

Baker City Herald

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GO! Magazine
Your weekly guide to arts and entertainment happening around Northeast Oregon

IN THIS EDITION: Local • Business & AgLife • Go! magazine \$1.50

QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Marilyn Smith of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

SALEM — The \$1 billion award against the State of Oregon in a class action lawsuit over its forestry practices will likely be subject to lengthy appeals, but it may also put pressure on the government to consider settlement talks.

On Nov. 20, a jury found Oregon's government liable for breaching contracts with 13 counties and numerous taxing districts by logging an insufficient amount of timber from state forests, thereby costing them money.

BRIEFING

Baker Community Choir concerts set for Dec. 13, 14, 15

The Baker Community Choir's Christmas concerts are scheduled for Dec. 13, 14 and 15 at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 14, and 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. The Baker Valley Children's Choir will perform on Dec. 13 and 14. Donations will be accepted at the door, and proceeds support the Children's Choir.

WEATHER

Today
36 / 20



Snow and gusty wind

Thursday
34 / 15



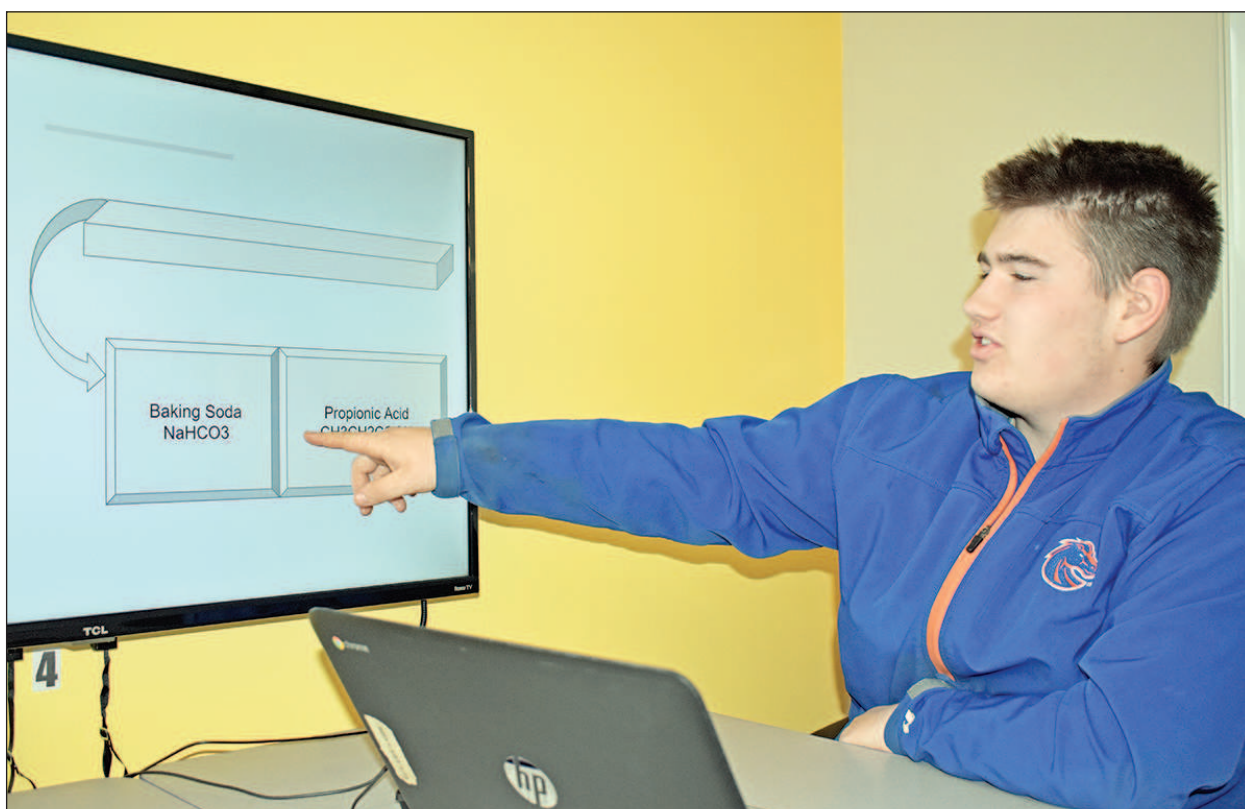
Morning snow showers

Full forecast on the back of the B section.

