

Baker City filmmaker showed his work at We Like 'Em Short Festival

■ Ninth-annual event featured 90 short films last weekend in Baker City

By Casey Crowley
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Last weekend Baker City hosted the ninth-annual We Like 'Em Short Film Festival.

The festival featured more than 90 short films screened over the course of four days.



Drake

One of those was directed by Daniel Drake of Baker City.

Drake's "Trony — The Final Hack" brings together the worlds of "Tron" and "My Little Pony." He made the film using Source Film-maker.

Drake, 21, made his first film at age 13 after being inspired by the "Wallace and Gromit" films.

He says he chose to blend "Tron" and "My Little Pony" together because the original 1980 "Tron" film is one of his favorite movies ever and both of them use hand drawn effects to make them.

This year isn't the first time that he has submitted a film to the festival. Two years ago Drake submitted two shorts that he had made while working in the Baker High School film and art club.

"It's actually quite inter-

esting because I am able to visit, have some nice chats with the other filmmakers and actually be able to share my ideas with basically an open audience," Drake said.

Drake is attending community college but after he receives his associate degree he plans to transfer to the University of Oregon to earn a bachelor's degree in Cinema Studies.

In addition to making films for the Baker City festival, Drake has a YouTube channel where he posts films he has made. His channel has a total of 296 subscribers and one of his videos has more than 21,000 views.

One day, he hopes to open his own production company.

"Just being an independent filmmaker and just make these films to entertain the world," Drake said.

Brian Vegter is the director for the festival and has lived in Baker City for 12 years.

Vegter says that every year he tries to feature at least one film made by a Baker City resident.

"For me, because I don't do film on a regular basis anymore, it's like still a way to be part of that industry that I really like," Vegter said.

This year's festival includ-

ed films from 25 countries.

The festival, which started nine years ago with just 13 films, this year received more than 330 submitted films which totaled over 40 hours of run time. In general the films range from 1 minute to around 20 minutes.

The Thursday screening of the festival was moved from Central Park to the former Churchill School building due to rain. Thursday's screening was free and included films that were all "family appropriate."

In addition to running the film festival, Vegter and his wife, Corrine, also own the historic Churchill School and are developing it into a community event center. The building will be geared toward people who want to be professionals in the film industry or who are just interested in the industry. This year there was not as much promotion done for the event because the Vegters were busy working on Churchill.

The festival is able to get films from all around the world because filmmakers can submit their films online.

"We know that we have made this impact both in the arts community here but also in the tourism business," Brian Vegter said.

The We Like 'Em Short festival concluded with an awards ceremony.

Seamous O'Rourke won Best Actor for his role in "You're Not a Man at All"; Anna Tolputt won Best Actress for her role in "Bun"; Thomas Freundlich won Best Cinematography for "Cold Storage"; Mark C. Smith won Best Director for "Two Balloons"; "The Deep End" won Best Student film; "The Box" won Best Picture; and the Audience Choice Award went to "Two Balloons."

There were only two awards that had members of the crew in attendance at the festival to accept the awards. Teresa Drilling and Kathleen Chamberlin accepted the two awards won by "Two Balloons." Drilling worked as the animation director on the film while Chamberlin was the art director.

The film is about two lemurs who are traveling around the world in separate planes, which fly because of balloons, and trying to reunite with each other.

This year's festival also included guest speaker Mark Gustafson, who worked as the animation director for Wes Anderson's "The Fantastic Mr. Fox."

School board awards bid for food service

By Chris Collins
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The Baker School Board voted at its August meeting to purchase food and nonfood items from Food Services of America during the 2018-19 school year.

FSA was one of two firms to submit bids to the Baker School District to provide items ranging from paper to plastic bags, bowls and cups and food items including canned and fresh fruits, cookies, canned and fresh vegetables and breakfast cereal.

The total bid cost submitted by FSA was \$123,102.41. The other bidder, Sysco, submitted a bid of \$130,057.52.

Jessica Dalton, the District's food services director, recommended in a written report to the Board that FSA should be awarded the contract.

The recommendation was based on "substantially lower total cost and a long history with the district of being a great company to do business with," Dalton stated.

Meadow Gold Dairy was again the only company to submit a bid to supply milk.

Milk prices will be \$2.69 per gallon for 2 percent milk and \$2.52 per gallon for 1 percent. Half-pint milk cartons served to students will cost 24 cents for both 1 percent white milk and skim chocolate milk.

Prices are similar to last year's, Dalton said.

The price will be subject to increase or decrease, however, based on Meadow Gold's raw milk costs, Brandy Bengochea, area sales manager, stated in a letter outlining the prices.

In other business, the Board considered several other reports, including one from Baker Web Academy and Baker Early College.

Administrators for the Baker Charter Schools reported that fall enrollment is expected to be 1,750 for Baker Web Academy and 325 for Baker Early College, with growth expected to continue.

In partnership with the Baker School District, the charter schools will open a

Salem office during the coming school year.

The goal this year will be to adopt a new Student Information System designed to help the schools focus and refine their processes, the administrators said.

