

The Baker Bite

February 28, 2025

News of Baker City



Issue. 26

Online: thebakerbite.com

Facebook: The Baker Bite News

Instagram: [the_baker_bite_news](https://www.instagram.com/the_baker_bite_news)

Email: thebakerbitenews@gmail.com

City News:

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC)

OTEC will raise rates starting with your April bill. The average rate increase will be 9.5% but differs by rate class. Rate classes include: residential, irrigation, commercial, industrial and recharging stations. The 9.5% is calculated based on an increase in delivery charge of \$5 and an increase in of \$0.06797 to \$0.07259 in energy cost per kilowatt-hour. Your meter measures kilowatt-hours. It has been 5 years since there has been an increase. If you need help with energy bills, there are some programs available. The local contact for energy assistance in Community Connections at 541-523-6591. You can visit this website to see if you may qualify or use the QR code.

<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/energy-weatherization/pages/utility-bill-payment-assistance.aspx>



Main Street traffic

City council discussed and heard comment about the problems with main street, including parking, speed of traffic, and difficulty crossing the street at intersections with no lights. There seemed to be support for changing the striping on Main to have 3 lanes: 1 lane each direction and a turn lane in the center. This would likely decrease the speed of cars and make crossing the street on foot easier. A contentious issue was making angle-in parking along Main. Currently there is angle-in parking on Resort and 1st streets. Angle-in parking would approximately double the parking capacity. Some people dislike angle-in parking because it is hard to see to back up or see up the street from an intersection. There would still be traditional parallel parking on side streets. The possibility of permits for residents, property owners and businesses was discussed. A prior survey by Baker City Downtown (BCD) showed interest in getting T's painted on the parallel parking, people won't shop unless they can park, and there is a desire to create a parking lot or structure. For a full view of the BCD newsletter that has the full survey results it is available at thebakerbite.com under opinion pieces or use the QR-code.



City Goals

The City Council held a worksession at 5pm Tuesday to discuss goals. The overarching themes were Safety, Health and Economic Opportunity. These themes were broken down into short-term, mid-term and long range goals. Short term goals included: continuing to fix past problems, economic development, community needs, and financial needs. Mid-term goals added fiscal improvements and infrastructure. Several concepts kept being touched on, particularly housing, livable wage jobs, stopping run-away costs, fixing our healthcare issues, strengthen our businesses and make it easier to build in Baker. All of the council wants to see higher paying jobs, more flexible priced housing and our city look beautiful. In upcoming months there may be opportunities to form workgroups to address some of these issues. The R3 project discussed in Issue 23 of this newsletter is already trying to help with housing.

Art, Science, History, and Animals

OSU Extension Baker County 4-Hand the Baker County Fairgrounds

The extension office is busy providing great clases, events and experiences for youth and adults. Two gardening classes in March on the 8th and 22nd, Wagon Train experience in July, Summer Jam Music Fest in August, a Barn Dance March 14th, Felting for Beginners March 1st, 4-H group meetings, Legos and More club, Car knowledge, STEM. Call or check them out today.



Art

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center

Crossroads is having a spring break art camp! March 25-27th from 10am to 12pm. From painting to mixed media and crafts, the art instructors will guide your little artists through a world of colorful imagination. Each day features a new activity, so join them for a camp filled with creativity, learning, and laughter! This is part of the "Pay What You Can" program.

Health

Building Healthy Families (BHF)

BHF is an independent, nonprofit family support organization, offering personalized universal family support and education programs for parents, caregivers, parents-to-be, students and children through diversified programming. They promote family access to needed resources in the community and advocate for children and families. Weekly reading, exercise, music and field trips for little ones. Find out more by attending their open house on February 27th from 5-7 at 2725 7th st. visit their FB page or Website.



Sports:

Eastern Slopes Ranch (ESR)

Horseback riding lessons restart in March. If you are 6 and up you can learn to ride. Call Ryki at 208-369-3292 to schedule today. ESR also offers Riding Clinics most of the summer. They are finalizing their schedule now and will post their clinics on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/easternsloperanch>.

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

2/28: Daniel Villarreal at Churchill

2/28, 3/1: Auditions at EORT

3/1: Living an American Dream at Churchill

3/1: Winemakers Dinner

3/2: Book Exchange

3/6 BMS Carnival

3/7 FIRST FRIDAY!!



Home Sports:

Keep an eye out for places and times for high school playoff games on Facebook at as well as the spring sports schedules:

<https://www.facebook.com/bhsbulldognationebook>

Death Notices:

These are viewable without a subscription at the Baker City Herald

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

