

The Baker Bite

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News of Baker City

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City News:

Franchise Agreements:

The city manager continues to update the franchise agreements with providers in Baker. The companies that have been reviewed and are under review currently are OTEC, Baker Sanitary and Cascade Natural Gas. Many of these agreements have not been reviewed for several years. The city plans to work through all franchise agreements in the coming year. Franchise agreements allow an entity to operate in Baker City and provide a service to residents. The city collects a franchise fee for allowing the entity to utilize city rights-of-way. The city also has a say in what the franchise holder can charge citizens for a service. In some cases a franchise may grant exclusive rights, in some cases the city encourages competition.

Public Arts Commission (PAC):

There are several murals gracing the walls and buildings around Baker City. The mural in front of the Orpheum Theatre is a great example. Unfortunately for murals fall under signage as far as Baker County Code is concerned. The process for approval of a mural involves getting it approved as a sign. The PAC is working to create a separate code for murals and present it to the County Council and City Council.

Health:

Community Conversation:

A meeting was held on 11/14 at Baker Middle School hosted by Oregon's Kitchen Table. The object of the meeting was to discuss the current state of healthcare in Baker County, current problems with healthcare and possible solutions. A consensus was reached that most people feel a sense of insecurity regarding healthcare in Baker County. Also, there was agreement that we as citizens need more control of what healthcare is available and how it is managed. This writer believes that this goes back to the loss of the nursing home at St. Al's (formerly St. Elizabeths) and continued with the closure of the Pill Box, Bi-mart Pharmacy and then the ICU and OB departments at the hospital. There has been a steady loss of medical providers as well. Some solutions included the idea of a taxing district and a Co-op. The taxing district would be similar to the library or rural fire district. A co-op would be similar to OTEC. Both ideas would require citizen committees, elected board of directors and a lot of effort to form. The services offered would be up for discussion, how we entice providers to Baker County, housing as well as multiple factors would be in-play. While the task seems daunting, several surrounding counties have formed taxing districts and Baker formed OTEC. We will need to keep meeting and planning for the future.



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

11/17 "Above the Trees" Special show at the Eltrym 6:30pm

11/21 Toddy Trot

11/23 Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra



Best Friends of Baker:

With the passing of one of my beloved pets this week, I thought about dogs. I saw people posting lots of dog pics. I recently joined “Hiking with Dogs” on FB. Then my daughter asked, “can we get another dog?” I started thinking about Best Friends of Baker (BFB). While 2 dogs is plenty, BFB has an amazing number of great dogs that need adopting. Recently a good friend of mine adopted a kitten. BFB works tirelessly to place future family members in good homes. They also help if you have a missing pet or find a stray to reconnect pets and owners. Best Friends of Baker, Inc. (“Best Friends”) was founded in 1988 by three women after finding and rescuing a pregnant pooch. The dog, named Lucky, was given a “doggie makeover” and placed in a loving home. In 1988, Best Friends of Baker, Inc. was established as a 501c3 nonprofit organization (tax EIN 943101421) and continues to operate today under federal and state laws. Their mission is to advocate for the needs of domestic pets, particularly dogs and cats, within Baker County, Oregon; to promote dignity, humane treatment, and responsible animal population control through education, spaying, and neutering and facilitate medical needs, foster care and thoughtful placement of all animals. If you need a new pet, please think of BFB 1st and foremost. BFB happily takes donations and has a thrift store open on Fridays and Saturdays to help fund their mission.



Sports:

Ping Pong:

Looking for a winter activity that doesn't involve snow sports? Ping Pong is fun and the ping pong group plays at all skill levels. Teams or singles. High energy or low movement. Paddles and balls are supplied. Plenty of tables to go around. Tuesdays every 2 weeks at 5:30 at the Baker High School little gym. At the time of publication I don't know if they will meet the week of Thanksgiving.

Bowling:

Another great indoor activity is bowling. Elkhorn lanes offers bowling for all ages and skill levels. They have bumpers for those that gutter too often. They have roll racks for helping the littlest and oldest bowl. Friday nights are wild with Cosmic Bowling, with flashing lights and black lights. This summer there was a bowl for the health of it for youth who were able to bowl for free. Starting in January there is a special Youth Bowling Program on Saturdays from 10am to 12pm, \$10 for shoes and 2 hours of bowling. The bowling alley has a large menu including hamburgers, pizza and fries. Multiple different beverages are available too. Don't forget the game room (even pinball!)

Home Games:

High school is idle

11/18 BMS boys basketball 4:00

11/22 BMS boys basketball 1:00pm

BMS boys play in North Powder on 11/21 at 4:00pm

Death Notices:

These are viewable without a subscription at the Baker City Herald

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

