

## Orpheum

Continued from Page A1

"It had a good solid plan ready to go, local support, and the economic impact to downtown will be huge," said Carol Phillips, a BCD board member.

This most recent grant, paired with \$295,000 from the Cultural Resources Economic Fund that was awarded in April 2021, gets the ball rolling again on the project.

"Now we're starting to build," Bonebrake said. "These two grants have been spectacular."

The last bit of asbestos has to be removed, and a geotechnical analysis on the foundation is underway to prepare for concrete footings, which will support the structural steel framework for the balcony, staircase and fly loft.

"This is the beginning that people have been waiting for," Bonebrake said.

Sid Johnson & Co. is the general contractor.

### The timeline

The project began in May 2016 with a \$130,000 donation from David Burris that enabled Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre to purchase the 1889 building that housed the first Orpheum Theatre, a vaudeville stage that grew with silent films and "talkies" into the late 1950s.

The theater closed in 1956. In 1964 it was remodeled into retail space.

After Burris' donation, the Orpheum project grew with grants and donations that funded feasibility studies, design plans and asbestos removal.

Total fundraising to date is \$1,116,027.

Of that, \$355,527 came from local gifts and events.

The amount from foundations and public funds totals \$760,480.

Bonebrake is pursuing more grants for the sixth, and final, phase.

"The phase after this is the finish work," she said.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$2.5 million.

### The plan

The Baker Orpheum Theatre will have 325 seats with a professional stage, balcony, fly loft, and state-of-the-art acoustics, sound and lighting.

The marquee design is based on the 1930s art deco style.

Bonebrake said the Orpheum will be used for EORT performances, as well as local music groups and other performing arts.

She said the main floor, with 125 seats, will provide a space for smaller gatherings or presentations.

The Orpheum will also bring national acts to Baker City, she said.

This is where Burris' support comes in again — he has created a donor advised fund through Oregon Community Foundation that will support the Orpheum's future, such as underwriting the cost for national artists to reduce the price of tickets for local residents.

### Donate

Bonebrake is happy to talk about the Orpheum project with interested groups and individuals.

"I'll show what we've done," she said.

To request a presentation, call Bonebrake at 541-519-3255.

Monetary donations can be mailed to EORT, Baker Orpheum Theatre Fund, 2101 Main St., Suite 113, Baker City, OR 97814.

## "Baker loves the rally. So we're trying to bring it back."

— Brandy Bruce, who works at Shameless Tees in Baker City



Baker City Herald, File

Shameless Tees, a business on Main Street in Baker City, is reviving the city's annual motorcycle rally, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and was not slated to happen in 2022.

## Rally

Continued from Page A1

Dukes said his goal was to bring the rally back in 2023.

But Shameless Tees wasn't content to wait another year.

"Baker loves the rally," said Brandy Bruce, who works at the store. "So we're trying to bring it back."

Although the Resurrection Rally has been scheduled and a website created — thebcmr.com/ — organizers are still seeking permission from the city to close Main Street during the weekend, as has been done with past Hells Canyon rallies.

Bruce said organizers have talked with many downtown business owners, and had "an overwhelmingly positive response" to the rally plans.

"We're trying to get through to the rest but I think we have a majority," she said.

The website has information about camping options for riders on a ranch in Keat-



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Registrants in the Baker City motorcycle rally will get commemorative gear including a T-shirt, lanyard good for business discounts, a patch, pin and more from Shameless Tees.

ing Valley, as well as registration packets.

The Ison House and the Corner Brick Grill are planning concerts during the rally, Bruce said.

More information is available by calling Shameless Tees at 541-523-1187. Participants can register, at Shameless Tees, 1921 Main St., or by calling or texting 541-921-9114.

## Adler

Continued from Page A1

Blair said his father, Alan, volunteered at the fire department.

"So I had a lot of opportunities to speak with Leo," David Blair said.

The Baker City Fire Department was a frequent recipient of Leo's generosity for much of his life, and beyond.

He has bought many ambulances for the city and helped pay for a variety of other needs, as Blair noted, for the department over many decades.



Leo Adler

On the curb in front of Adler's home, a Baker City Fire Department ladder truck and ambulance were parked in homage to the department's benefactor.

On the front lawn of the Adler House Museum, Boy Scouts cooked burgers and hot dogs for sale to those who showed up to honor Adler.

Others offered raspberry cake, face painting, and a promotion for the Orpheum Theatre restoration project.

Complimentary tours of the home were enlightening, as the house is a piece of art in itself, a time capsule of not just memorabilia but an entire family.

You can imagine Leo himself, dining under lamplight, putting away a book as he went to bed, living a humble life that belied the fortune he amassed through a magazine distribution business.

What Leo invested in and thrived on, though, were the



Ian Crawford/Baker City Herald

Leo Adler's longtime home at 2305 Main St. has been preserved as a museum. A tour of the home takes in his desk and a wall filled with awards.

people around him, and especially those living in Baker City and Baker County.

Tour guide Steve Bogart told his group that in the 1990s Leo said he hadn't even been upstairs in the Italianate-style home, built in 1889, in 60 years.

Nearly every item had a history that Bogart recited, down to the boards on the floor and the humble nail where Adler would hang his hat.

"When they were refinishing, sanding the floors up here, they figured out which room had been the ladies powder room, the perfume smell came up from the floor," Bogart said. "When they sanded the nursery, they found the corner where they used to keep the chamber pot."

While Adler has been gone for nearly 30 years, his spirit of giving lives on in those and many other tales.

## BAKER CITY

# Abuse suspect to enter plea Sept. 19

## Jerry Shaw Jr. was arrested in March

BY JAYSON JACOBY

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A Baker City man arrested in March on multiple sex crime charges is not scheduled to enter a plea in the case until Sept. 19.

