

TOWNS

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The list includes Robinette, which was on the banks of the Snake River east of Richland.

Robinette, named for James Robinette, who settled in the area in 1887, had its post office established in 1909.

The town, which had a population of 25 to 30 for much of its history, was abandoned in 1957 as construction neared completion on Brownlee Dam on the Snake.

Brownlee Reservoir inundated the site of Robinette in 1958.

Reinhardt is coming to Baker City on Tuesday, Nov. 9, to talk about his project and collect stories about Robinette from local residents.

The event is part of a new lecture series that will be held on the second Tuesday of each



Pete Basche/Baker County Library Historic Photo Collection

Diane Carrithers, right, and her mother, who ran the post office and store at Robinette.

month at the Baker Heritage Museum, 2480 Grove St.

His talk starts at 6 p.m. in the upstairs ballroom.

"I'm hoping a lot of people show up who want to share memories," he said.

He'll also have a question-and-answer session to see what local residents would like to see in this project.

Drowned Towns

Although some instances of drowned towns date back to the 1920s, Reinhardt said most occurred during 1950s, '60s and '70s when many dams were built across the Northwest.

Some, like Detroit, were moved to higher ground nearby.

But others, like Robinette, just disappeared.

Well, almost.

Some of the buildings from Robinette were moved to Richland or Halfway, and still stand.

Reinhardt's goal is to preserve the oral histories of these towns.

"To capture the stories of people who lived in these

places," he said.

He plans to hold a History Jamboree in the future to collect stories and document artifacts tied to the drowned towns.

He said graduate students will help with this field work.

During his research, Reinhardt said he's been surprised at "how little vocal resistance there was" to the building of dams and subsequent reservoirs.

"It's a really traumatic event — the absolute destruction of a place they've come to call home," he said. "It's a really interesting and sad puzzle — how did people come to accept that?"

Right now he's working on an inventory of drowned towns, starting with the Snake River.

"It's been a real process of discovery and enlightenment for me," he said.

He has a map posted on the website drownedtowns.com.

The website also has a place where people can send a note with information about a drowned town.



Pete Basche/Baker County Library Historic Photo Collection

Students from Robinette School play in the snowy playground. From left, Karen Whitely, Linda Buchanan, Petey Basche, Joan Robinette, Earl Robinette, Betty Basche, Loretta Pollard, Charlene Whitely.

Resident's photographs help preserve Robinette's history

The legacy of Robinette, one of Oregon's drowned towns, is richer than many largely due to one of its residents' facility with a camera.

Pete Basche and his wife, Ernestine, moved to Robinette in February 1942.

Over the next 15 years, Pete worked as the Standard Oil Co. fuel distributor, hauling gasoline and diesel and heating oil around Baker County's Panhandle.

But Pete also used his camera to document life in one of Oregon's more isolated towns.

What he didn't know, for part of that time, was that it was also a doomed town.

Pete's daughter, Betty Basche, who was born on Dec. 30, 1942, in the family's home at Robinette, said her father "always had a camera."

"We didn't go anywhere

without a camera," Betty said in a 2017 interview with the Baker City Herald.

Pete's photographic subjects ranged from Christmas pageants at the one-room, K-8 Robinette school, to boat trips down the Snake River's rapids, to family outings in Hells Canyon and to Anthony Lakes to escape the Canyon's oppressive summer heat.

In the last few years before Robinette was submerged, Pete focused his lens most often on the very project that doomed his town — the construction of Brownlee Dam.

He photographed the multi-year process — it started in 1955 — from the ground on both the Oregon and Idaho shores of the Snake, from the steep slopes above, and in several cases from an airplane.

"That was his passion —

photography," Gary Dielman, who curates the Baker County Library District's Historic Photo Collection, an online archive that includes almost 8,200 images, said in 2017.

That's the year Dielman added 270 photos, most of them taken by Pete at Robinette during the 1950s, to the collection.

Pete, who moved to Richland in 1957, died on July 17, 2004, at age 90.

