

Community

Historic Baker City: The Gambs Collection



Last month, relatives of Robert N. Gambs, a professional photographer who had a studio in Baker City in the 1930s and 1940s, donated a collection of his photographs and negatives to the Baker County Library District (see story in the April 29 issue of the Baker City Herald). Baker County historian Gary Dielman has been going through the thousands of items in the Robert Gambs Collection, some of which will be added to the Library District’s Historic Photo Collection. Dielman is supplying the Herald with some of Gambs’ photos, and information about them, for occasional inclusion in the paper. The photo above, which Gambs took from an airplane around 1949, shows construction of the Baker Theater at 1817 Main St. (see arrow). The site was originally the Orpheum Theatre, built in 1889 and severely damaged in a 1936 fire. The owner is Jones Enterprises, Inc., a Portland business that also owned the other two Baker movie houses, the Eltrym at 1809 First St. (No. 1, middle left of the photo), and the Empire at 2020 Main St. (No. 2, upper right). Baker Theater was much wider inside than the Eltrym. The Eltrym Theater’s balcony was narrower, sharing that level with the projection booth and a glassed in area for crying babies. Baker Theater’s existence was short-lived due to unfortunate timing. There were two new competitors for the entertainment dollar in Baker in the early 1950s — television and the Oregon Trail Drive-In Theater on 10th Street north of town. Today, 70 years after construction of Baker Theater, like the mythical Phoenix arising from the ashes, there’s an ambitious project to turn the former site of Baker Theater into a performance center, using the original name, Orpheum Theatre.

New At the Baker Library

• 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

- “The Border,” Don Winslow
- “The Flimflam Affair,” Bill Pronzini
- “Veronica Speedwell mysteries,” Deanna Raybourn
- “Dig Your Own Grave,” William Johnstone
- “Annelies,” David Gillham

NONFICTION

- “Reading in the Wild,” Donalyn Miller

- “Modern Brides & Modern Grooms,” Mark O’Connell
- “Talking Appalachian,” Amy Clark
- “Hotel California,” Barny Hoskyns
- “Ham Radio for Dummies,” H. Ward Silver

DVDS

- “Apollo 11” (documentary)
- “Cold Pursuit” (action)
- “Fighting With My Family” (comedy)
- “Incident in a Ghostland” (horror)
- “Triple Threat” (action)

WOLVES

Continued from Page 1A

A calf belonging to Barry and Shella DelCurto was euthanized in mid April after it was attacked by wolves.

In April 2018 wolves from the Pine Creek pack killed four calves and injured seven others. ODFW officials shot and killed three wolves from the pack that month.

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW’s Baker City office, said the pack’s breeding female, which gave birth to seven pups in April 2018, has also retreated to a den this spring and likely had a litter of pups.

In the incident this week, ODFW biologists who examined the dead calf found premortem canine bite marks, as well as evidence of a “chase scene” about 170 yards away that included “trampled ground, a partially broken stump and disturbed vegetation,” according to the report. Cattle and wolf tracks were in the area, and biologists found blood and hair.

Data from a GPS tracking collar fitted to the breeding male of the Pine Creek pack put the wolf at the scene at about the estimated time of the attack, according to ODFW.

“The size of the premortem bite marks... as well as the presence of a chase and attack scene and clear evidence of a confirmed depredation by members of the Pine Creek Pack,” according to the ODFW report.

HEART TO HEART

Veteran thanks BHS for invitation to excellent event

Editor’s note: This is a letter the author sent to Baker High School Principal Greg Mitchell:

Dear Principal Mitchell,

I am writing to thank you, your staff and faculty and most importantly, your fine students, for hosting the Veterans Remembrance Day event held May 9 of this year. It was an honor to attend. The program and assembly were well conceived and executed.

Thanks to the choir and band for their performances. Having three sessions with the students allowed us to talk with many kids in a conversational setting and the rotation from table to table made sense. Each veteran has different stories to tell — and vets love to tell their stories. I must also acknowledge the great lunch we were served in

pleasant surroundings.