Jerry Ray Shaw Jr., 40, was arrested March 21.

He has been in the Baker County Jail since then.

Baker County Circuit Court Judge Matt Shirtcliff set Shaw's bail at \$1 million. Shaw could be released by posting 10% of that amount — \$100,000. Shirtcliff also required that if Shaw posts bail, a hearing will take place prior to his release.

A grand jury on March 24 indicted Shaw on 11 felony counts. If Shaw were convicted on all or most counts, he could be sentenced to spend more than 30 years in prison.

The charges include five counts of first-degree sodomy, a Class A felony; two counts of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, a Class A felony; and four counts of first-degree sexual abuse, a Class B felony.

Each of the three crimes is a felony, and all are Measure 11 offenses, meaning they carry mandatory minimum prison sentences on conviction.

First-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual penetration both have mandatory minimum sentences of 8 years and 4 months for each count on which a defendant is convicted.

First-degree sexual abuse

has a mandatory minimum of 6 years and 3 months on each count.

In addition, the case could potentially involve "Jessica's Law for Oregon," which the Oregon Legislature passed in 2006. That law includes a 25-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for people convicted of first-degree sex crimes against a child younger than 12.

The alleged victim is a juvenile girl known to Shaw. The alleged abuse happened between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2015, in Baker City, according to court documents. The victim was younger than 14 throughout the period, and younger than 12 in some instances.

According to a report from Detective Zach Thatcher of the Baker City Police, the investigation started on the morning of March 15, when he received a child welfare report from the Department of Human Services documenting the victim disclosing past sexual abuse during an interview earlier that day.

Shaw was arraigned on the 11 counts in Baker County Circuit Court on March 28.

After a status check hearing on June 15, a hearing was set for Sept. 19 during which Shaw is scheduled to enter a plea.

According to a court record, Shaw's court-appointed attorney, Robert Moon of Baker City, will have Shaw evaluated. The record does not specify the type of evaluation.

## Virgene Violet Schlingman

December 17, 1927 - May 25, 2022

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Virgene Schlingman, who passed away on May 25, 2022, at the age of 94. Virgene was born on December 17, 1927, in Bend, OR to John Leslie Wright and Emma McBride. Virgene was the 4th of 5 children, Neal, Alvin, James and Leonard. Virgene spent over a year alone in the Shriners hospital in Portland, OR being treated for her foot. She went back to Portland later on to attend a business college to be trained as a bookkeeper and moved back to Redmond, OR to live and work.



She met her husband, Chuck, at a very early age when Chuck had come to their home to visit with her brothers whom he was friends with. Chuck would later go to Redmond again to visit her brothers, but this time came to realize that their sister had grown up to be a very beautiful young woman. Chuck and Virgene would continue to date long distance (Chuck lived in Gold Beach, OR) and write many heartfelt letters back and forth. Chuck was known to have stated at one time that "It would be a cold day in Hell when he got married." Chuck and Virgene were married on January 29, 1950, in Redmond, OR and the temperature was reported to be well below zero. Virgene would always claim that her corsage froze on the way from the church to their car.

They moved to California so that Chuck could attend UC Davis Veterinary School. Upon graduation they moved to Baker, OR and Chuck became partners with Doc Ragle at the Animal Clinic in Baker. They had their first child, Denise, in 1955, followed by Wyatt, Dyrk and Sherrie. Virgene worked at the Animal Clinic over the years as a part time bookkeeper and full-time mom. Virgene was involved in many organizations over the years in Baker which included Beta Sigma Phi and Soroptimists. She loved to host pinocle parties at their home and taught all of her children and grandchildren how to play. She loved to hunt, fish, and in general do anything that had to do with the outdoors. Each summer she would pack up her family and spend 1 month living on a boat in the San Juan Islands. It started with a 18-foot boat called the Leaky Teaky that they built themselves and ended with a 40-foot ocean trawler that they would travel all the way up to Alaska and back on after Chuck retired. They traveled extensively with their travel trailer all over the continental US and even into Mexico.

Virgene loved spending time with her family and would travel to help with a project or just spend time with each and every one of them. Virgene loved the Lord, Jesus Christ, and was a member at the Baker Christian Church initially and later the Baker City Nazarene. She taught her family so many long and lasting lessons; one of these was to "always keep a sense of humor."

Virgene will be missed by her family and so many more people as she was known to never refuse a guest at her house for a meal, no matter what was going on, she would just set one more place at the table. Virgene was preceded in death by all of her brothers, her husband (Chuck) and her daughter (Denise). Virgene is survived by her son Wyatt (Anne) Schlingman, her son Dyrk Schlingman, and her daughter Sherrie (Joe) White. She had 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren whom she loved to the very last day and beyond. The family will be in Baker City at the Geiser-Pollman Park from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on August 7, 2022, for an informal celebration of life. They would love to see their old friends and share stories and memories.



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

The Baker City Police Department's new radar speed trailer was set up on D Street near the Powder River on Wednesday morning, June 22, 2022.

## Trailer

Continued from Page A1

The new trailer has solar panels to power the sign.

"It's pretty handy," DUBY said.

Phoebe Wachtel, the police department's office manager, said on Wednesday morning, June 22 that the department had received multiple requests in the past day or so to have the trailer moved to a particular part of town.

DUBY said the trailer can have a deterrent effect on speeding drivers, and it helps augment the department's workforce. He said there are typically two patrol officers on duty at a time, and they often don't have time to focus on traffic enforcement.

"We get complaints about people speeding in school zones, people speeding in certain neighborhoods, there's just a lot more complaints than we can address," DUBY said.