

Local

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- **Baker County Board of Commissioners:** 9 a.m., Courthouse, 1995 Third St.
- **"Growing the Food I Want" Gardening Class:** Topic is "Tree Fruit 'Fun-da-mentals,'" 6 p.m., D & B Supply, 3515 Pochontas Road; David Cowan, Master Gardener volunteer, will speak; classes continue Wednesdays through May 15; cost is \$5 per class; more information is available by calling Mindy Sherrieb at 541-523-3449 or leave a message at 541-523-6418 or mastergardener.baker@oregonstate.edu

FRIDAY, MAY 3

- **Live Music by Keith Taylor:** Ragtime piano, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.; no charge.
- **First Friday Art Shows:** Baker City art galleries are open late to showcase the month's new artwork; opening times vary between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Peterson's Gallery and others.

MONDAY, MAY 6

- **Haines Fire Protection District Board:** 6 p.m. at the Haines Library.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald April 29, 1969

City Manager Vern Jacobson told council members at the regular council meeting Monday night the improvements requested by the fire marshal to be made in the basement of city hall, where the kindergarten classes are held, will cost \$6,818.08. An estimate was obtained from a local contractor.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 29, 1994

The Baker City Budget Committee rejected a proposal Thursday night to hire a code enforcement officer. Although several committee members agreed it would be a good addition to the police department, the majority wouldn't approve the estimated \$42,000 per year for salary and benefits.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald April 29, 2009

The yellow perch trapping campaign at Phillips Reservoir started fast last week but frizzled with the return of colder weather this week. "We've caught about 46,000 perch, but most of them were caught last week when the weather was warmer," said Tim Bailey, ODFW district fish biologist in La Grande.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald April 30, 2018

Baker County voters might have a chance in November to decide on a measure that would ban the county from using its money, employees or facilities to enforce any law that "restricts the right of the people to possess firearms, firearm accessories and/or ammunition." County Clerk Cindy Carpenter has certified a proposed title for the initiative petition submitted by the Baker County Republican Party.

The "Baker County Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance" would require the county sheriff to "review federal, state and local laws affecting firearms, firearm accessories and/or ammunition and determine whether they violate the United States and Oregon Constitutions." Four of Oregon's 36 counties have similar ordinances in effect, including Willowa County.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, April 27

3 — 18 — 20 — 24 — 34 — 36

Next jackpot: \$2.6 million

POWERBALL, April 27

2 — 29 — 41 — 45 — 62 PB 6

Next jackpot: \$181 million

MEGA MILLIONS, April 26

9 — 17 — 23 — 30 — 46 Mega 10

Next jackpot: \$229 million

WIN FOR LIFE, April 27

25 — 28 — 50 — 70

PICK 4, April 28

• 1 p.m.: 2 — 6 — 6 — 5

• 4 p.m.: 1 — 5 — 6 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 1 — 7 — 7 — 8

• 10 p.m.: 3 — 4 — 1 — 3

LUCKY LINES, April 28

3-7-12-13-20-21-27-32

Next jackpot: \$33,000

SENIOR MENUS

- **TUESDAY:** Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, succotash, roll, sauerkraut salad, ice cream
- **WEDNESDAY:** Pot roast, parslid red potatoes, carrots, rolls, broccoli-bacon salad, cake

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60.

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TREASURE

Continued from Page 1A

Some of these photographs will eventually be added to the Baker County Library's Historic Photo Collection, and likely designated as the Gambs Studio Collection, said Perry Stokes, director of the Library District.

Stokes picked up the boxes about two weeks ago from Vancouver, Washington, where they had been stored for many years in the garage of Robert Gambs' son, Jon Gambs.

Jon, who was born at the old St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker in 1945 (it's now St. Elizabeth Towers condominiums, at 2365 Fourth St.), was just a boy of 4 when his parents moved from Baker City to Eugene in 1950.

Jon's mother, Beth MacFarlane, grew up in Baker City and graduated from Baker High School in 1936, two years after Robert Gambs. Beth Gambs, who's 99, lives with Jon Gambs and his wife, Karen, in their Vancouver home.

Jon Gambs, who inherited the collection of photos and other items when his father died in 1996, said this irreplaceable catalog of Baker County history might well have ended up in a landfill.

But he said his son-in-law, Ryan Kruse, who also lives in Vancouver, decided to phone the Baker County Library to ask whether there was any interest in preserving some of the photos.

Stokes, who fielded the inquiry in early March, hardly needed to consider the matter before answering yes.

Stokes said Kruse is a "hero for rescuing those items."

"It's an invaluable archive that adds to our insight into that era, and a significant period in Baker history," Stokes said.

Jon Gambs is also gratified that his father's legacy will be preserved.

"I'm pleased," he said on Wednesday. "It was one step from really being dumped. I'm hoping there's something



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Movie film reels also came inside the boxes full of negatives and prints from Robert Gambs, who operated a photography studio in Baker City in the 1930s and 1940s.

"I'm pleased. It was one step from really being dumped. I'm hoping there's something of value there that future generations can enjoy about their history."

— **Jon Gambs, who donated a photography collection amassed by his father, Robert Gambs, who owned a photo studio in Baker City during the 1930s and 1940s**

of value there that future generations can enjoy about their history."

