

Clean up at the courts

Although the spring sports season was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Baker High School's tennis coach Matt Cunningham went to work cleaning up debris around the courts.



BTI produces face shields for health care workers in Baker County

Baker Technical Institute (BTI) is working to make face shields using 3D printers in their engineering lab to help Baker County healthcare providers and emergency first responders meet the rising need for personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus pandemic.

CDC guidelines recommend that healthcare professionals use face shields to protect themselves when in close proximity with patients showing COVID-19 symptoms.

BTI started working initially with Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City on their design needs for face shields.

"When the hospital reached out and asked if BTI could produce these, I was excited to have an opportunity to contribute to the cause," says Chris Wittich, BTI engineering instructor. "We immediately went to work on the design and began prototype production with the use of 3D printers in our lab."

BTI completed the first models, then worked with the various healthcare providers to gain approval, and now is moving on to the production phase.

"We worked with Boise State University on the final design knowing that they had already worked through the medical approval process," Wittich said.

The masks are made by first printing the visor then cutting



Emergency department staff at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center received these face shields created at Baker Technical Institute in Baker City.

and attaching the thin plastic shield followed by an elastic headband. The shields then are replaceable as needed. Currently, multiple printers are creating about three shields every three hours.

"Manufacturing these face shields for our healthcare providers is an incredible gesture from BTI. It will allow us to further protect our colleagues on the front line fighting this pandemic. This effort demonstrates BTI's innovative organizational cooperation, which is one of the many community

strengths found in Baker City. We are truly grateful," said Dr. Leslie Jackson, Vice President of Medical Affairs at Saint Alphonsus Baker City.

BTI is currently producing fully assembled face shields for Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, Saint Luke's Clinic, Baker County Emergency Management, dental offices, food service staff, and agencies in Union County.

For more information about Baker Technical Institute, or to inquire about face masks, call 541-524-2651.