

Local

BHS art shown at Crossroads

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Last week, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center held their First Friday of January.

For the event, they featured artworks from students of Baker County High School and students of Crossroads art classes.

A handout given at the event explained, "This exhibition showcases the talent of local students and illustrates the many ways students can interpret an assignment through their artwork, expressing their individual creativity."

According to Community Art Director Kristin Hauter, 84 pieces of artwork were displayed and 51 students had their artwork involved. Hauter runs the gallery, sets the sales gallery, and the featured gallery.

Among the student's whose artworks were displayed were Kailyn McQuisten's "Gamer" in mixed media, Luke Barnes' "MM" in clay, Myrah Lemmon's "Rascal" in Clay, and Emily Carter's "Life" in watercolor.

Adults were also able to showcase their artworks. Amy VanGaasbeck's "Princess Leia in Cloud City" in oil and Becky Litke's "Snowy Owl" in framed print were among them.



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

High School Freshman Cassie Pettit showing her piece "Vielle Fleur."

"Since they have expanded the art program at Baker High School, we squeeze everything in, which is awesome," said Executive Director Ginger Savage. "The nice thing about this show is a lot of these pieces will be able to move on to the Eastern Oregon University High School Regional Show. Every school in all of really rural Eastern Oregon participate in that one and Baker High School students have done extremely

well in that show in the past. Crossroads is really proud. We bring in our own judge after the judges have judged the show, we invite our own judge and they pick an Outstanding Baker High School artist and an Outstanding Baker County Artist, so we define that as Pine Eagle, Huntington, Burnt River, and we include North Powder. So, and in Harvest Christian and any Home Schooled kids that want to participate in that."

Among the adults who showed their art was Forest Dawn Hynek, who has painted for about 35 years. She has done oil painting and, for the last four years, been working with watercolors.

Cassie Pettit, a freshman at Baker High School, displayed a clay tile with a floral design titled "Vielle Fleur." For the process, she carved the petals and dipped the tile into different glazes, taking three days to finish glazing it.

Two Baker City student nominated to U.S. service academies

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) announced that he has nominated sixteen Oregon students for acceptance to one of the prestigious United States service academies. Walden's Service Academy Nomination Board—retired military officers who interview potential candidates for the service academies—recommended each student based on their academic performance, extracurricular involvement, and character.

"It is an honor and privilege to nominate these remarkable young Oregonians to our nation's service academies," Walden said. "They have earned these much-deserved nominations through years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to character. These students

have shown a desire to grow intellectually, lead by example, and serve their country by pursuing a higher education at one of our country's select service academies. I am confident that each will be successful in this admirable endeavor, and that America's future is in good hands.

"I'd like to thank my Service Academy Nomination Board for recommending these future leaders. Their service to our country and experience wearing our nation's uniform speaks to the unique qualities of the students they interviewed and referred for nomination. These nominations would not be possible without their guidance and understanding of what it takes to excel and succeed at the U.S. service academies,"

said Walden. Serving on Walden's Service Academy Nomination Board are: retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Frank Toney, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Harriet Harris, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Bud Hart, retired U.S. Marine Corps. Lt. Col. Richard Halsted, and retired U.S. Marine Corps. Col. Dave Dotterer. Retired U.S. Navy Com. John Howard served as the Recorder for the Service Academy Nomination Board.

The service academies include the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; the Military Academy at West Point, New York; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Final selection for admis-

sion to the service academies will be determined by officials at each respective academy this spring.

Students who are interested in learning more about service academy nominations can visit Walden's website at <https://walden.house.gov/academynominations>.

The nominees from Baker County are:

Clay Keller, son of Douglas and Theresa Keller of Baker City, attending Baker High School—nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Austin Rasmussen, son of Julie Rasmussen of Baker City, attending Baker High school—nominated to the United States Military Academy.

YMCA announces expansion

The Baker County YMCA Board of Directors and staff are excited to announce the expansion of the Fitness and Youth Development Center on Pochontas Road to include a new gymnasium and wellness center.

The addition will double the size of the existing facility to over 48,000 square feet and will include a full basketball/volleyball court, half court, expanded walking/running track, gymnastics and group fitness studio, and outdoor pickleball courts. In addition, the Y will expand their partnership with Integrative Physical Therapy to create a wellness center, offering a full range of physical therapy and health services that complement Y programs.

David Coughlin, the Y's Board President, reflected, "We have come a long way in the 45 years since the initial YMCA vision became a reality for our community. Our Y currently serves over 5,000 community members each year. The demand for our programs has grown tremendously and the need for the gymnasium is greater than ever before."

In 2012, the Baker County YMCA Board of Directors set a goal to purchase fitness and gymnasium facilities in a phased, sustainable approach.

The renovation of the Wilson Market building into a state-of-the-art Fitness and Youth Development Center marked the completion of the first phase. At that time, the

Haynes family donated a half acre of land behind the facility for future expansion.

Now, the Y is entering phase two. The construction of a gymnasium and wellness center behind the existing Fitness Center is expected to be completed in 2019.

The Baker County YMCA recently received a significant grant for this project from the Leo Adler Foundation. Leo Adler's positive impact on our community is immeasurable, and the Y is proud to be a part of continuing his legacy.

The Y is grateful for the vote of confidence and community support that this grant provides.

This was an important first step, and now the

fundraising process will continue to secure additional grants and private donations.

"Today is about strengthening and building a brighter future for our community," says Heidi Dalton, CEO. "The gymnasium and the partnerships it inspires will ensure we can help even more people on their journey to a better life and give our children the best start. We are grateful for the strong support the community has provided to the Y so far. Every dollar counts, and we invite everyone in our community to be a part of this exciting project."

For more information or to make a donation, please visit bakerymca.org or stop by the Y Fitness Center.

Arrests made for DUI, MIP

On January 2, 2018, at approximately 7:25 p.m., Baker County Dispatch received a complaint of a bonfire and loud music located on private property in the area of Pine Creek Road and Spring Creek Loop. Deputy Spencer responded and advised the individuals to lower the noise level.

At approximately 10:38 p.m., an individual called Baker County Dispatch and notified them that vehicles were speeding up and down the road in that area. Deputies responded and conducted a traffic stop on a 2000 Chevrolet pickup. The driver of the pickup was identified as Kyle Cindell (DOB 2/8/99). The two passengers were identified as Daniel James Shorts (DOB 8/8/97) and Chey Anne Watkins (DOB 10/28/99). Deputies conducted standardized field sobriety tests on Cindell, and determined that he had been driving under the influence of alcohol. Cindell was transported to the Baker County Jail and charged with DUI, Reckless Driving, and Minor in Possession.

Both passengers were charged with Minor in Possession.

Arrest made in Huntington burglary

On October 28, 2017, information was given to the Baker County Sheriff's Office regarding a burglary that occurred at 310 Washington Street in Huntington, Oregon. Several items to include a bed and television were reported missing from the residence. Deputies took an inventory of the missing items and began a burglary investigation.

On December 26, 2017, Deputies acquired information that John Brogan Buehler and a 15 year old male juvenile had been involved in the burglary and theft. A search warrant was executed on December 28, 2017 at 180 West Adams Street in Huntington, Oregon, and items associated with the burglary were seized.

Deputies contacted Buehler on December 30th in Huntington. When Buehler was advised that he was being arrested, he began to resist, striking a Deputy in the face and ultimately ran from both Deputies. A foot pursuit ensued, and Deputies were able to subdue Buehler near Lions Park. Both Deputies sustained minor injuries as a result of Buehler resisting.

Buehler was transported to the Baker County Jail where he was booked and lodged on the following charges: Burglary I, Burglary II, Theft II, Escape II, Resisting Arrest, and Assaulting a Public Safety Officer.

Arrested: John Brogan Buehler (DOB 8/12/99), 27462 Durbin Creek Road, Huntington, Oregon 97907.

Driver dies west of Ontario

On January 2, 2018, at approximately 4:15AM, Oregon State Police Troopers responded to a single vehicle crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 361, which is in Malheur County and 13 miles west of Ontario.

The preliminary investigation has determined that a 1997 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer was eastbound on I-84, when for unknown reasons drifted off the median shoulder, steered back onto roadway and the operator then lost control sliding off the median shoulder where it tripped and rolled down the median, coming to rest in the westbound lanes. The driver was ejected and pronounced deceased on scene. At this time we are not able to release the name of the driver until the family has been notified.

The Oregon State Police was assisted by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Juveniles steal booze from Corner Brick

On December 29, 2017 The Corner Brick Bar and Grill reported a burglary that had occurred the previous night, giving Baker City Police a list of juvenile suspects.

The business reported that multiple bottles of liquor were taken during the burglary.

On December 30, 2017 The Corner Brick Bar and Grill reported a second burglary, again with multiple bottles of liquor taken from the business.

The circumstances from the second burglary appeared similar to the first burglary. Over \$500 worth of liquor was stolen during the two burglaries.

Baker City Officers reviewed security video from the business and followed additional leads that led to the custody arrests of one 14 year old juvenile and one 13 year old juvenile.

Both juveniles were transported to Juvenile Detention. Both juveniles were arrested for Burglary II.