

Art show features talents of BMCC staff, faculty

Exhibit continues through Feb. 3

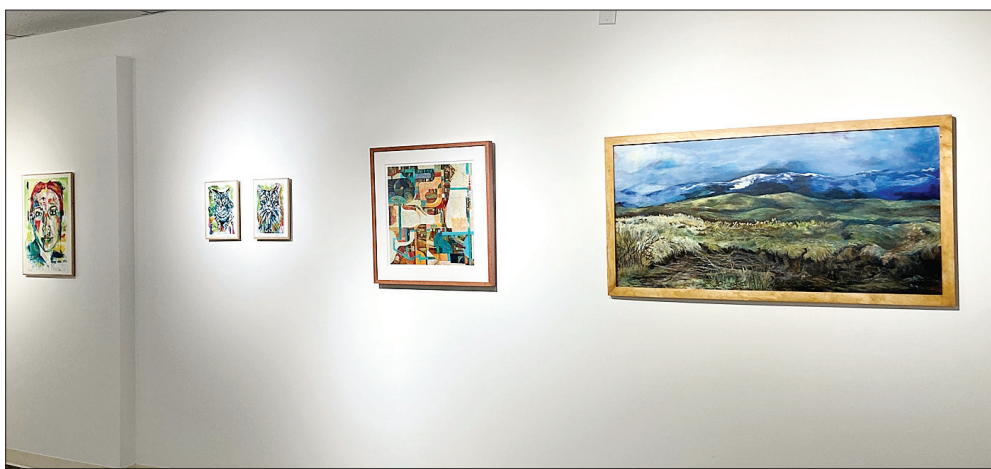
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College is shining the spotlight on the talents of some of its staff and faculty.

Kicking off the new year, the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery is featuring the artwork of nine artists who are employed by the college. The exhibition, which highlights the diverse range of talents on campus, opened Thursday, Jan. 6 on Blue Mountain's Pendleton campus. It runs through Feb. 3.

Those featured include Nika Blasser, adjunct art instructor, who also serves as gallery director. She is exhibiting abstract landscape paintings, drawings and a large-scale cyanotype.

Jason Hogge, a mechanic, is exhibiting an oil painting and a ceramic wall installation with surrealist influences. Carole Mace-Edwards Jones, early childhood education instructor, is sharing a



Betty Feves Memorial Gallery/Contributed Photo

The exhibition featuring the work of Blue Mountain Community College faculty and staff opened Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at BMCC, Pendleton, and is available for view through Feb. 3.

landscape painting. Biology instructor Michelle Miller is sharing three colorful abstract portraits of loved ones.

Science instructor Kristen Oja is showcasing several types of printmaking, as well as watercolor and a mixed media painting. Tami Pelles, early college credit coordinator, is sharing a crocheted blanket she calls a "study of textured confetti." Academic department specialist Jean Reiher is featuring her jewelry,

including a necklace with an Oregon swallowtail butterfly.

Librarian and learning support specialist Adam Sims is exhibiting four landscape photographs printed on metal. And adjunct art instructor David Stump is sharing several panoramic photo collages that are studies in abstraction and texture.

A nonprofit exhibit space, the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery's mission is to connect emerging and established

artists and their work with BMCC students and staff, as well as the general public. The gallery is in BMCC's Pioneer Hall, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, visit www.bluecc.edu/community/feves-art-gallery. For questions, contact Blasser at 541-278-5952 or nblasser@bluecc.edu.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Webinar promotes brain health, longevity

PENDLETON — A series of free webinars will provide information about an innovative brain fitness program.

Prestige Senior Living is presenting "Ageless Grace" beginning Wednesday, Jan. 12, 11 a.m. The following two webinars will be Jan. 19 and 26, also at 11 a.m.

The virtual live event is designed for seniors and their loved ones to promote the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Denise Medved, creator of "Ageless Grace," will highlight how the program activates all five areas of the brain and addresses aging factors of the body. She also will share some simple everyday exer-

cises that can be done at home.

For more information or to register for the webinar, visit www.PrestigeCanHelp.com. For questions, call 541-276-1987.

Josephy Center Brown Bag hosts geologist, artist

JOSEPHY — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, Joseph, is showcasing geologist and photographer Ellen Bishop at its brown bag discussion Tuesday, Jan. 18, noon to 1 p.m.

Bishop is one of many artists exhibiting work in the show at the Josephy Center. Her presentation, "Nature in the Abstract: Rocks!" is on her exhibit.

"At all scales, the patterns of a landscape, whether fence

lines that have mellowed with age, patterns woven in reeds and grasses, the stacked symmetry of basalt columns, and so much more, reveal much about its history and can help define its composition," Bishop said in a press release about the brown bag. "Capturing those patterns in images helps engage the viewer in the landscape's story and mysteries."

