

The Baker Bite

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News of Baker City



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Pharmacies

The city council declared an emergency regarding pharmacy services in Baker City in order to expedite the process of changing the ordinance regarding drive thrus in the Baker City downtown area. The new ordinance would allow pharmacies to have a drive thru. The new ordinance was read 2 times. A final read will happen at the next city council meeting. There are at least 3 pharmacies looking to open in Baker City.

Trash and Recycling

New rates were released for combined trash and recycling in Baker City. Baker City residents that have trash service will be required to have recycling service. The recycling law in Oregon requires a 55 percent rate of material recovery for 2025. In order to meet the required rate and for the size of Baker City it was determined to go to curbside recycling for city residents. Non-city residents will have optional recycling available. The big bins at 12th and Campbell streets will still be available. There is a list of recyclables that can go in the new bins. They can all be comingled. If you want to help support Baker Sanitary and maybe help keep rates down, then continue to separate out your cardboard and take it to the big cardboard bin. Cardboard recycling help Baker Sanitary recoup some costs and the new co-mingled will not provide that income.

City Councilor

Councilor Carr resigned from City Council. The city will take applications from November 1st to December 31st for the vacant position. Applications will be available online or at the City Clerk's office.

R3 (Regional Rural Revitalization)

R3 helps to fund housing projects in Baker City. R3's support has translated into 105 homes completed, under construction or in the pipeline. There are currently 52 housing units under construction in Baker City.

Planning

With all the construction of homes it has been a good time to review the fee structure for residential and commercial development projects. University of Oregon performed an analysis of Baker City fees and System Development Charges (SDCs). Baker City does not levy SDCs and their fees appear to be in line with other Eastern Oregon communities. 2 findings of the study were that contractors feel the fees are not transparent and seem to be higher in the end than what they originally expected them to be. Also, Baker City has a rigid process that limits developers. City Council examined the current structure and asked the planning department and city manager to review the 2 major complaints for ways to be easier and particularly more transparent. The City and the County are ending their joint planning department and there will be separate departments going forward after December.

Fire Department

The fire department had an older extra truck that it was seeking to remove from service. The city of Pilot Rock recently lost fire equipment in a fire. The council voted to gift the truck to Pilot Rock.

Babies First

Babies First is a program at the Baker County Health Department. Babies First is a relationship-based, strength-focused home visiting program led by the public health nurses. They partner with families to support healthy pregnancies, strong parent-child relationships, and positive health outcomes for both babies and caregivers.

Through regular home visits, they help connect families to quality health care, community resources, and the support they deserve, because every child deserves a strong, healthy start in life! Call 541-523-8211 with questions. Don't forget about the Diaper Drive at Les Schwab through the end of the month.

Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop is an event by the Baker City Police Department. The program pairs you, grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, with a law enforcement officer while the child shops for Christmas gifts for their family. The program is supported entirely by donations and is seeking monetary donations. If you would like to donate contact Lieutenant Wayne Chastain at 541-524-2014 ext. 602. Checks can be made out to Baker City Police Department and dropped off at the Baker City Police Department at 1768 Auburn Ave.

Critical Care Access Hospital

A Critical Access Hospital (CAH) is a special designation for rural hospitals that meet specific criteria, primarily to ensure access to care in rural areas. To qualify, these hospitals must be located in a rural area, be a certain distance from another hospital (or meet other criteria), have no more than 25 beds, provide 24/7 emergency services, and have an average patient stay of no more than 96 hours for acute care. They receive enhanced Medicare reimbursement to help them remain financially viable. St Al's Baker City is a Critical Access Hospital. When you seek care at the emergency department they are going to evaluate the level of care you need. If the ER does not feel local options can meet that level of care they will arrange transport to an alternative that can. That may be life flight or ground transport in an ambulance.

ALSRA

The snow on the mountains made all the skiers start to dream about powder. Saturday November 1st is the Anthony Lakes Ski Racing Association annual Ski Swap, Silent Auction and Spaghetti Feed. It starts at 9 am at the Baker City Elks Lodge.

Churchill School

Haunted Studios continues Friday and Saturday this weekend, and another weekend and then on Halloween. Pete Droge Music comes on Sunday the 19th.

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre

A new show opens Friday the 17th and runs all 3 days this weekend and next weekend. "Nightfall with Edgar Allan Poe". 4 of Poe's creepy short stories are turned into fun Halloween plays.

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

10/16 ANKARSRUM Stand Mixer Display at Bella 2pm
10/16 Wine Walk 5pm
10/16 Sip and Stories and Royal Artisan 5pm
10/16, 17,18,19 May Day Rummage Sale at the Missouri Flat Grange 8am
10/17 Drive Thru Flu Clinic at the high school 10am
10/17, 18 Haunted Studios at Churchill
10/17, 18, 19 Nightfall with Edgar Allan Poe at EORT
10/17, 18, 19 Halloween events at the Geiser
10/18 No Kings Rally on Campbell 11:30am
10/18 Pumpkin Chunkin at the airport 12 pm
10/18 Pup Parade and Pawstume Contest 1pm
10/18 Oregon Book Awards Author Tour at Crossroads
10/19 Fall Festival at Baker Adventist Church 12pm
10/21 BMS Band Concert 7pm
10/22 BHS Band Concert 7pm
10/23 BMS Open House 5pm

