

The Baker Bite

March 14, 2025

News of Baker City

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Issue. 28

City News:

Boards and Commissions:

If you are thinking about becoming involved in local government or starting to learn how things happen in Baker City joining a board or commission is a great way to test the water. There are several openings available and you can help steer what happens in our city.



- Airport Commission (4 year term) - 1 position
- Historic District Design Review Commission (3 year term) - 3 positions
- Budget Board (3 year term) - 1 position
- Parks and Rec Board (2 year term) - 1 position
- Tree Board (3 year term) - 2 positions

If you are interested in applying, go to <https://www.bakercity.com/> and scroll down the page part way to Board and Commission open positions. Or the QR code takes you directly there.

Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)

Elkhorn Media, The Baker City Herald and this newsletter have had articles about TLT. The city council voted Tuesday night to approve a letter of intent to withdraw from the City/County IGA.

Baker Middle School

The BMS carnival raised \$17,304. Thank you to everyone who donated and came out for the fun!

Spring Diaper Drive:

Lew Bros Les Schwab and Baker Relief Nursery are partnering for a spring diaper drive. Bring unopened diapers and wipes to Lew Bros Tire Center from March 17th to the 31st.

Wine Walk 2025:

UnWINEd walk resumes March 20th. This year the walk will start at different businesses around town. Let Baker City Downtown know if your business wants to be a host or have refreshments.

Art:

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre:

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre presents "Charlotte's Web". Come enjoy this adaptation of the children's classic. Visit <https://easternoregonregionaltheatre.com/> for show times and tickets.

Good Karma Community Crafting:

Kelsey OHara presents her 1st class in a new series designed to benefit a local community organization. The 1st class is entitled "Northern Lights Paint & Sip Class". The proceeds will benefit Best Friends of Baker. The idea is to bring a beverage, join some friends and learn some painting.

The class Tuesday filled so quickly that 2 more classes were added. Call Kelsey to reserve a spot 734-899-7325. Classes are scheduled on 3/18 at 6 pm and 3/22 at 1 pm and 6 pm.



Health:

Oregon Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan (OHP)):

There is a lot of talk in the news about Medicaid because of federal cuts. There are a lot of pros and cons floated about in the news and social media to cutting or ending Medicaid. This article focuses on some facts about Medicaid in Baker County and allows the reader to be informed.

- 35.6% of Baker County is on OHP according to Oregon Health Authority. This means that if you are at the grocery store with 17 other people there would be 6 on OHP, or a little more than 1/3 of the people in Baker have OHP.
- A family of four with 2 adults earning Oregon minimum wage grosses about \$57,000 per year. Net is substantially less after SS benefits, Medicare, fees and taxes are taken out. This family would qualify for OHP.
- 550,000 people annually in the US declare bankruptcy because of medical bills and medical crises contribute to half of all home foreclosure filings nationally
- Oregon spent \$13.1 billion on Medicaid in 2023, the Feds spent \$17.94 billion on Oregon.
- Only 8% of Medicaid recipients went without care or delayed care versus 28% of uninsured

This newsletter supports healthcare for all. While Medicaid may need changed, drastic cuts with loss of insurance would translate into more medical crises including lack of care, and bankruptcy. Runaway health costs need curtailed in a humane way.

Measles:

Measles is a vaccine preventable disease. The vaccine is highly effective. Insurance covers a measles vaccine, but if it didn't the cost would be about \$100. As of March 11th, there have been 29 hospitalizations and 1 death in Texas alone. Google AI estimates that a single hospitalization may cost society at least \$47,000. That is 470 vaccines that could have been administered for just 1 hospitalization. Please check your measles vaccine status at any pharmacy, your doctor's office or the Department of Health.

Sports Special:

Baker High School Girls and Boys are headed to the State Tournament. Viewing requires a subscription. The QR codes take the reader to the viewing website.

Boys 3/13 at 3:15 pm in Forest Grove

Girls 3/13 at 6:30 pm in Forest Grove



Boys



Girls

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

Check the full calendar, these are only highlights!

3/16 3 pm Charlotte's Web at EORT

3/16 1 pm Earth Summit at the First Presbyterian Church

3/18 5:30 pm Ping pong at the high school

3/18 6 pm History talk at the Baker Heritage Museum

3/21 6 pm Jeshua Marshall at Churchill

3/21 6 pm Charlotte's Web at EORT

3/22 6pm Add Collard and Dusty Spivey Music at the Taphouse

3/22 6 pm Charlotte's Web at EORT