Betty Basche, who lives in Richland in the same house in which she was born after it was moved from Robinette, inherited much of her father's photo collection — more than 1,000 images.

The Pete Basche Collection and the rest of the county's historic photos, are available at bakerlib.org.

— Jayson Jacoby

LOCAL BRIEFING

Geiser Grand nominated as Best Ski Hotel

The Geiser Grand Hotel in Baker City has been nominated as a contender for Best Ski Hotel in USA Today's 10 Best Readers Choice travel awards.

The winner is determined by online votes. The Geiser Grand is currently in fifth place out of 20 locations — behind Viceroy Snowmass in Colorado, The Blake in New Mexico, Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont and Fairmont Le Château in Quebec.

The Geiser Grand's entry references the hotel's proximity to Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, Oregon's ski area with the highest base elevation, at 7,100 feet.

People can vote once per day through Monday, Nov. 22. To vote, go to www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-ski-hotel-2021/. The winners will be announced on Dec. 3.

Vacancy on school budget committee

The Baker School District has a vacancy on its budget committee, and applications are being taken.

Applications can be picked up from Karly Knapp at the school district office, 2090 Fourth St. Applications are due by Nov. 29.

Ty Morrison receives scholarship

Tynan "Ty" Morrison of Baker City has received a \$750 scholarship from the

Baker County Livestock Producers Foundation for the 2021-22 school year.

Morrison is a sophomore at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, where he is majoring in Agriculture Business. He intends to pursue a master's degree in the field.

Morrison has his own cow herd and is part of his family's ranch in Baker County. He is involved in the Rodeo Club and has had numerous leadership roles in 4-H and FFA. He has also participated in community service projects with the Nazarene Youth Group.

Scholarship forms are available at the Baker County OSU Extension Office, 2600 East St., or online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/baker>.

MOTHER

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Baker City Police Sgt. Mike Regan said police became more concerned about Kaitlyn, leading them to describe her as endangered, because they haven't been able to confirm that she's had any contact with anyone since leaving BHS.

Michelle has a suspicion about her daughter's whereabouts based on an episode last year when Kaitlyn, then 16, also ran away.

Michelle said she argued with Kaitlyn, and didn't try to stop her when she left.

"I let her go because I thought she just wanted to blow off some steam," Michelle said.

When Kaitlyn didn't return after a couple of hours, though, Michelle became worried.

She said she initially thought about a man, who had recently turned 20, that Kaitlyn might have had a relationship with.

Michelle said she went to the house where the man lives, knocked on the door and could hear her daughter's voice inside.

Kaitlyn refused to leave with her mother.

Michelle said she called Baker City Police, who told the residents of the home that they couldn't keep Kaitlyn.

"Finally she came home with me," Michelle said. "She wasn't happy about it."

When Kaitlyn didn't come home the afternoon of Oct. 28, Michelle said

she immediately wondered whether Kaitlyn had gone with the man again to his home.

Michelle said the home that Baker City Police searched earlier this week is the one where the man lives.

Regan said police didn't find Kaitlyn, but Michelle said she still wonders whether her daughter is hiding there.

"I don't know of any other person she could possibly be talking to," Michelle said, referring to the man with whom her daughter had a relationship.

Michelle said that last year she overheard "highly inappropriate" phone conversations between her daughter and the man.

She said she doesn't know if they have had contact since Kaitlyn — who went by Kaitlyn Adler until about a year ago — ran away last year and went to the man's home.

Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby said on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 3, that Michelle's belief that her daughter is intentionally staying away from home is the most plausible explanation.

Given that there's no evidence that Kaitlyn was abducted, Duby said there's little if anything police can do other than what they already have, which is list Kaitlyn as a runaway on a nationwide police network.

Duby acknowledged that it's "frustrating" to not be able to help Michelle get into contact with Kaitlyn.

But police have no legal

authority to take additional steps, such as forcing the residents of the home to allow police to search again for Kaitlyn, Duby said.

Michelle said she has her daughter's cellphone, and has been able to access Kaitlyn's email account and some social media accounts.

