

The Baker Bite

March 21, 2025

News of Baker City

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Issue. 29

City News:

Dog Impound:

An Animal Workgroup convened to start the process of a long-term solution for Baker City and County. The next meeting is March 27th. Please contact dbruland@bakercity.gov for more information.

Ambulance:

Contracts were signed and the City Council and County Commission approved the Baker City Ambulance as back-up for Pioneer Ambulance. The Baker Fire Department is waiting on a License from OHA. The fire department is making sure their training and certifications are up to date.

New Construction:

New project proposal for the property across from the Albertson's gas station hosted by the planning commission. A Dominoes as well as 1-2 retail shops would be potentially developed.

Water Billing:

The city is still transitioning back to reading meters. This may result in a higher than expected water bill, a lower than expected water bill or not much difference. The goal is to be done and back on meter reading by April 2025 but it may take until May 2025. <https://www.bakercity.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=127>

Annual Fire Hydrant Testing:

The Baker City Public Works Department will begin its annual fire hydrant testing and waterline flushing the week of March 24th, 2025. It is expected that the testing will continue for approximately two to three weeks.

City Council:

The Baker City Council will meet at the Quail Ridge Golf Course until further notice. Damage to the Council Chambers from water leaks has resulted in repairs and construction to fix the chambers.

Restaurants/Bars:

Matilda's House on Court (<https://www.instagram.com/matildashouseoncourt/>)

Their Instagram page lists them as a wine bar and antique shop. It is not to be confused with Matilda's on First. The First Street address is theirs also, but it is a laid-back coffee bar with gifts. The Court Street place recently hosted a St Patrick's Day dinner with Irish Beef Stew, Soda Bread and Pots de Crème. They had lovely wines to accompany the dinner. The inside space is relaxing. They have large and small tables for parties of different sizes. On regular nights they have charcuterie trays that can be ordered. They are open Thursday through Saturday 4 to 8 pm. Watch their Instagram for special events. Stop in and have a glass of wine with small bites. Your tension will ease and relaxation will take hold.



Food

An update to Sharing Pantry locations. Some of the previous pantry locations are gone or turned into sharing libraries. All were empty when I drove by recently, if you can spare some food, please leave some. If you have food and no way to get it to the location, please contact this newsletter. Thank you to these businesses that maintain these pantries. Current list:

- Eagles Parking Lot: H and 11th St.
- Blue Mountain Baptist Church: Across from Baker High School.
- Churchill School: 16th Street side of Churchill.
- Baker Christian Church Parking Lot: 675 OR Hwy 7.
- Baker County Health Department: 2200 4th St.

Editorial:

This is my first editorial piece. The reason I write this is that I am old enough to remember segregation. I also attended the 1st integrated school in Washington, DC. There are those who openly accept all people of different colors. Unfortunately, there are those who don't accept anyone who is not the same color. The reason the federal government banned segregation for federal government contractors is that those same people would not end segregation willing. They would all too willingly allow or support segregation. Donald Trump has overturned an executive order signed by Lyndon B Johnson in 1965 to stop a requirement that federal contractors must enforce rules against segregation in their workplaces. While this order is symbolic because of state and federal laws, it is a slippery slope we do not need to slide down. Clause 52.222-21 of the FAR is titled "Prohibition of Segregated Facilities" and reads: "The Contractor agrees that it does not and will not maintain or provide for its employees any segregated facilities at any of its establishments, and that it does not and will not permit its employees to perform their services at any location under its control where segregated facilities are maintained." People may say this is redundant. Sadly, segregation must be fought on many fronts and without a cease fire.

Let's be clear that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes segregated facilities illegal. Remember it took the National Guard to start integration of schools and active desegregation was occurring in the 1990's. A Mississippi School district still had to be ordered to desegregate in 2016, not even 10 years ago. And, this is only racial segregation, not gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, or national origin. I have black cousins, Mexican cousins, Native American cousins, nephews and nieces, a trans cousin, a female daughter, cousins that are protestant, catholic, Muslim, atheist, agnostic and probably more faiths, and I am bisexual. Look at your family tree, will you start discriminating?

Be Kind!

– Helen Loennig

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

3/20 5pm UnWINEd Walk

3/21 6pm Jeshua Marshall at Churchill School

3/21 7pm Jordan Shaw Music at AJ's

3/22 1pm and 6 pm Northern Lights Paint and Sip class 734-899-7325

3/22 6pm Charlotte's Web at EORT

3/23 3pm Charlotte's Web at EORT

3/23 Spike Coggins Music at AJ's

3/25 6pm Baker City Council at Quail Ridge

3/27 6:30pm Trivia Night at North 7

3/28 7pm Dog Bit Harris Music at AJ's

3/29 6pm Ducks Ltd and the Bug Club at Churchill School (Brian's favorite group)