I appreciated the assistance of Hannah as she guided me through the day. With her help the most valuable aspect was the opportunity to speak frankly with so many students. I hope I adequately personalized my journey from schoolboy to sailor, joining the U.S. Navy at the age of 17. In speaking with them I explored the events which led to our entering World War II. We spoke of the impact upon my father’s generation following their prosecution of the war. That generation shaped the America into which I was born. Growing up in a suburb east of Denver, most of our neighbors were vets or widowed wives.

My family’s history of service meant there was no doubt I would be the third generation represented in Naval aviation. I wanted to convey a sense of the times as we all matured under the

cloud of the Cold War. Leaving home, I entered the military. Those years were busy with adventures and new friends as we carried out our duties. We traveled, learned and grew as individuals. We also lived through historic events including the loss of our Commander-In-Chief, President Kennedy.

The students were bright and engaging, a credit to their parents and the school. In conversation they were well-mannered and patient, speaking freely as equals, which was most enjoyable. You must feel

a bit of the pride I felt while in their company. These young people and their quality of character are indeed the hope for America’s future.

Once again, thanks to you all for this event and for inviting me to participate.

Rick Rienks
Baker City
U.S. Navy 1961-67



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LOCAL BRIEFING

Healthy Kids Day event set for Saturday

The Baker County YMCA is planning a Healthy Kids Day free event Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Geiser-Pollman Park.

There will be fun activities, prizes and more. Everyone is welcome.

No spring chinook fishing seasons

LA GRANDE — Spring chinook salmon fishing on the Snake, Wallowa and Imnaha rivers and Looking-glass Creek in Northeastern Oregon will remain closed in 2019 due to low returns of the anadromous fish.

As updated run size estimates are available, an opening of a season might be considered on Looking-glass Creek north of Elgin.

The 2019 forecasts were for just 99,330 fish to pass Bonneville Dam on their way to their spawning tributaries, half of the 10-year average of 198,200 fish.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Idaho Fish and Game fishery managers, who co-manage the Hells Canyon sport fishery on the Snake River, were unable to release juvenile salmon below Hells Canyon Dam in 2017 due to excessive dissolved gas levels; these fish were instead released at Rapid River in Idaho. The lack of these returning fish combined with poor overall returns will preclude fishing for adult spring chinook in Hells Canyon during 2019. Limited fishing opportunity for jacks may occur as run estimates are revised.

County giving away herbicide

Baker County’s Weed District is again giving away pre-mixed herbicide designed to target whitetop and Scotch thistle. There are changes to this year’s event.

First, the person who picks up the herbicide must also be the one who will apply it. The applicator’s name must be affixed to the container. Applicators must bring their own chemical-resistant container, preferably one that held gas or oil, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. There is a 5-gallon limit per household.

The giveaway locations and times:

- Richland, wildflower corner along Highway 86, west side of town, May 17, 7 a.m. to noon
- Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., May 24, 7 a.m. to noon
- Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., June 1, 7 a.m. to noon
- Hereford Community Hall and Unity Community Hall, June 7, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

County seeks volunteers for boards

Baker County is seeking volunteers for the following boards/committees:

- Early Learning Regional Council
- Baker County Planning Commission (a commission member and an alternate)
- Baker County Fair Board
- Transportation/Traffic Safety Commission
- Transient Lodging Tax Committee
- Baker County Cultural Coalition
- Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee: The County is seeking a co-exist member.
- Baker County Compensation Board

Volunteer forms are at www.bakercounty.org/commissioners. More information is available by calling the Commissioners’ Office at 541-523-8200 or by emailing hmartin@bakercounty.org

Friends of Baker Heritage Museum collecting donations for yard sale

Friends of the Baker Heritage Museum are planning a yard sale during Miners Jubilee in July, and are accepting donated items, except clothing. To arrange to make a donation call Liz Miller at 541-300-5416. The group will also have its spring general meeting on May 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the museum, 2480 Grove St.

CPR classes May 24 and 28 at BCFD

The Baker City Fire Department is offering CPR/first aid classes on May 24 and 28 at the Fire Department, 1616 Second St. Both classes run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$47 and includes a Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED card. To sign up, call the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 or text Lt. Alan Blair at 541-519-6337.



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