Michelle said she has found no evidence that Kaitlyn, who had her laptop computer with her and uses it frequently, has used that computer to access any of her accounts since Oct. 28.

That apparent lack of activity frightens Michelle, and leads her to ponder "other scenarios" than her belief that Kaitlyn is simply hiding, possibly at the man's house.

"If she's not there, where is my daughter?" Michelle said. "Who else would she be with?"

Michelle said she had a call on Tuesday, Nov. 2 from an acquaintance who reported seeing a young girl in south Baker City who might have been Kaitlyn. The caller wasn't sure, however, and the girl was not wearing the clothes that Kaitlyn was wearing on Oct. 28.

Michelle said the sighting was not near the home where Kaitlyn went after running away last year.

At this point, Michelle said, she would be satisfied just to know that Kaitlyn is safe.

"If she called now and said, 'mom, I'm OK but I'm not coming home,' it would be hard to accept, but it would relieve me so much," Michelle said.

RIDERS

Continued from A1

Griffin, for instance, served for six years in the U.S. Army.

As for "Riders," that refers to one of the members' favorite hobbies — riding motorcycles.

Griffin said she understands that motorcycle groups don't always have a sterling reputation due to the link, unfair though it may be, to gangs such as the Hells Angels.

"We want to show people that this group of motorcycle riders are also really involved with the community," Griffin said.

The basis idea of Patriot Hope Riders, she said, is to

serve as a back up to existing organizations that help people in need, including churches, service clubs, the county veterans service office, and others.

"Those groups can't do it all," Griffin said. "We want to fill in the gaps."

In some cases, she said, that might involve explaining to residents how they can get help with their needs — for instance, by giving a veteran the phone number for Rick Gloria, the county's veteran service officer.

But Patriot Hope Riders can also offer direct aid in some circumstances, whether that's financial help or, say, getting somebody's car running so they can get to work

and the grocery store.

"We have members who are mechanically inclined," Griffin said.

Patriot Hope Riders has seven founding members, including herself.

- Roy Fontenot and Becky Eaton, owners of Black Iron Forge Co. and Black Iron Pit
- Cameron Williamson, owner of Iron Rhino Fitness, eight-year Army veteran and VFW member

- Matt Diaz, owner of Get Smoked BBQ, Navy veteran and volunteer at Harvest Church

- Mandy Diaz, owner of Whimsy Cakes Bakery, Navy veteran and volunteer at Harvest Church

- Chris Graves, volunteer firefighter

Griffin said their goal is to have at least two fundraisers per year.

As a past president of the women's auxiliary at the Baker City Eagles, Griffin has experience in raising money. "We raised money for veterans and we helped quite a few veterans with the money we raised," she said.

Griffin said another recent fundraiser at the VFW Memorial Club was on behalf of Michael Blount, a 48-year-old Baker City man who died Aug. 6 after being hit by a vehicle while riding his motorcycle on Campbell Street in Baker City on July 20.

Many of the Patriot Hope Riders founders were friends with Blount, and his death helped prompt the group's formation, Griffin said.

She said one of the organization's goals is to have one major fundraiser each year to specifically benefit a family that has been affected by a motorcycle or car crash and

has financial needs.

Patriot Hope Riders is working to start a Facebook page.

In the meantime, Griffin, who grew up in Baker City, lived elsewhere for 14 years but returned eight years ago, is the group's main contact. Her phone number is 541-519-6617.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Rebecca Marie Henry: 65, of Baker City, died peacefully Oct. 31, 2021, at her home with her family by her side. No funeral services are planned at this time. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in Rebecca's memory or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

FUNERAL PENDING

Dean Franklin Spence: Memorial service with military honors, Friday, Nov. 12 at 11 a.m.

at the Harvest Church, 3720 Birch St. in Baker City. Following the service, a reception will take place at the Harvest Church Fellowship Hall. Memorial

contributions in Dean's memory can be made to the Compassion International or to the Idaho Youth Ranch through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel,

1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence for Dean's family, or to find a livestream link for the service, go to www.grayswestco.com.

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