

# BUSINESS Register

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## SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES

CLARK CORBIN



### SHOPTALK

## Daylight at the end of the tunnel

Businessman Jim Fueling is having no trouble making friends with doughnut fans.

Last month, Fueling opened Daylight Donuts at 1225 E. 17th St., north of Lowe's.

Fueling said he has been in love with the chain's fresh-baked offering since the first doughnut crossed his lips 30 years ago in Moscow. When the Daylight franchise on Pier View Drive closed earlier this year, Fueling said he had to act.

"It is just always something I thought about, and when (the previous location) closed here, I just thought, 'I can't do without their doughnuts.'"

Fueling and the shop's six employees bake up 60 varieties of doughnuts to offer their customers. The raspberry fritters have earned positive reviews from local customers, and Fueling suggests trying the sausage doughnut. The treat starts with sweet dough and sausage and is finished with a light glaze of sugar or chocolate.

During the first 10 days of operation, Fueling said he has been overwhelmed by customers' response.

"I've got to tell you, I have owned a lot of businesses in my life, and I cannot believe the reception we get," Fueling said. "The public walks in and is so thankful Daylight is back in town."

Daylight Donuts is open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Information is available by calling the shop at 523-1250.

### BridgeMAXX acquired

Michigan-based broadband provider SpeedConnect announced it has acquired BridgeMAXX Internet services.

In connection with the acquisition, SpeedConnect plans to upgrade BridgeMAXX's networks. The company plans to locate new cell towers, add wireless broadband sectors to existing towers and invest in technology, according to a news release.

"The broadband connec-

■ Morning outdoor TV segment starts up on KPVI

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Jim Barron's interest in guns and experience with military arms in Great Britain is the basis of his Rigby business, Quality Arms.

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# Preferring Idaho gun laws

## Former British government weapons expert sets up shop in Rigby

By JEN AUSTIN  
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RIGBY — Idaho's gun-friendly laws, as well as the low crime rate, is partly the reason gun manufacturer Jim Barron chose to set up shop here.

"I'm from England," he said. "I know what the gun laws are like in England and Europe, and there (are) more problems in those countries than there is here."

"You look at the states and the cities that have the most stringent gun laws in the United States — Chicago, California, Washington — there's people dying on those streets every day because a criminal's a criminal. They don't care about what laws are passed."

"Only law-abiding citizens abide by the law. So, I like Idaho. The gun laws in Idaho are good." Barron and co-owner Jeremy Beasley created Quality Arms three years ago in Barron's shop in Rigby. Before moving here, Barron said he spent most of his life working in weapons systems for England's Ministry of Defence.

The idea for Quality Arms started after Barron's Rigby neighbor, a police officer, asked Barron to go shooting. Barron said the AR-15 owned by his neighbor, who he asked not be named, "needed improvement." "And it went from there," Barron said. "First of all, I built one for myself and carried on



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**Jim Barron begins to assemble the trigger mechanism on one of the precision rifles he builds.**

improving it and improving it, and then people started asking me to build guns for them."

Barron met Beasley at a gun show in Idaho Falls. Beasley asked Barron whether he could sell the AR-15s Barron was making. The two eventually became partners.

"He works very hard and is a great partner," Barron said. "We both have the same ideas to obviously put out a very good product. And to service police and sheriffs departments, and we do that a lot."

Quality Arms makes three types of guns: AR-15s, pistols and sniper rifles. Next month it will be licensed to manufacture suppressors, mainly needed by police departments. The suppressors attach to the barrels of AR-15s to reduce noise when the gun is fired.

Quality Arms also services weapons for law enforcement departments, mostly throughout

Idaho, and sells parts to gun enthusiasts who want to build their own weapons. They are also working with the Army's 25th Infantry in Hawaii to manufacture commemorative rifles for Army soldiers.

Jefferson County Sheriff Blair Olsen said his department has purchased rifles from Quality Arms in the past.

"I've had very good service from them," Olsen said. "We found them (the rifles) to be very reliable. The relationship between (Quality Arms) and the (sheriff's office) is very good."

The most popular gun sold by Quality Arms, Barron said, is the Dominator — an 18-inch stainless-steel barrel customized AR-15. It features a nickel-plated trigger, hammer, bolt and carrier. The gun sells for \$1,395.

"There are other guns out there that are a lot cheaper than mine and they're junk," Barron said. "Somebody buys one of our guns, all they've got to do is go and buy the ammunition and enjoy it. They don't have to go shopping around for this, that and the other just to enjoy the gun."

