

PLOWING

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The city waits until early morning because it's too dangerous to have heavy equipment downtown when traffic is heavy.

Each storm is different, Fisk said.

If snow melts rapidly, it's usually not necessary to incur the expense of an overnight crew, he said.

The city typically doesn't plow residential streets, which make up most of the city's 70 or so miles of streets,

unless the snow is deep and likely to linger for an extended period.

The city's annual spending for snow and ice control varies widely — hardly surprising since the cost depends on the weather.

The past three winters have been relatively mild, with commensurately modest spending, including \$55,000 in 2018-19 and \$48,000 in 2017-18.

Compare those figures to the winter of 2016-17, the snowiest in the city in more than a quarter century.

That winter the city plowed through \$312,000, and the City Council twice had to shift money from elsewhere in the street department to snow and ice control.

Fisk said it's a bit unusual to need to summon snowplows for the first time in mid-February.

"This is pretty late in the season," he said.

Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

Traffic was light Monday morning, Feb. 15, a federal holiday, on Main Street in downtown Baker City.



BTI

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"We are continually adding programs as industry needs arise," Sandy Mitchell, BTI program coordinator, stated in the press release.

"Over the years, we've experienced significant growth, and even during the COVID crisis, last year was no exception," Mitchell said. "I think it's a testament to people wanting to try new careers and challenging the traditional post-secondary college route."

"What we offer at BTI is truly a different kind of education. Our goal is to help people find the career path that is right for them and provide the training they need to be successful in a new profession," she said. "Our training programs center around hands-on practical applications that get people hired into the skilled trades as quickly as possible."

Mitchell said BTI has seen an increased number of graduating high school seniors who are choosing to get industry certifications and prepare to enter the workforce. Others choose to

seek industry training while pursuing a traditional college degree at the same time.

"Higher education is rapidly changing to meet the demands of our times," she said. "With many colleges offering their courses online, you can train at BTI while continuing to complete your other college work as well."

Throughout Oregon and much of the nation, career and technical training has been either significantly reduced, or even completely eliminated for many years, which has, in turn, created a serious shortage of skilled workers, the press release stated. The shortage has pushed wages higher than ever before, with fewer people vying for the open positions.

Doug Dalton, BTI president, points to the educational savings gained in attending BTI: "Students are oftentimes leaving our institution with no debt and job offers that far exceeded their expectations in a career they wanted to pursue. This builds a workforce that fuels our businesses and allows our communities in Eastern Oregon to thrive. We can now

do all of this right here."

BTI will continue to operate from its main campus in Baker City along with a campus in Prineville, which has also been approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

In addition, BTI will continue to grow its ability to train using mobile platforms. BTI currently provides workforce training throughout Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

"We strongly believe in the advantages of taking the training to other areas and communities," Dalton said. "Our mobility has allowed students to participate in courses that they would not be able to take otherwise."

"Many times people are not in a position to leave their families and their community," Dalton says. "Instead of the traditional model of expecting students to always come to you, we have turned that concept around, and we go to them when we can. I'm not aware of anybody else doing that."

For the near future, BTI will continue focusing on career training and industry certifications rather than de-

grees, according to the press release. As a post-secondary institution, BTI might at some point seek degree authorization, but given the demand for industry training, it is choosing to partner with other colleges and universities that provide the opportunities for students to pursue an associate or bachelor's degree in parallel to BTI courses.

"Our goal is not to compete with other colleges, but to provide something that is not being supplied in many regions," Dalton said. "We are actually positioned to help other colleges and universities in our area by offering career and technical courses that they may not offer, and to embed industry certifications within their current degree structures."

"For example, we have partnered with Eastern Oregon University over the years giving them exactly that," Dalton said. "We offer courses at their campus that give students an opportunity for hands-on learning and obtaining industry certification at the same time."

EOU President Tom Insko spoke in support of the programs.

"We value our partnership with BTI," Insko said. "Working together, we created an innovative new EOU academic degree program in

Sustainable Rural Systems that is designed to serve the needs of our region while creating more pathways where students gain meaningful real-world experience.

"This is the type of experiential education that allows students to learn and practice the essential skills employers everywhere are looking for," Insko said.

BTI will continue to provide CTE courses for high school and middle school students in and around Baker County. BTI also is partnering with nine different high schools around the state to help increase its career and technical offerings by using its mobile platforms to travel to the schools and offer career and technical courses at their location.

"We are really fortunate to have BTI as part of our program here in Baker City," said Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty. "Our students have access to high-level career and technical courses that would rival any school of any size in the state."

