

OBITUARIES

Michael Thomas Benner



Aug. 14, 1958 — July 27, 2017

Michael was born to Jimmy and Eleanor (Belseth) Benner in Richmond, California. In 1970, Michael and his family relocated to Silverton. He finished his schooling at Silverton High School and began working in the landscape industry, contributing to the beautification of commercial and residential areas. Michael enjoyed hunting and fishing with his dad and playing pool and horseshoes with his many friends; he was also a member of the pool league in Silverton.

Michael is survived by his parents, Jimmy and Eleanor Benner of Woodburn; his sister, Stacy Lyn Benner of Eugene; and extended family and friends.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Aug. 12, two days before Michael's birthday, at Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton. A celebration of Michael's life will follow at Silverton's Coolidge Park.

Steven Newton Chaney



April 26, 1954 — July 26, 2017

Steven Newton Chaney, 63, of Silverton passed peacefully at his home on July 26, 2017.

Steven was born April 26, 1954, in Rabat, French Morocco. His parents were Colonel Newton Cornelius Chaney and Shirley Virginia Chaney. He was a world traveler who was always seeking new ideas through his love of music and art. He spent much of his life in the San Diego, California, area but chose Silverton as his place of retirement.

He was an active member of St. Paul's Catholic Church and particularly loved his work with the choir.

Steven is survived by his loved ones: his sister Jan Matzen of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; nephews Mika and Ben Matzen of Thornton, Colorado; and companion Laura Yeates of Silverton and her children.

A mass will be held in his honor at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Silverton. Anyone who knew Steven is encouraged to attend and pay their respects.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Navajo Relief Fund, 1310 E Riverview Drive, Phoenix AZ 85034 or www.nrfprograms.org. Steven supported this charity throughout his later years and held their mission close to his heart.

Anna "Ann" Dick



Nov. 13, 1945 — July 30, 2017

Anna "Ann" Dick, 71, passed away July 30, 2017, with loving family by her side.

Ann was born in Nikol-ski, Alaska, one of nine children born to Leonty and Nellie (Chereasen) Sovoroff. She was raised and resided in the tiny town on the Umnak Island of the Aleu-

tians area of Alaska. In 1977, Ann moved to Silverton, where she met Don Dick. They were married on Dec. 8, 1984. Ann worked for many years as a CNA at local nursing homes in Silverton, and for 16 years worked for AgriPack in Woodburn.

Ann loved her family above all else, especially her three children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed fishing, bead-ing, dancing, country music and barbe-queing.

Ann is preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and grandson, Gary Jay-cox. She is survived by her husband of nearly 34 years, Don; daughter Colinda Semdstad; sons Paul Jaycox and George (Stacy) Jaycox; and grandchildren Adrian, Josh, TJ, Brianna, and Kelsey.

Visitation was held Aug. 6 at Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton. Graveside service was held Aug. 7 at Valley View Cemetery in Silverton.

Arrangements with Unger Funeral Chapel.

Fire

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Pacific Crest Trail

A stretch of roughly 30 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail is closed in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness.

The closure runs from Minto Pass, near Wasco Lake, northward to Breitenbush Lake.

Thru-hikers on the PCT will have multiple options about where they can exit the trail. Those traveling north can exit at Marion Lake Trail, while those coming south must exit at Breitenbush Lake.

Mount Jefferson Wilderness

The entire northern half of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness is now closed, officials announced.

The closure includes everything north of Marion Lake and 14 major trailheads and Forest Service roads. It includes popular hiking and backpacking destinations Jefferson Park, Pamela Lake and Carl Lake, among others.

List of trailheads closed

Bingham Ridge	South Breitenbush
Minto Mountain	Crown Lake
Pamelia Lake	Bear Valley / Rockpile Lake
Whitewater Creek	Cabot Lake
Cheat Creek	Jefferson Lake
Triangulation Peak	Brush Creek
Leone Lake	



Stopping in to Silver Creek Coffee House for a Creekside Chat are Silverton High School Alumni Association members, left to right, Carmen Smith, Verna Thayer and Tracy Duerst.

Much

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Silverton High School Alumni Association

Prepping for their annual fundraiser/reunion last week, Silverton High School Alumni Association members Tracy Duerst, Verna Thayer and Carmen Smith took the time to meet at the coffee house.

The reunion, held last Friday in Mt. Angel, marked the 19th held by the group, which is in its 20th year. It's more than just a Silver Foxes mingling; this year the organization awarded more than \$68,000 in scholarships, bringing the total allotment over the past two decades to \$734,300 to 957 Silverton High alumni.

One of the group's founders and a stalwart in its growth, Mason Branstetter, was recognized with a Judy Schmidt Lifetime Achievement Award this year.

While many recipients are college bound, the overarching aim is to see the students further their education.

"They may be going to barber school or a mechanics school...we just want to see them further their education," Verna said.

Beyond its philanthropy, the alumni association is notable for its wide-ranging membership. Thumbing through the newsletter directory, you see a representative from nearly every class dating back to 1938, which is represented by Eileen Lawson.

Carmen listed the cross-continent contingency with reunion folks hailing from far-flung locales as Georgia, Arizona, Louisiana, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, and California. Membership is modestly priced at \$5 per year, and the group is always developing ways to keep its scholarship fund healthy.

"Our goal is to someday be able to give a scholarship to every SHS graduate who wants to further his or her education," the group's latest call for contributions stated.

There are a number of ways to contribute — donation to the annual fundraising silent auction or purchasing association pins, T-shirts, polo shirts, caps or sweat-shirts.

Anyone who wants to learn more about the group can visit www.shsfoxes.com or contact Mason in town at 303 Oak St., Silverton, 503-873-3545 or mason@silvertonrealty.com. You can also contact Verna at 503-581-8231, Carmen at 503-873-7741.

There is also a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Silverton-High-School-Alumni-Association-170118086379502/.

Rep. Rick Lewis discusses current issues

Now that the legislative session is over, school and civic officials will be hearing from District 18 Rep. Rick Lewis as he plans to apprise folks of the developments at the state level and what they mean locally.

Rick had to hit the ground running following Vic Gilliam's medically related resignation from the House. Having served as Silverton's mayor, police chief and even some assistant football coaching for the Bandon Tigers, Rick brought some qualifications to the task.

At Creekside Chat, he touched on a variety of topics, ranging from traffic safety to trains to nurturing bipartisan cooperation in getting things done at the state level.

Folks will hear more about his experiences when he visits council meetings, school board sessions and other civic groups in the coming weeks. In a nutshell, he feels the work completed regarding transportation this past session was worthwhile — vital actually.

"The transportation package was probably the most important, and that was a compromise between parties," Rick said.

He will explain to local residents what that means in Silverton, Molalla and the like, including improve-

Next chat

What: Creekside Chat

Where: Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 Water St., Silverton

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 7 (First and third Wednesdays)

Questions and information: Contact Justin Much, jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com; cell 503-508-8157; or follow at twitter.com/justinmuch

ments to Jefferson Street and Mt. Angel Highway (214), and to Highway 211 around Molalla.

Safe routes to school will also be a topic of discussion, while work in ensuring new programs for veterans was a valued success this past year as well.

Looking into the future, Rick envisions more attention needs to be paid to issues surrounding health care and PERS.

Rick can be reached at rep.ricklewis@oregonlegislature.gov, 503-966-1418, www.oregonlegislature.gov/lewis.

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