

The Baker Bite

October 4, 2024

News of Baker City



Issue. 6

Online: thebakerbite.com

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City News:

Franchise Fees:

A “franchise fee” is compensation paid by a utility for the use of public lands in providing a utility service to a customer. Most utility bills will have a section that might specify “franchise fee”, “city fee” or “franfee”. Usually this is a small amount in the range of 5 to 7 % of your utility charges. Utility franchise agreements govern the franchise fee. Baker City is currently redoing the contract with OTEC. The city manager is reviewing all cable, utility, and telecommunication company contracts and franchise fees. The city is looking to make sure there is a contract and that the franchised entity is paying the fees. In 2019 the average telecommunication franchise fee in Eastern Oregon was 6.3%. Most cities have looked at increasing these fees since maintenance costs of city properties and rights of way has increased drastically.

Health:

Health services in Baker County have had a rough ride the last few years. Ambulance service changes, difficulty keeping medical providers, closure of Saint Alphonsus ICU, closure of Saint Alphonsus Birthing Center, feud between Saint Alphonsus Medical Center and Saint Luke’s providers, COVID, and drastic increases in medical costs with cuts by insurers for reimbursement to name a few. What does that mean for Baker citizens? The Baker County Health Department has joined forces with Oregon’s Kitchen Table to try to address some of these issues. Please help them by taking this survey:



<https://consultations.oregonskitchentable.org/survey/baker-county-health-care>

Fitness:

We are blessed with multiple gyms in the area that specialize in different types of fitness. Aspect Crossfit, Club 24, Studio Sweat and the YMCA would all be defined as gyms offering classes for keeping fit. There are also classes available at various locals including Sunn Juice and the Senior Center. If you don’t want to pay for a workout or gym membership, we have an amazing parkway along the river with a workout park near the corner of H St. and Kirkway St. The Elkhorn Mountains of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest offer close by hiking, snowshoeing, alpine and Nordic skiing. There are bicycle trails in the Elkhorns, around Phillips Lake and in the Virtue Flats area.

Sports for kids:

Lots of opportunities around town to play sports. Baker AAU has added a 3rd grade girls basketball team. Contact Phil Anderson @ 503-720-0702 or Anna Swart at 208-409-0949. Sam-O-Swim Center has reopened, <https://www.bakerymca.org/> for the current schedule. Youth can try out for the Baker Barracuda Swim Team by requesting a Try-Out on the website. As well, the YMCA has open gym twice per week. 3rd-6th Grade Volleyball registration at the YMCA is open. There is ongoing Karate and Gymnastics at the YMCA. Upward Sports at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene offers basketball and cheerleading through 6th grade, <https://bakernaz.com/upward-sports/>. The Trailhead in conjunction with Baker School District 5J and Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort has programs for youth to get outside “For the Health of It”. Bike for the Health of It, Ski for the Health of It, Golf for the Health of It. Contact The Trailhead in downtown Baker City for more info.

Arts:

Powder River Music Revue:

It is hard to live in Baker City and not heard one of the groups sponsored by Powder River Music Revue. They put on the music in the park on Sundays during the summer. They will be providing music during Taste of Baker. One of the neat things is their weekly acoustic jam on Wednesdays. Previously and for many years this was at the Ison House. They have moved to the Veteran's Memorial Club (VFW) here in Baker City. The VFW is open to the public. Join Powder River Music Revue Acoustic Jams now at the VFW on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm.

Become a supporting member and help them bring music and entertainment to Baker City.



Some Fall Fun Stuff (more to come in later issues):

Churchill Haunted Studios 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm:

- Regular nights: October 11, 12, 18 (7:00 pm), 25, 26
- Flashlight Tour: October 19, 31
- No Jump Scare for Kids: October 18, 6:30 to 7:00pm
- Tarot Readings: October 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
- Cotton Candy: October 18, 19, 31
- Moon Treasures: October 18, 19
- Witches Light Candles: 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
- If you are interested in being a vendor contact Brian or Corrine Vegter



Taper Candle Fall Foliage Bowl at Jubilee Plants and Gathering: 12th

Harvest Festival in Halfway: 12th

Brush and Brew in Haines: 12th

Harvest Party: 13th



Event Calendar

Baker Chamber of Commerce:

HONORS: Honoring Our Neighborhood's Outstanding Retail and Service

A celebration recognizing the exceptional contributions of our local employees in Baker County. Please vote by EMAIL at <https://www.visitbaker.com/> or stop in to the Chamber.

You can read more about this event at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/897825279059659>



Home Sports:

BMS Volleyball 10/10 4:00 pm

BMS Soccer 10/12 9:00 am

Boys Soccer 10/7 4:00pm

Death Notices:

Please visit the Baker City Herald online: https://www.bakercityherald.com/obituaries/death_notices/