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Baker High School Students Create Prototypes For Useful, Marketable Products

Problem Solvers



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Hunter Long is working on a fire suppression system for semi-trucks. Long is a student in Toni Zikmund's class at Baker High School in which students create prototypes for useful products.

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

It starts with a "bug me" list.

Everyone has these pet peeves — the everyday things that irritate and make us wonder if there is a better way.

Now students at Baker High School are turning those annoyances into real-life solutions.

The program is called INCubator edu. It is the first such program to be offered in Oregon, said Toni Zikmund, who teaches business classes at BHS.

She heard about the program at a conference in San Antonio, Texas, and saw real examples of what students have created.

For example, a team from Arlington Heights, Illinois, created a Hoodie Hoop to help rethread hoodie ties that come out in the wash.

Eight students signed up for the year-long class at BHS. To begin, they form those bug me lists and narrow it down to one project. At the end of the first semester, team members present their idea — their "Most Valuable Product" — to a board of advisers in search of funding to build a prototype.

The second semester is spent designing the product and creating a marketing plan. The class culminates

"They really push working with your community and bringing in the experts. We're looking for people to help us build these entrepreneurs and help them be successful."

— Toni Zikmund, BHS teacher

with a pitch to the advisory board for start-up funding.

"They'll do a whole Shark Tank-type pitch that night," Zikmund said. "It'll be a big event."

The students are divided into four teams. Throughout the year, Zikmund provides business-centered lessons on accounting, marketing, material supplies, and patent law. Sixteen of the lessons are designed to be taught by coaches from the community, such as accountants and lawyers.

Community members also serve as mentors who meet with the teams every two weeks. Zikmund still needs one or two mentors willing to work with the students.

"They really push working with your community and bringing in the experts," Zikmund said of the

program. "We're looking for people to help us build these entrepreneurs and help them be successful."

Bryan Tweit is the program's "community champion." Tweit runs the business mentorship program Launch Pad Baker. In his role with Incubatoredu he contacted business owners to recruit coaches and mentors.

"There are a lot of people who can bring a lot to the table," Tweit said.

He sees value in this program that inspires the next generation of workforce.

"The value it gives them later on is priceless," he said. "Imagine if your kids had the mindset of a business owner. Think of how valuable that is as a person."

He has filled one of the mentor roles. Working with the students, he said, requires the ability to give advice but let them find their own way.

"To never give them the answer but direct them to find the answer," he said.

Mentors also help the teams work through apparent roadblocks.

"Realizing that walls aren't cliffs — there's another path," he said.

See **Solutions**/Page 2A



Lisa Britton/For the Baker City Herald

Mentor Vanessa Spriet, right, works with the team of Gracie Farber and Payton Jones as they develop an idea for eco-friendly hygiene items. In the background, Bryan Tweit works with Eric Bunarith who is designing a tea infuser with Taya Riley (not pictured).

Baxter the new district attorney

Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday appointed Greg M. Baxter, the son of recently retired Baker County Circuit Court Judge Greg Baxter, as Baker County district attorney.

The younger Baxter, 34, fills a vacancy created by Brown's decision to appoint District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff as Circuit Court judge as of Nov. 1. Shirtcliff replaced the elder Baxter on the bench.



Baxter

In announcing her appointment of Baxter as district attorney, Brown praised the 2003 Baker High School graduate's experience.

"Greg Baxter has earned the trust of residents, law enforcement, and community partners in Eastern Oregon," Brown stated in a press release. "His experience as a prosecutor and his deep ties to the community will serve him well as he assumes his role as Baker County's district attorney."

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Open house at Marla's Mall

An open house is scheduled at Marla's Mall next week to welcome Christmas shoppers.

The center, which offers free clothing and personal hygiene items for all, will be open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

"It's an opportunity for the community to see what we have to offer and do a little Christmas shopping," Susan Myers, who oversees operations at Marla's Mall, stated in a press release.

"I'll have tons of brand-new stuff," she said.

The shop, which is housed in the former North Baker School building, at 2725 Seventh St., will be closed Monday to prepare for the open house. The entrance to Marla's Mall is on the B Street side of the building.

Participants will receive a special bag for shopping during the event.

Marla's Mall is dedicated to Marla Cavallo, who taught PE and health at Baker High School for 20 years. She died of cancer in 2007.

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TODAY
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FRIDAY — A DIFFERENT SORT OF HOLIDAY DISPLAY AT HAINES POST OFFICE