

The Baker Bite

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News of Baker City



Issue. 20

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Transportation:

It is with great sadness and a feeling of isolation that we learned this week that Greyhound was canceling service in northeast Oregon. Community Connection will continue to operate locally. With Greyhound gone and Amtrak gone we are a little more separated from the world in respect to available transport. There is a movement to bring back Amtrak. This is spearheaded by Matt Krabacher. There is a looming deadline to apply for a grant to try to return passenger rail service. If you are interested in helping support this cause, go to the meeting Saturday the 18th at 10 am at the Baker County Library. It was going to be a small meeting, but perhaps the time to act is NOW!

City News:

City Council:

The new elected city council was sworn in on the 14th. Returning to office are Randy Daugherty, Loran Joseph, Doni Bruland, Roger Coles and Helen Loennig. New members are Gratton Miller and Stephen Carr. After looking in Idaho and Washington for a new home Stephen Carr camped at Anthony Lakes and fell in love with Baker City. He bought a house in 2021 and started the move from Salt Lake City to Baker City. He loves the mountains and desert and the small-town friendliness. He would like to see good police protection, affordable housing, secure and inexpensive water, a decrease in dust, a functional government that does not overspend, a return to mining (particularly rare earth metals), steps to decrease localized warming, better sidewalks and more trees.

Public Arts Commission (PAC):

The PAC has 7 seats. 5 seats are appointed by city council and are voting members. The other 2 seats are a city councilor and a city staff member. The PAC works to place art around town, support artists and put on events like the Art in Central Park for the 150th Baker City anniversary. The most notable pieces of art around town tend to be sculptures, but the PAC supports all mediums and is looking for ways to exhibit art that needs protection from the elements. The Art on Loan program helps to place art around town without the city incurring a large expense of buying a piece. Art pieces can run \$1000's of dollars. As this writer has mentioned before art is super beneficial for brain development (Issue 8). Learn more about PAC by visiting



<https://www.bakercity.com/2164/Public-Arts-Commission>.

Meet your City Departments:

- Finance Department: accounting, payroll, budget process, annual audit, city licensing
- Building Department (joint city and county): building, plumbing, mechanical inspection
- Fire Department
- Planning Department (joint city and county): land use and development
- Police Department
- Public Works: city rights of way, infrastructure, water sewer, streets

Around Town:

Baker County Library:

The Baker County Library District is more than just a place with books. They have meeting, study, teen, quiet, archive, garden and lighthouse rooms. Besides books they have magazines, newspapers, music, movies, films, photographs, e-books, audiobooks and more. Computer rooms provide computers, internet and wireless access. Print services are available too. You can ask at the desk about a wide range of items including a bike lock, projectors, headphones, speakers, telescopes and more. As a pharmacist I love one of their new services: MED-Project, pick up a pre-paid mail-back package to dispose of unwanted medicine. Programs for youth include Storytime on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10am for babies, preschoolers, elementary and pre-teens, for middle and high school students there are book clubs, hangouts (featuring games and movies), D&D, and Craft & Create. The summer brings camps and STEM opportunities. Get signed up with the libraries newsletter and/or follow their Facebook account.



Arts:

Orpheum:

What is the Orpheum? The Orpheum was and will again be a theatre in downtown Baker City. The Orpheum Theatre is owned by Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre and will be its home once renovations are complete. The masonry was fixed over the summer and the work on micro-pilings will begin soon. The micro-pilings will be driven down to bedrock to support the building and a metal cage that will protect against earthquakes but also provide the support for seating, balconies and stairs in the renovated theatre. Baker City Downtown worked to place a mural on the plywood in front of the construction site to help keep downtown beautiful. When completed the theatre will continue to put on plays and musicals with hope to expand to more forms of entertainment. This project would not exist without community support. Please visit the Orpheum website for some updates and history. <https://thebakerorpheumtheatre.com/>



Home Sports:

1/18 Girls Wrestling starting at 10am
1/21 Girls JV and V starting at 5:30pm
1/24 Boys V, JV, Girls V and JV starting at 3:00pm



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

1/19: Free skiing for 5th and 6th grade
1/19: The Clement Brothers at Churchill School
1/21: Ping Pong at the high school
1/25: Anthony Lakes Dual Cup Slalom and music at the Lodge
1/25: Hospital Foundation Winter Ball and Banquet



Death Notices:

These are viewable without a subscription at the Baker City Herald
https://www.bakercityherald.com/obituaries/death_notices/