Stokes picked up the collection while he was attending a library conference in Vancouver in mid April.

He then turned over the boxes to Dielman, who has been a curator for the Library's Historic Photo Collection for many years.

Dielman, even before he had a chance to thoroughly investigate the contents of the boxes, was also thrilled.

"This is huge," he said. "We rarely get a collection of this size."

Both Dielman and Stokes said the Gambs Studio Collection is noteworthy not only for its quantity, but also for the quality of its contents.

This is quite different from, say, an envelope of slightly blurry snapshots, taken by an amateur, that ended up forgotten in the dusty recesses of somebody's attic or cellar.

The Gambs Collection chronicles the work of a professional who was hired not only to take portraits of

local residents but also to showcase Baker County businesses, natural scenery, youth athletic events, rodeos and much else besides.

It is, in effect, a depiction, in sharp black-and-white, of life here immediately before, and after, World War II.

By contrast, a significant number of the photos in the existing Historic Photo Collection are from the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

Stokes said he had only to examine a handful of the Gambs' photos to recognize this was a special collection.

"The skill — the composition of the photos — you can just tell they're above average," he said.

As for why these hundreds of prints and negatives survived for so many decades, Jon Gambs has a simple explanation:

"Dad kept everything."

"He was raised in the time of the Depression when you apparently didn't throw anything away," Jon said.

Jon said his father attended Eastern Oregon State

College for a couple of years after graduating from BHS. Robert Gambs then took over an existing photography studio.

Dielman said his research in city directories shows that Reginald Wagner preceded Robert Gambs at the 2110 Main St. location.

Jon Gambs said his father did commercial and portrait photography, in addition to developing film for other photographers. Among the items in the boxes Dielman sifted through are many orange envelopes that Gambs used in his film-developing business.

Robert Gambs enlisted in the Navy during World War II. Not surprisingly, he was an aerial photographer, flying on PBY "flying boats" out of Pensacola, Florida.

After the war he returned to Baker City and reopened his studio.

Jon Gambs said his father sold the business in part because he developed an allergy to chemicals used to develop film, an affliction that affected his hands.

(Dielman found city directory entries showing Holman's photography store at the Main Street address in the 1950s.)

See **Treasure** / Page 3A

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Celestine Lela "Teena" Seal

76, of Ontario, and formerly of Baker City and Halfway, died April 23, 2019, at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise. Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday, May 8 at 1 p.m. MDT at The Catholic Church of Blessed Sacrament in Ontario. Interment will follow at the Fairview Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Bernice Pavelek: Traditional graveside service will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1 at Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family for a gathering following the service, at the Veterans Memorial Club, 2005 Valley Ave. For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Bernice the family suggests Baker County FFA through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway,

OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Dorothy Miles Carter: Her graveside memorial service will be Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Following the service, friends are invited to the Eagle Valley Grange for a potluck luncheon; those attending are asked to bring a dish. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eagle Valley Grange through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Dorothy's memory, go to www.celebratethecenter.com

Chary Mires: A memorial service and celebration of Chary's life will take place Saturday, May 4, at 2 p.m. at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Baker Heritage Museum or the Leo Adler Foundation through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway,

OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Curtis Heck: Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception immediately following the service, at the St. Francis de Sales Cathedral basement reception area. For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Curtis, the family suggests Heart 'N Home Hospice or Best Friends of Baker through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Robert 'Bob' Summers: A graveside memorial and interment ceremony will take place Sunday, May 5 at 11 a.m. at the Pine Haven Cemetery in Halfway. Immediately following the service friends are invited to join the family for a celebration of life reception at the Halfway Lions Hall. Donations in memory of Bob can be made to either the Robert S. Summers Student Research Assistant Fund at the Cornell University Law School, or the Robert S. Summers Scholarship Fund at

the University of Oregon Law School through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Kristin Bagenski: There will be a celebration of her life from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, May 5, at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave. Friends are asked to bring stories and memories for Kristin's memorial album.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Elisa Marie Hiatt, 53, 2855 First St., 9:26 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of Campbell Street; jailed.

PROBATION VIOLATION: Desiree Marie Barnett, 32, 1950 Fifth St., 3:27 p.m. Friday on Sunridge Lane; jailed.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Eric Michael Masterson, 27, Hermiton, 12:49 p.m. Saturday on Highway 86 between Mileposts 50 and 51.

The family of Jerry "Bubba" Howard would like to send a sincere Thank you to Tami & Stephanie (Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home) for the love and support during this time; to Pastor Scott Knox for bringing communion to our home during Jerry's last days, for all of your support and comforting words; to the Blue Mountain Worship Team for their beautiful music (pizza's are waiting); to good friend Dick Culley for the kind words shared at Jerry's service; to our Church family and our neighbors for food, phone calls, prayers, cards & snow removal; to the volunteers who sat with Jerry; to Heart n Home for their care; To Debbie and Wright for everything they did and continue to do. You ALL made it so much easier for me during this time, I thank you all for each and every kindness, which did not go unnoticed.

- Viola Howard & Family



Thank You

The family of Eugene Davilla would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts of food and flowers and outpouring of love and support during his long illness and death. Your kindness will always be remembered. A special thank you to PA Zach Allen, Encompass Health & Hospice nurses and therapists and Debbie and staff at Ashley Manor who all were so helpful and caring.