

The Baker Bite

February 21, 2025

News of Baker City



Issue. 25

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Baker Area:

National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) have had thousands of layoffs. The local USFS, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, office has had 34 employees fired in Baker. USFS has lost 3400 workers, BLM has lost 800 workers and the NPS has lost 1000 workers nationwide to terminations. Another large number of workers chose to take the buyout. There are those saying the media is blowing the layoffs out of proportion. Let's talk proportions. We have about 190 federal employees in Baker County and about 25% have been cut. Seems like a huge proportion to this newsletter.

I have read of people happy that the layoffs are occurring, cheering that "leeches on our backs were pulled off". Let me be clear these are our friends, family and neighbors. There are decent humane ways to downsize a government. Offering early retirement and as people retire not replacing those jobs. Allowing natural attrition to occur. Retrain and shift workers into needed roles while downsizing the roles you wish to eliminate.

The current method grabs headlines and appeals to the vicious few, but those of us who care about our communities and neighbors are appalled. I am putting a call out to check on those people you know who are affected. With the number laid off in this county alone chances are it is someone you know.

Be a good human!

Have empathy!

Care for your neighbor!

Food Insecurity:

The rate of food insecurity in Baker County is 13.2%. What does this mean? This means that about 1 out of every 8 people in Baker does not know where their next meal is coming from, or if they will be able to buy groceries and feed their family. 36.71% of the county is eligible for SNAP benefits. This is where free school breakfast, snacks and lunches are extremely important and how much the Backpack Program means. Low cost senior meals at Community Connections(CC) help. You can help with a donation to the Backpack Program or sponsorship at CC. Or go to Bi-Mart or Grocery Outlet and buy non-perishable food to put in a Sharing Pantry.

Dog Impound:

A temporary agreement has been reached with Baker Veterinary Hospital to provide impound services. The fees have gone up drastically. Avoid fees by keeping your dogs secure. The new fees are \$35 per night and \$50 per night for dangerous dogs. The city will continue to work on a long-term solution.

Cliff Bentz Townhall:

Cliff Bentz, congressional district 2 representative to the US Congress, held a townhall Wednesday the 19th. Issues raised included: wildfire maps, watershed fuel problems, Elon Musk and DOGE, federal job cuts, the deep divide created between people, taxes and the gap between rich and poor widening. Taxing the wealthy came up several times. Please visit the Baker City Herald for a full report on the townhall. Also an editorial about the layoffs is available.

Baker School District: (<https://www.applitrack.com/Baker5J/onlineapp/default.aspx?all=1>)
Baker School District is hiring. There are 23 openings currently. Some of the positions are not certified, some are certified and some are classified. They are particularly looking in the athletics department and for Para positions. The QR-code links to the employment webpage.



Art:

Women's Woodworking (<https://www.facebook.com/SheStructs>)

Laura Klement teaches woodworking classes at Churchill School on a regular basis. Each class offers a different build. Some previous builds include camp chairs, shelves and doll houses. Each student learns to use different tools for the particular build. Tools can include: table saw, miter saw, jig saw, drill, nail gun, glue, router, tape measure, T-square and more. The QR-code links to a picture of a dollhouse that started as a sheet of plywood. Watch the Women's Woodworking FB page or Churchill School event page.



Spay/Neuter:

The Impound crisis for dogs has raised the issue of too many cats and dogs running around the streets of Baker City and producing offspring. There are too many great animals needing adoption to bring more into this world. Baker Animal Clinic and Baker Veterinary Hospital are offering specials on spay/neuter for dogs and cats. Call either one today and ask about the specials in March. BAC: 541-523-3611, BVH: 541-523-7772

Sports:

Nordic Skiing

Nordic skiing right here at home. Anthony Lakes groomers have created a groomed trail at the golf course. If you like to Nordic and don't want to drive up the mountain your time is now!

Baker YMCA

Group fitness classes are available as part of your membership. The classes each emphasize a core body fitness. Multiple classes in Cardio, Strength, and Mind/Body are available. Check out their web page today.

Studio Sweat Hot Yoga

They offer Hot Yoga, Inferno Hot Pilates, Vinyasa Flow, Restorative Yoga and Yin Yoga. Check out their FB and web pages.

Home Sports:

2/20 – 2/24 Old Oregon League playoffs (1-A)

2/20 Girls Varsity

2/22 Boys Varsity

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

2/22 Lizzie No at Churchill School

2/24 Situational Awareness Class

2/25 Baker City Council Meeting

2/27 Trivia at North 7

2/28 Spending Blackout: Don't Spend Money

2/28 Daniel Villareal at Churchill (ok to buy a drink at Strade B Bar and from MC taco Bus, but get your tickets early)

3/1 Living an American Dream Film Screening at Churchill