"Although our parents love the options and choices we have we need to spend time mastering and improving our curriculum to be able to support our families better," the report stated.

Daniel Huld is superintendent of Baker Charter Schools. Roland Hobson is the Eastern Oregon principal in Baker City and John Martin is the Willamette Valley principal.

The classified personnel report informed the Board that Anne-Marie Popa has transferred from her position as Brooklyn Primary secretary to Baker High School secretary, effective Aug. 13. Shannon Streeter was hired as BHS cook, effective Aug. 20.

Extra-duty resignations

included Kris Pepera stepping down from the position of Baker Middle School cross country coach. Kelsey Lehman also resigned as BHS assistant volleyball coach.

During its Aug. 16 meeting, the Board also approved a full slate of extra-duty contracts ranging from National Honor Society adviser to BHS head swim coach and BHS Leadership adviser.

More information is available by calling the District Office, 541-524-2260, or online at baker5j.org

And directors nominated Kevin Cassidy, a 5J Board member who did not attend the August meeting, to continue his service on the Oregon School Boards Association.

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer also reported to the Board that teachers new to the district will spend a full week in early in-service training before the veteran staff returns to work.

The week started Monday

with new staff orientation at the District Office. New staff members will meet from Tuesday through Thursday at the District Office from 8 a.m. to noon and in their classrooms from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

All certified staff will report on Monday, Aug. 27.

On Tuesday, Aug. 28, the day will begin with an all-staff breakfast served at 7:30 a.m. at Baker High School. New staff will be introduced through a video produced by Jason Todd, the District's digital communications and technology coordinator. Todd also will show a second video about the District's Summer Academy program.

At 8:45 a.m., motivational speaker Jeff Eben of Fresno, California, will present a message titled "How Many Wins Have You Had Today?"

In-service training will continue throughout the week as the staff prepares to welcome most students back to school on Sept. 4.

Suspect charged in business burglary

An Idaho woman is accused of being among a group of people who stole construction tools valued at an estimated \$20,000 from a Baker City business then later returning the items but leaving with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Baker City Police arrested Kayle Dawn Johnson, 24, of Nampa. She is charged with first-degree aggravated theft, second-degree burglary, unlawful use of a vehicle

and criminal conspiracy. Police are still investigating and they expect to arrest other suspects, according to a press release.

The release stated that several people entered Eastern Oregon Rental and Sales, 3925 10th St., early on Sunday. They spent several hours inside and placed tools in a pickup truck belonging to the business. They drove away but later returned and left the pickup and the tools at the business.

LOCAL BRIEFING

OTEC energy saving class Thursday

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is hosting a free class, "Energy 101: How to Save Money by Saving Energy," Thursday at its Baker City headquarters, 4005 23rd St. (just south of Pocahontas Road, west of the railroad tracks).

The free class will start at 1:30 p.m. and last for about one hour.

"As your energy resource, we are proud to offer these classes for our members," Susie Snyder, OTEC's supervisor of energy programs, stated in a press release.

Reservations are encouraged, but not required, as space is limited. To RSVP for the class, call OTEC at 541-523-3616.

Baker City teen attends leadership camp

Spencer Shirtcliff of Baker City recently attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Shirtcliff, 16, will be a junior this fall at Baker High School. He was sponsored by the Baker City Rotary Club.

About 100 teenagers from Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon, all incoming high school juniors or seniors, attended the four-day leadership camp.

Shirtcliff is the first Baker City student to attend the camp. He made a presentation to the Baker City Rotary Club after returning.

The Club hopes to sponsor other students in the future. Parents and students can get information at the Baker City Rotary Club's Facebook page, and at <http://ryla5400.weebly.com>

Rep. Findley plans coffee hour in Baker

State Rep. Lynn Findley, the Vale Republican whose district includes Baker County, has scheduled a public "coffee hour" event to meet constituents in Baker City on Friday, Sept. 14.

The event is set for 9 a.m. at Mad Matilda's Coffee House, 1931 Court Ave.

Findley was chosen by county commissioners in House District 60 in January 2018 to replace Cliff Bentz, who replaced Ted Ferrioli as state senator for this region.

Findley is a member of the House Committee on Revenue and the House Committee on Energy and Environment. He can be reached by phone at 503-986-1460 or online at www.oregonlegislature.gov/findley. His email address is Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov

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MOVIE TIMES AUGUST 17-23

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR
PG-13 An exploration of the life, lessons, and legacy of iconic children's television host, Fred Rogers.
FRI-THURS: (4:20) 7:20, 9:40

THE MEG
PG-13 After escaping an attack by what he deems was a 70-foot shark, James Taylor must confront his fears to save those trapped in a sunken submarine.
FRI-SUN: 7:00, 9:30
MON-THURS: (4:00) 7:00, 9:30

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
PG A working-class family man, Christopher Robin, encounters his childhood friend Winnie-the-Pooh, who helps him to rediscover the joys of life.
FRI & SAT: (4:10) 9:35
SUN-THURS: (4:10) 7:10, 9:35

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