The exhibit is up until Feb. 22. The Brown Bag is from noon until 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Bishop is well-known locally as a writer and photographer, and highly regarded across the region for her work and her books on Northwest geology. Her latest book is "Living With Thunder."

The free event will be via

Zoom. Visit josephy.org, or email rich.wandschneider@gmail.com to get a link to attend.

Republican women host U.S. Senate candidate

PENDLETON — Jo Rae Perkins, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, who hopes to unseat Democrat Sen. Ron Wyden in November, is the guest speaker for the upcoming meeting of the Roundup Republican Women.

The no-host gathering is Thursday Jan. 13, 5 p.m. at Roosters Country Kitchen, 1515 Southgate Place, Pendleton. The soup and salad dinner is \$12.99. To RSVP, email lynnnavansrrw@gmail.com.

—EO Media Group

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Ron Saager

December 18, 1951 - December 25, 2021

Ron passed peacefully in his home on the morning of December 25th, both his daughters by his side. He spent the most beautiful Christmas Eve Day surrounded by family, sharing all of his love, support and final words. He made the most of every minute, and left us all with the gift of his abundant joy.

Ronald Linn Saager was born on December 18th, 1951 to Herb and Wanda Saager. He was a Mac-Hi graduate and studied biology at both Southern Oregon University and Oregon State University. Ron had a deep love and reverence for the natural world, spending much of his childhood exploring the hills around his home. In his early twenties, he left college and headed to Alaska, where he worked as a commercial fisherman. Those long nights on the Bering Sea lent perspective that he'd pass on to his children and grandchildren. During the off-season, he spent years traveling around the West in his pickup camper, good ol' Alfred the dog by his side. He had the best stories.

When Ron met Julie Hardin in the summer of 1980, he decided it was time to give up the dangerous seasonal work and move back home to Milton-Freewater. Ron and Julie married in 1982 and Ron started working again at his family's shoe shop. They bought a true fixer-upper on Perkins Street and he spent many hours transforming the early 20th century house into a home suitable for his growing family. Deidre Marie was born in 1986, Kayla Kristine in 1990. Every day off was spent with his girls, introducing them to favorite fishing holes, the best mushroom hunting grounds, and eventually, to horses. When his eldest daughter fell hard for horses, he was plain tickled pink.

Working at the family's shoe store brought Ron great joy. He loved his customers and crew, many of whom became family. He was so proud of the store, and always grateful to serve such a beautiful community.



Ron was a romantic. He was a talented poet and photographer, a patient observer, and lover of nature. His passion for horses led him to pursue a training and racing program for a time. Ron loved to fish and did a bucket list fishing trip to Belize with his youngest brother, Rick. He always said he found his true calling when he became a father. He later recanted and explained that being a grandfather was his actual life purpose. When his eldest daughter and her partner bought a place in the country with a separate apartment for him, he moved in to 'the grandpa quarters.' He felt no greater joy than to be present with his family.

He was the best dad. He knew how to love unconditionally and support his family any way they needed. He was always where he needed to be, and would have done anything for his family.

Ron is survived by his daughters, Deidre Nyburg (Keith Payne) and Kayla Saager, his grandchildren, Trevor, Bailee and Ruby, his youngest brother and one of his best friends, Rick Saager and family, his oldest brother, Norm Saager and family, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Per Ron's wishes, no public service will be held, but friends and family are welcomed to share memories and photos on the Munselle-Rhodes funeral page.

To leave a condolence visit: www.munsellerhodes.com

Oregon could ration medical care as largest wave of pandemic hits

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon is on a "red alert" of the growing wave of the omicron variant of COVID-19 that pushed the daily new case count to 10,451 Friday, Jan. 7, eclipsing the records set during the past four days.

"Once again, COVID-19 has regrouped and is marching across Oregon," said Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state chief epidemiologist, in a press call Jan. 7.

With the new wave forecast to peak on Jan. 27 with 1,650 people in the hospital, the Oregon Health Authority issued a "crisis care" protocol to guide doctors on prioritizing possibly life-or-death care.

Based on a model already used by Washington and other states, patients who would not survive if discharged have top priority. Patients already under care take precedence over newly arriving cases of the same level. If a choice needs to be made between two patients in identical medical situations, the choice will be made at random using a system on OHA's website.

"This is a very difficult topic to consider and work on," said Dana Hargunani, Oregon Health Authority chief medical officer.

Omicron spreads twice as fast as the delta variant that swamped Oregon hospitals, peaking in September.

Early studies show omicron more easily infects fully vaccinated people compared to earlier versions of COVID-19. But people who have received the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and also had the recently added booster shot are unlikely to suffer the worst outcomes.

In so-called "breakthrough" cases, people who have had the maximum number of shots make

up about 4% of those needing hospital care and 1% of deaths. The average age of death for that group is 81.

Sidelinger said omicron was a "red alert" for unvaccinated people, who make up the vast majority of severe cases requiring hospitalization, intensive care unit beds, ventilators and whose infections prove fatal.

But the severity of omicron will be largely offset by the sheer number of people who will be infected.

"That doesn't help with the kind of all-at-once impact on hospital capacity that we're going to see here, and hopefully prevent," said Peter Graven, the chief medical forecaster for Oregon Health & Science University.

The unvaccinated who fall severely ill will require high levels of care that will make it more difficult for already overstretched and exhausted medical personnel to care for people with heart attacks, strokes, and injuries from vehicle accidents.

Gov. Kate Brown also ordered the Oregon National Guard to deploy what Sidelinger called 500 "non-clinically trained" members to help relieve hospital staff around the state whose staff are depleted by infections among their own ranks.

Which hospitals will receive aid from the National Guard is under consideration and won't likely be announced until Jan. 10, according to Brown Press Secretary Liz Merah.

Under recent state guidelines following recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anyone vaccinated who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate for five days, then wear a mask in all places for another five days.

Mildred Lucille Miller Baker

September 30, 1930-December 30, 2021

Mildred Lucille Miller Baker was born on September 20, 1930 in Ione, Oregon to Russell Kenneth and Hazel Akers Miller. She was the first of their 5 children. At the age of 5 they moved from Ione to Boardman where she met Harold Baker. When Harold was asked when he met Mildred, he would always say, he couldn't remember, she was always just there. They dated through high school and were married after she graduated from Eastern State College, now known as Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon. Jokingly his story was that he wouldn't marry her until she graduated so she could support him. They were married in Boardman on December 21, 1952.

She taught school in the Morrow County School district her entire career. She started out in Irrigon at A.C. Houghton but stopped teaching when she had her fourth child. She always planned to go back when all her kids were school age. When her youngest was 4, her principal called her and said that there were too many kids for a single kindergarten and would she consider coming back to teach a 2nd class of that age. Her response was that only if she could teach it from her home and her 4-year-old come attend. He agreed so the living room was turned into a classroom, and she went back to teaching. The next year her youngest was old enough to go to kindergarten so Mildred went back into the classroom at A.C. Houghton. She retired from A.C. Houghton but a few years later was asked to come back and teach at the new Sam Boardman Elementary School in Boardman so she did. She was very proud of the fact that she got both her education and career from the same school district.

Mildred was an accomplished seamstress, making most of her own clothes and those of her children. Halloween costumes, wedding dresses, curtains, it really didn't matter. She developed a passion (some could call it an obsession) with bears. She would make them, buy them, buy fabric with them on it, nothing was out of bounds. In her later years, she found quilting and that opened a whole new world for her. She was one of the founding members of the Boardman Quilt Group, where they could discuss anything except their aches and pains. Whatever she was involved in, she went into completely. Making sure she had all the rights tools and supplies to create the finished product.

She loved her home and would spend

many hours in the yard and garden. Over the years she and Harold built 3 different homes, all in Boardman. At the time of Harold's death, they had plans for number 4 already drawn up. She loved to cook and there were always leftovers in the fridge and room for another at the table. She would can everything, nothing could go to waste. She would wake up many mornings to find a box of in-season produce at the back door that someone dropped off, knowing that she would put it up.

By the time that she retired, so had Harold and they spent many years traveling in their RV. Starting with a trailer, then a fifth wheel and then finally a motor home. They would travel with their RV Club, The Apple Blossoms, out of Walla Walla, Washington or by themselves. If Harold had something to read and Mildred had something to sew on, they would go anywhere. With their RV, they attended many of the grandchildren's sporting events when they were in college. She died on December 30, 2021 at her home in Hermiston, Oregon at the age of 91.

Mildred was preceded in death by Harold (2018), her husband of over 65 years, her parents, and one sister, Lola Jane Miller. She leaves behind her children, Ron (Glaysia) Baker, Randy (Kathy) Baker, Karen Purcell, and Kris (R.B.) Dorrان. To carry on and continue the family she leaves behind her grandchildren, Brandi (Manolo) Zavala, Jared (Norma Ayala) Purcell, Kevin (Bridgette) Baker, Keith (Tess) Baker, Kenna (Trevor) Colby, and Charles (Mariah) Baker. At the time of her passing she had 16 great grandchildren: Breanna, Moises, Luciano, Yazeli, Jordan, Zander, Brexton, Emery, Luke, Dezi, Blakely, Brayden, Jake, Aleah, Israel, and Elliott, but there will be more to come. She also leaves behind a brother, Jim (Margret) Miller, and 2 sisters, Grace Carpenter and Pat (Charles) Osgood.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. at the Riverview Cemetery, Boardman, Oregon.

A celebration of life gathering will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Mildred's memory to Sam Boardman Elementary for use in the library.

Please share memories of Mildred with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon is in care of arrangements.