"BTI has truly raised the bar for us and created a professional environment where high school students are earning certifications before they graduate, given middle students more access to hands-on learning, and even provided our elementary stu-

dents with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) camps and other ways to apply their classroom learning while learning about careers they probably didn't know existed," Witty said.

"Our students can exit high school and move into a trade that pays high wages right out of high school," he said. "This is absolutely key to the success of many of our students as they go forward."

For BTI, post-secondary status has two main benefits, the press release stated. First, it allows students to have more opportunities for financial assistance such as scholarships for courses. And secondly, it gives BTI the ability to partner more easily with other colleges, and at some point, to offer college credit along with the industry certifications.

BTI offers courses year-round and has created a simple and straightforward enrollment process. For more information about courses at BTI or to enroll in one of the various other programs, go to bakerti.org or call 541-524-2651 to talk to an enrollment specialist or student success coach.

High school students who live in or near Baker County and would like to take courses at Baker Technical Institute, are asked to contact BTI directly.

NEWS OF RECORD

FUNERALS PENDING

Lloyd Harry Bigler: A military honors ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Union Park. Those attending must wear a mask and practice social distancing. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Union VFW Post, 518 N. Main St., Union, OR 97883. Online condolences may be made at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

Thor Edvalson: A celebration of Thor's life and memorial service will take place Friday, Feb. 26, at 11 a.m. at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. His family suggests memorial contributions to the Cancer Support Group through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER: Tyler James Worstell, 28, of Baker City, 11:25 a.m. Friday, in the 1500 block of Indiana Avenue; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Isaac J. Kolb, 20, of Huntington, 12:33 p.m. Sunday, at Huntington; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND RECKLESS ENDANGERING: Nathan Cole Zarchinski, 31, of Huntington, 8:48 a.m. Friday, at Huntington; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): Eric Lee Cayvelli, 30, of Huntington, 11:09 a.m. Friday, at Huntington; jailed.

APPLIANCES & MORE

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POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE (Oregon State Parole Board warrant), **CONTEMPT OF COURT** (Baker County Justice Court warrant) and **PROBATION VIOLATION** (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Alexander Prentice Griffin, 29, of Baker City, 4:58 p.m. Sunday, in the 1000 block of Walnut St.; jailed.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Joshua Milton Thomas, 31, of Baker City, 3:16 a.m. Saturday, at Campbell and Seventh streets; cited and released.

PROBATION VIOLATION (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Gabriel Reynola Cerazanu, 19, of Baker City, 12:16 p.m. Saturday, at Third and Baker streets; cited and released.

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Night @ Old Auburn
"COVID STYLE" • February 27, 2021
Poker Run: 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Drive Through Dinner: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
"POKER RUN"

Enjoy a drive through historical Baker City as you collect your best poker hand at 7 different landmarks.

You will begin at the Baker Heritage Museum and collect your first card as well as the clues to the rest of the landmarks to collect your poker hand. Best 5 out of 7 cards to be turned in back at the museum by 5:00 pm.

\$20 buy in to start your journey.
\$300 Visa Gift Card is up for grabs.

REMEMBER, All proceeds benefit the Baker Heritage museum

"DRIVE THRU DINNER"

End your day with a delightful dinner of a Prime Rib sandwich with all the fixings. \$35 not only buys you an incredible dinner, each ticket will be entered into a drawing for an array of prizes. All you need to do is drive thru at North Baker School, entering on 8th Street, off of B street.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT SOME OF OUR STATE HIGHWAY SIGNS DON'T LOOK AS GOOD AS THEY USED TO?

SO HAVE WE.

That's why between 2021 and 2023 the Oregon Department of Transportation will be upgrading signs along the Interstate 84 and Interstate 82 corridors. To collect feedback about the upcoming project we are holding an **ONLINE OPEN HOUSE** now through **Feb. 28**. Please take a few minutes to visit the site, review our plans, maps, pictures, and traffic impacts information, and then let us know if you have any comments.

odotopenhouse.org/i-84-cascade-locks-idaho-i-82-sign-upgrades

Overview: This project will upgrade and replace signs along 331 miles of I-84 from Cascade Locks to Idaho, and on all 10.7 miles of I-82. All freeway and ramp signs will be replaced, with the exception of traveler information (blue signs), milepost signs and recently replaced signs.

The project will be completed in two phases, with the first phase starting later this year and the second phase starting in 2023.

We appreciate your review and feedback. It will help us construct a better, safer project.

ODOT is pleased to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations or alternate language formats to participate in this open house event, please contact us (contact information below). Alternate formats available upon request.

For more information please contact Tom Strandberg, ODOT Public Information Officer at 541-663-6261, or email thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us