Barron's favorite weapon is his 6.5 Grendel, which he said could save soldiers' lives if the military was willing to shop around.

"This particular gun is built on the AR-15 platform," he said. "The AR-15 has a good range of about 400 yards. This gun's a

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the latest installment of the Post Register's ongoing Small Business Success Stories series. The series spotlights some of the area's homegrown businesses and companies. To suggest a business to highlight, send an email with a brief description of the company to news@postregister.com.

thousand yards."

Barron recently built an ambidextrous AR-15, proving wrong other gun manufacturers who told him it was impossible to build an AR-15 that could be shot with either hand.

Kelly Van Orden, president of Battle Blades in Irwin, met Barron when he bought an AR-15 known as the Liberator from Quality Arms.

"I've had probably 15 AR-15 platform weapons in my life by different manufacturers," Van Orden said. "I've never seen anything like Jim's. The tolerances are so tight. The majority of AR-15 platform guns, the triggers are 8 to 15 pounds in pull weight. His are 4, which is phenomenal for this type of weapon and they're still safe."

"The majority of the people that lighten up triggers on this kind of weapon to that point, the gun's not safe anymore. But his are."

## People in Business

### I.F. mayor recognized for outstanding contributions

The Association of Idaho Cities honored Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhrman with the Harold Hurst Award for his outstanding contributions to the association.

The group presented Fuhrman with a plaque June 20 at the 65th AIC Annual Conference in Boise.

The annual award is given to a city official "who demonstrates exemplary performance in city government and who has contributed to the accomplishments of the Association of Idaho Cities," according to a news release. The award is named for Harold Hurst, the mayor of Heyburn for 24 years and a past president of AIC.

Prior to being elected mayor of Idaho Falls in 2005, Fuhrman served 18 years with the Idaho Falls Police Department. He initiated the annual Mayor's Economic and Eastern Idaho Legisla-

tive Forums and has worked to strengthen the relations between cities and counties. He is a former president of the Association of Idaho Cities and is a member of the association's Legislative Committee.

The Association of Idaho Cities was formed in 1947 and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation organized to serve Idaho's 200 incorporated cities. It influences policies and provides education, training and technical assistance to strengthen the ability of city elected officials and staff to serve their communities, the release said.

### INL researchers honored by the Nuclear Society

Idaho National Laboratory nuclear fuels researcher Dr. Jian Gan accepted a prestigious liter-



Fuhrman

ary award Wednesday at the American Nuclear Society's annual meeting in Chicago.

The award, given by the Society's Materials Science and Technology Division, recognized Gan for a 2010 publication in the Journal of Nuclear Materials, according to a news release. The society said Gan's work represented the best full-length materials-oriented paper in the field of materials science and technology contributing to the development of nuclear energy.

Gan's paper describes an INL research experiment aimed at developing more proliferation-resistant nuclear fuels for research and test reactors across the world. The research took advantage of INL's unique capability to examine irradiated nuclear fuels with a transmission electron microscope.



Gan

Co-authoring the paper with Gan were INL's Dennis Keiser Jr., Daniel Wachs, Adam Robinson and Brandon Miller, along with Todd Allen from the Center for Advanced Energy Studies in Idaho Falls.

### Mayor, councilman elected to district

Association of Idaho Cities members elected Rexburg councilman Bruce Sutherland and Island Park Mayor Tom Jewell as their new District 6 directors for 2012-13. Sutherland and Jewell took the oath of office June 22 during the 65th AIC Annual Conference in Boise where more than 360 delegates representing cities from around the state were in attendance.

Also elected were the following officers and district directors representing the geographic areas of the state:

- President, Mayor John Evans, Garden City
- First vice president, Mayor

Steven England, Chubbuck

- Second vice president, Mayor Sandi Bloem, Coeur d'Alene

- Third vice president, Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Meridian

- Directors from District 1: Rathdrum Mayor Vic Holmes and Hayden council member Jeri DeLange

- Directors from District 2: Grangeville Councilman Mike Prance and Lewiston Councilman Dr. Dennis Ohrtman

- Directors from District 3: Nampa Councilman Martin Thorne and Wilder Mayor John Bechtel

- Directors from District 3A: Boise Councilwoman Elaine Clegg and Meridian Councilman David Zarembo

- Directors from District 4: Paul Councilman Bob Dempsey and Twin Falls Mayor Greg Lanting

- Directors from District 5: Soda Springs Councilman Randy Prescott and Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad.