

The Baker Bite

December 20, 2024

News of Baker City



Issue. 17

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City News:

Housing:

Baker City is classified as a severely rent burdened city. This means 25% or more of our community members are spending more than 50% of their household income on housing. 2022 data (the most recent) shows 29.7% of Baker City experienced rent burden. Several factors can affect this number. The number of rentals available, the cost of the rentals, and the wage earned by the renter. Many houses have been turned into vacation rentals, decreasing the number of livable rentals. Rent prices are up with a shortage. Hospitality and retail wages are relatively low, leading to overall average low wages. One of the ways to help is to increase the amount of lower- and middle-income housing. The city received a grant to review housing, particularly codes and a create a comprehensive plan to try to encourage increased housing availability. Framework has received an award from the city to perform this task.

Water and Sewer:

When the new software went into service a few years ago many accounts were accidentally dropped. Also billing errors occurred in estimates of water usage. The city is going around reading meters and will be transitioning back to billing based on meter readings instead of estimated use. Some people will receive bills if the estimate was too low compared to actual usage. Some people will receive a credit if estimates were higher than actual use. Some people will be spot on. Do not be surprised if your bill is vastly different. As well, usage will again appear on your water bill. If you have not been receiving a bill, that will likely change if you have a meter.

Christmas:

The most prominent thought in my brain is Christmas right now. Gifts, food, tree, decorations friends, family, events around town, and more musings gyrating: am I ready? In all the hustle we forget the simple parts of the season. Even if you don't celebrate Christmas, take time with your family, tell each one you love them. Use the season to reconnect. Knock on your neighbor's door and tell them you are glad they are your neighbor. Share some of your light at this darkest time of the year. The election had a lot of people upset, our town has had some divisions over the last year or so. Now is the time to come together. We have an amazing place here. Lets all remember what is important and work to better our little community.

AHHHH! I still don't have all my shopping done. I just saw an ad from Amazon that they can still ship a gift in time for Christmas. WHY? **Lucky** for you we have businesses in town that have just about anything you might want to find. If you don't know what to get that someone special, get a gift card. Almost every business in town sells a gift card. Walk in and meet the owners then get your item. The people working in the local businesses are your neighbors. Most of the businesses are open next week for the last-minute shopper and no shipping needed! Go visit them today.

Art:

What can art do for a child?

Brain plasticity: Art can help the brain create new neurons and strengthen connections between neurons.

Serotonin levels: Art can raise serotonin levels: a chemical that makes you feel happy.

Neural pathways: Observing art can stimulate the creation of new neural pathways and ways of thinking.

Cognitive development: Art can improve cognitive development in many ways, including:

- Visual-spatial skills
- Memory and recall
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Focus
- Mental flexibility

Implicit memory: Art can help develop implicit memory, which is when hand movements become wired and linked in the brain.

Social skills: Art can promote social skills and collaboration.

Appreciation for beauty: Art can encourage appreciation for the beauty around them.

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What does all this boil down to? Your brain feeling happy, thinking better, and appreciating the world around it.

Where can my child or I get art?

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center!

I can't afford art.

Have you heard of Crossroads' PAY WHAT YOU CAN program?

This program is available to EVERYONE! You don't need to fill out any forms, and they don't ask any questions!

When signing up for a class, simply enter the amount you want to contribute at check-out, no questions asked!

<https://crossroads-arts.org/products/classes>

Besides traditional art we have multiple different types of art available in Baker:

Performing Arts: Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre and dance classes at Crossroads.

Music Arts: Baker Choir, most of the schools now have a band program, jam sessions at Ison House and the VFW, music at local restaurants, KBZR Radio and our own local concert venue: Churchill School.

Literature and poetry arts: Betty's Books and the Baker County Library.

Best friends featured animals: <https://www.bestfriendsofbaker.org/new-page>

RUGER - 1 year old neutered male

SPECK - A "ready to go anytime, anywhere" neutered male

COPPER (AKA CHEETO!) - An affectionate, funny, neutered, active pup-ster

Calendar Highlights (<https://hikingbaker.com/event-calendar>):

- Open swim at the Y most of the week
- Open Gym at the Y most of the week
- Skiing at ALMR most of the week
- Eltrym free movie 23rd and 24th
- Music at AJ's both weekends of Winter Break
- Haines Steakhouse, Geiser Grand and Baker Truck Corral Christmas meals

Death Notices:

These are viewable without a subscription at the Baker City Herald

https://www.bakercityherald.com/obituaries/death_notices/

