

Local & State

BAKER COUNTY JOB FAIR



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Crystal Rhodes, right, representing The Little Pig, visited with students from Baker High School during a job fair Thursday that featured more than 25 employers.

High school students learn about job options

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Gabbie Trebilcock already has a job, but she shared her own tips with friends who perused the job fair held Thursday.

“The more connections in a small town, the better,” Trebilcock told her friend, Marisa Fuzi, who is in the market for a job.

Fuzi and Trebilcock are seniors at Baker High School. They, along with most of the senior class, visited a job fair held at the Community Event Center. About 30 businesses were represented, along with Baker Technical Institute, Blue Mountain Community College, and Eastern Oregon University.

“I’m trying to get as many opportunities as I can,” Fuzi said. “I’m open to anything.”

“I’m trying to get as many opportunities as I can. I’m open to anything.”

— Marisa Fuzi, Baker High School senior who attended a job fair Thursday

Each business representative filled out a placard listing the top three work skills needed in their workplace.

Jodie Hausotter from Natural Structures noted just one: dependability. “Our biggest one is dependability,” she said. “Our second is passing a drug test.”

Although most of the high school students are too young to work at Natural Structures — they hire those 18 or older — Hausotter had quite a few teenagers stop at her table

to learn more about her business.

Some booths instantly caught the eye of job seekers, such as the one for Powder River Correctional Facility decorated with imitation razor wire topping information panels.

Sgt. Brian Kennedy and Lt. Kyle Robbins explained the various jobs available at the minimum-security prison in Baker City, including administration, physical plant, health services and food services.

“What we’re looking for is people skills,” Robbins said.

The morning session was dedicated to students who came from Baker High School, Huntington, Pine-Eagle and North Powder.

The afternoon provided a dedicated time for veterans and the general public.

JOBS

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Bryan Tweit, director of Hatch Labs in Baker City, helped organize the job fair. Tweit said he was pleased with the turnout for the event, which was also organized by the Small Business Development Center at Blue Mountain Community College, Baker County Economic Development and the Baker Technical Institute.

Tweit said there were likely more than 100 jobs available among the businesses.

“Every single one of them (businesses), if they have somebody who is personable, shows respect to them in a conversation, they can work with that,” Tweit said.

Many businesses had multiple positions available. New Directions Northwest had seven jobs, ranging from entry level minimum wage positions to ones that require a college degree.

Karen Hendricks, the human resources director for New Directions, which provides mental health and other services in Baker County, said that during her six years with the organization its workforce has grown from 80 employees to about 130.

Grocery Outlet, which opened its Baker City store in October 2018, was looking to hire people for three different positions. Store owner Cody Miller said he expects sales to increase in the summer and he

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who is personable, who shows respect to them in a conversation, they can work with that.”

— Bryan Tweit

the county (see story above). Miller said that working at a place such as Grocery Outlet can be a good option for those who are unsure if they want to go to college.

“There is so much development and opportunity throughout this building,” Miller said, referring to all the employers at the Fair.

Elizabeth Tomaras, 44, moved from Seattle to Baker City in June 2018. She had been working at Meadowbrook Place, an assisted living facility, before she injured her foot. After spending the past month out of work she said she should be back to full health in about a week, and she’s ready to return to a job.

“I’m kind of versatile — I’ve ran warehouses, I’ve drove a forklift, but I’ve also ran grocery stores ... and have a black belt,” Tomaras said.

Jonathon Edwards, 20, attended the Fair uncertain of what kind of job he was looking for. Edwards has previously worked in contracting and at Silverwood Theme Park in

Idaho. “I’ve just had a handful of different jobs, so I don’t know what I really want yet,” he said.



Hendricks



Miller



Edwards

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Brown proposes tobacco tax boost for Medicaid

By Sarah Zimmerman
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown plans to pay down the state’s Medicaid shortfall through a \$2 tax increase on tobacco products, plus an additional tax on e-cigarettes and other vaping products.

The governor told the House Committee on Revenue Wednesday that the tax “will provide long-term sustainable funding,” while also encouraging people to quit smoking.

Oregon has one of the lowest cigarette taxes in the country, at \$1.33 per a

20 pack of cigarettes. The proposed tax increase, which would have to be approved by the Legislature, would have customers paying \$3.33 in state taxes, some of the highest in the nation.

Brown said the plan will bring in \$346 million every two years. She plans to earmark 10 percent of the funds for tobacco cessation programs, with the rest going to the state’s Medicaid fund.

Oregon is facing a \$950 million Medicaid funding gap, in part because of a drop in federal funding. The state will pay off half its debt

with a recently-approved tax on health care providers. The proposed tobacco tax will help cover some of the remaining costs.

The plan would also impose the state’s first tax on e-cigarettes, calling for a 65% tax on the wholesale price as a way to combat rising rates of vaping among teens.

Supporters say that the tax will not only bring in more money for the state, but also decrease long-term health care costs related to smoking. The Oregon Health Authority estimates tobacco use costs Oregonians \$2.5 billion a year.

NEWS OF RECORD

Continued from Page 2A

FUNERALS PENDING

Esther Bork Evans: There will be a graveside service and interment at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Enterprise Cemetery in Enterprise. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Juanita Evelyn Fisher: Her memorial service will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 27, at The Garden Church Tri-Cities (6811 W. Okanogan Place in Kennewick, Washington). Friends are invited to join the family for a reception at the church immediately after the service. Her graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Monday, May 6, at Twin Falls Cemetery in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Dorothy Miles Carter: Graveside memorial services

will be Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Following the service, friends are invited to the Eagle Valley Grange for a potluck luncheon; those attending are asked to bring a dish. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eagle Valley Grange through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Dorothy’s memory, go to www.colestributecenter.com

Chary Mires: A memorial service and celebration of Chary’s life will take place Saturday, May 4, at 2 p.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Baker Heritage Museum or the Leo Adler Foundation through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamis

pinevalleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County warrant): Andrew Levi Myers, 41, of 2285 Cherry St., 10:28 a.m. Wednesday, in the 1000 block of Walnut Street; jailed.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS and RECKLESS DRIVING (Baker County warrant): Jacob Paul Kanalz, 29, of Baker City, 2:39 p.m. Thursday, at Auburn Avenue and 15th Street; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff’s Office

VIOLATION OF RELEASE AGREEMENT (Baker County warrant) and BURGLARY (Idaho fugitive warrant): Pearl Naomi Adair, 38, of Boise, 8:42 a.m. Wednesday on Oxbow Highway; jailed.

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