

The Baker Bite

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News of Baker City



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City News

Main Street

In February of 2025 at the request of a few citizens the city formed a committee to study Main St. 14 members reviewed Main St. The original reason was speeding, noise and pedestrian ease of use. The committee met regularly and looked at several ideas for Main St. In an unanimous decision restriping Main St. was the eventual outcome. If approved the new configuration would be 3 lanes, 1 traffic lane in each direction with a middle turn lane, similar to Campbell St., parallel parking and a bike lane. The nick name for this configuration is a "road diet". ODOT contributed crash data and information on other cities. Restriping was brought to city council in November. Many people from the public commented on Facebook, spoke and emailed their views. Council tabled the discussion and vote. ODOT has agreed to pay for the restriping minus parking configuration "T's", which would cost the city \$10,000. The T's are to help people park better and to decrease gaps between parked cars so there will be more parking. Council will review the issue again in January. For more information Ken Krohn has a facts section on his Facebook page and the Baker City Herald has written a good article.

Fees

City Council is reviewing fees for parks and street closures. The starting point for discussions can be found at the Facebook page "Around Town" or using the QR code. The old fee schedule and the new talking points are posted. It is important for the public to help in this process. This will be an ongoing process to try to balance the needs of the city with the needs of its non-profits, service organizations and businesses.



Pharmacy Services

The owner of Red Cross Drug in La Grande is working to open a new pharmacy in town: Baker City Pharmacy. The pharmacy will be in the old Pioneer Bank Building. He hopes to open in late February. Saint Alphonsus continues to work to open a MedNow pharmacy at the hospital. Both of these will be full service pharmacies.

Around Town

Most of the downtown business are open every day for Christmas shopping and some have extended hours. Support local! Avoid taxes and tariffs, shop at resale or thrift stores!

Cocktails

Baker city is well known for its beer. Now, we are getting some great cocktail options. We have Glacier 45 for making cocktails and now we have a lot of business with specialty and seasonal cocktails. The Cabyn and the Castle Nook specialize in cocktails. The Geiser Grand, Main Event, and Latitude 45 have drink specials and currently winter warmups. Mixologist Corrine Vegter at Churchill always makes a special cocktail for each music group that plays at Churchill School. Want to learn Mixology? The Geiser Grand has classes on Thursdays at 6pm.

The Cabyn

Winter hours are in effect with some winter specials on the menu. Checkout some of their current offerings. Great Hot Buttered Rum and magnificent Crawfish Cakes.

Medical Transport Membership

Most medical insurance covers some transport costs, but not all. Bills can be thousands of dollars. Membership in medical transport networks protects you with no out-of-pocket expenses in the event you need an ambulance or Life Flight. In Baker City we have Metro West Ambulance and Life Flight Network. Each requires a different membership. For Life Flight, membership is through <https://www.lifeflight.org/membership/>. For Ambulance, sign-up is through <https://ambulancemembership.com/>. You need to sign up with both if you want coverage for both.

Baker County Health Department

"Say no to Vaping" Poster Contest is underway for local 5th and 6th graders. Submission deadline is January 9, 2026. Details can be found on their Facebook page. Also with winter underway, they want to remind you to have a cold weather travel kit in your car, be prepared at home for power outages, wash your hands during winter illness outbreaks, be up-to-date on vaccinations and follow their winter wellness tips. All of these tip sheets are available on their Facebook page.



Community Food Help

Luckily winter has been mild, but with lowering temperatures comes rising heating costs. Rising costs makes buying food more difficult. Please donate if you can. Local sharing pantries are around town (see previous posts) and this QR code goes to the Baker Food Bank donation page at Community Connections where a small cash donation goes a long ways.



Arts:

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center

Crossroads offers a variety of classes for adults and kids in a plethora of arts activities. Crossroads also displays art from local artists. They take the lead on bringing art to Baker City. Recently they partnered with the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTI) to run the Lone Pine Mercantile, the store at the Center. The market features art by local artists and they have special shows. The current show features the art of Terri Axness. Sadly, membership and donations to Crossroads are down, as well the 42 day closure of NHOTI has caused a \$30,000 budget shortfall. Crossroads needs your help! Please consider a donation or becoming a sustaining member. There are multiple funds that can be donated to including: Operating Support Fund, Hand to Heart Scholarship Fund, and the Endowment Fund. Please consider helping our art community today.



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

12/18 The Cheese Fairy open house. 5:30pm

12/18 Greg Rawlins Music at Corner Brick 7pm

12/20 Santa at Albertsons 1pm

12/20 Santa at Dollar Tree 1:30pm

12/20 Johnny and the Easy Keys Music at Barley's Taproom 6pm