



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

Baker City Herald

January 1, 2020

Serving Baker County since 1870 • bakercityherald.com

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 Jim Schmidt of Baker City.

Oregon, 3A

PENDLETON — The next step in the controversial Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line project and its pursuit of state approval will have to wait at least another month.

BRIEFING

Applicants sought for City Council

Baker City residents interested in serving on the City Council have until 4 p.m. on Jan. 6 to submit an application. To be eligible, applicants must be registered to vote in Oregon and have lived within the Baker City limits for at least 12 months prior to being appointed.

WEATHER

Today

45 / 32



Rain or snow

Thursday

40 / 27



Snow showers

The space below will be blank on issues delivered or sold from boxes. The space is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Baker County Woman Part Of Stanford University Team That Designed And Built A Solar-Powered Car To Compete In Competition In Australia

Across the Outback, Powered by the Sun



Submitted photo

Sarah Spaug of Baker County helped design and build Stanford University's solar-powered car that competed in an international competition last fall in Australia.

By Lisa Britton

For the Baker City Herald

Sarah Spaug's story seems to end almost before it starts.

Her story about racing a solar-powered car across the Australian Outback, anyway.

"Our car did not, unfortunately, finish the race," Spaug said. "Our battery caught on fire — it burned up on the side of the road in the middle of the Outback."

Spaugh, 23, grew up in McEwen, near Sumpter. She has earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, and this month begins studying for her master's degree in electrical engineering.

Every two years a team from Stanford enters a solar car in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge in Australia. The event, according to its website, "is primarily a design competition to discover the world's most efficient electric car."

Spaugh joined her first solar car team in 2016 during her junior year at Palo Alto — halfway through the two-year cycle.

"A full car is a two-year project," she said. "You spend six months just on aerodynamics."

That car raced in October 2017. She



Sarah Spaug

was part of the tech crew.

Spaugh's more recent solar car project ran from 2017 to the race in October 2019. This time she was on the leadership team.

The competition has been a Stanford

"A full car is a two-year project."

— Sarah Spaug, Stanford University graduate who helped design and build a solar-powered car for the university's entry in an international electric car contest

tradition since the late 1980s.

"It's an established student club — one of the more life-consuming clubs," she said.

One year ago Spaug's team of 22 students created a timeline for finishing the car's subsystems.

"We're notorious as a team for falling behind schedule," she said.

They should have had the vehicle finished and tested by the beginning of June 2019. But that month found the team members working from 9 a.m. to midnight in a rush to complete the car.

The team designs every part of the car. Some pieces they make on campus, while others are created by professional machinists.

"It's very much ground up," Spaug said.

Her team didn't have much chance to test their design before shipping the car to Australia in August.

And testing is crucial to any invention.

See Solar / Page 2A

Cell tower appeal claims city erred

■ Baker City Council will meet Tuesday to hear Verizon's appeal seeking permission to build 70-foot tower

By Jayson Jacoby

jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

An attorney representing Verizon Wireless argues that the Baker City Planning Commission violated a federal law on Dec. 4 when it denied the company's application for a conditional use permit to build a 70-foot cell tower in north Baker City.

Verizon has appealed the Planning Commission's 5-2 vote to the Baker City Council.

The City Council will consider the appeal during a public hearing Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Verizon's appeal was filed by E. Michael Connors, an attorney with the Portland firm Hathaway Larson.

He claims, among other things, that the Planning Commission's denial "violates the Federal Telecommunications Act because it prohibits or would have the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireless services in the City."

Connors also writes that if the city denies Verizon's application, "it would be virtually impossible for Verizon to site a tower to resolve the significant gap in coverage and capacity in the City. That would be a clear-cut violation of the Federal Telecommunications Act."

The majority of the Planning Commission concluded that concerns about how the proposed 70-foot tower would affect views — a complaint several residents expressed to the Commission — could not be mitigated except by requiring Verizon to limit the tower's height to 50 feet. That's the maximum the city's zoning ordinance allows without a conditional-use permit.

Alan Blair, whose two-decade-plus tenure on the Planning Commission ended Tuesday, said he believes commissioners were "fair" and followed the city's zoning rules in reaching their decision to deny Verizon's application.

See Appeal / Page 2A



Submitted photo

One of Sarah Spaug's teammates from Stanford University drives the solar-powered electric car the team designed and built to compete in an international race in Australia.



TODAY Issue 110, 22 pages

Business.....1B & 2B Calendar.....2A Classified.....3B-6B

Comics.....7B Community News.....3A Crossword.....5B & 6B

Dear Abby.....8B Horoscope.....5B & 6B Lottery Results.....2A

News of Record.....2A Obituaries.....2A Opinion.....4A

Senior Menus.....2A Sports.....5A & 6A Weather.....8B

FRIDAY — SCARCE SNOW DOESN'T KEEP ELK FROM FEEDING SITES