co-authored in part by Republican State Representatives Cliff Bentz (Ontario) and Greg Smith (Heppner). It was opposed by Rep. Greg Barreto (Cove.) The bill passed due to the bipartisan support of Salem Democrats and moderate Republicans.

Daugherty says he has written a letter to both representatives with no response to date.

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Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Baker City's Baker Garage is one of 600 dealerships in Oregon whose Association is against the tax.

## The dangers of vaping



At left, Blake Chastain was Lifeflighted to Portland, sustaining serious injuries after an e-cigarette exploded. At right, a typical e-cigarette sold in stores.



Submitted Photo (left). Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNER  
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On Wednesday, October 18, 17 year-old Blake Chastain of Baker City was injured from an e-cigarette exploding in his mouth. This is the first time locals have experienced such an accident—though the dangers have been reported elsewhere.

Chastain was visiting his girlfriend in Redmond when the e-cigarette exploded. He was taken to a Bend-area hospital and then Lifeflighted to Portland due to his injuries, which included loss of teeth, facial fractures, burns on his face and hand, and damage to remaining teeth. Chastain was fortunate—his injured left eye was saved.

"The whole reason we went public with this was so people would know what these can do," explained Aimie Shepherd, Chastain's mother. "I had no idea. I don't vape. I don't know anything about them. I had no idea that it could happen and I know Blake didn't think it could happen to him."

Shepherd explained that people from all over the world have sent him messages encouraging him in his recovery.

She also explained that his goal is to tell people what can happen if people are not careful with e-cigarettes.

"We know he purchased it only a week before it happened. He put a brand new battery in it that morning, which was a Samsung Battery, which is the kind you're supposed to use. So we have no idea what made it happen," explained Shepherd.

"Educate yourself on vaping and how your device works," explained Theresa Ball, owner of Theresa's Treasures, Chill'z Frozen Yogurt and Baker City Vape.

Ball said, "This will ensure that you know the limitation of your device and batteries. Be careful when purchasing used vapes; it always comes with risks.

"Purchasing new will ensure you will get a user manual and warranty for your vape. We don't recommend buying used equipment at any time. It is illegal for us to sell anything used per the FDA.

"In vaping, 'unregulated tube mods,' also known as mechanical mods or tube mods, have no circuitry or safety protections. They are simply metal tubes into which a vaping battery is inserted. This means you should take extra safety precautions when using a mechanical mod."

Ball explained there are different types of vape mods, such as regulated and unregulated.

According to a website, "Mt. Baker Vapor," regulated mods have circuit boards that regulate power in the devices and unregulated mods are devices that do not contain a circuit board for regulating power flow through them.

"We haven't seen anything like this locally where we've had one explode that we're aware of," said Police Chief Wyn Lohner. He had heard of stories elsewhere, such as e-cigarettes exploding while shoved down into someone's pants pocket.

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## Senate shakeup!

• SENATE MINORITY LEADER SAYS HE'LL ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION SOON

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On Tuesday, following a flurry of Salem rumors, Senator Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) whose district includes Baker County, announced that he will indeed accept an appointment by Governor Kate Brown to the The Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council. This position is one of a rare handful of salaried, six-figure appointments available to the Governor.

Last Thursday, Ferrioli told Baker County Republican Chair Suzan Ellis Jones that the acceptance of that appointment would mean giving up his Senate seat and current position of Senate Minority Leader.

SEE FERRIOLI PAGE 8



Submitted Photo.

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

## Harvey, Kirby file for election

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On Monday morning, incumbent Baker County Commission Chair Bill Harvey filed for re-election. Harvey will square off against current Baker City Mayor Mike Downing.

According to County Clerk Cindy Carpenter, the recent filings are earlier than usual, with the deadline to file not until next March.

As for the County Clerk's position, Stephanie Kirby, who works in that office, filed to run for the Clerk position on Monday morning as well. Current County Clerk Cindy Carpenter said, "I enjoy working as County Clerk and anticipate 2018 to be a full year with elections, holding the Chair position for recording legislation, and office projects needing completion. Even as I look forward to this last year of my term, I have made the decision to retire in January 2019. I feel fortunate to have my position and be working for Baker County."



Submitted Photo.

Bill Harvey

	Friday	Sunny and seasonable. Highs in the mid 60s. Friday Night: Mostly clear and seasonably cool. Lows in the mid 30s.
	Saturday	Sunny and seasonable. Highs in the mid 60s. Saturday Night: Mostly clear and seasonably cool. Lows in the mid 30s.
	Sunday	Sunny and seasonable. Highs in the mid 60s. Sunday Night: Mostly clear and seasonably cool. Lows in the mid 30s.

### The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:



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