

Haines News

By Gina Perkins
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Kudos to Fire Department

Haines and North Powder volunteer fire fighters responded to a grain / combine fire east of Haines on Friday along with BLM and ODF. It did burn several acres within the field, but did not spread to the power lines, a nearby haystack, or very dry sagebrush thanks to the excellent ef-

forts of the fire departments and agencies.

Accident Near Dean Place

The Baker County Sheriff's Office stated the following per the Deputy on the scene: Shawn Skidgel was operating a large log loading vehicle toward Haines on the Anthony Lakes Highway [Monday afternoon]; as he was ne-

gotiating the left turn at the South Rock Creek intersection, his vehicle, for unknown reasons, rolled onto the roadway and eventually came to a rest on its side, partially in a ditch.

A witness following directly behind Skidgel watched the left side rear tires come off the ground as Skidgel drove through the curve. The witness stated that Skidgel was travelling at about 40mph through the curve. It is unknown at this time if a mechanical failure caused the crash. There was no in-

dication of careless driving, excessive speed, driver distraction nor driver impairment.

Skidgel had minor injuries. SREC conducted the cleanup of the spilled diesel and oil. SREC and Superior Towing uprighted the vehicle.

Baker County Road Dept. made a temporary pavement patch on a large gouge mark caused left in the pavement.

Open Horse Show

Sandy Moore along with Sarah and Anna Seymour competed in

the open horse show held in Baker City on Saturday.

Friends of Haines

Reviewing of this year's Fourth of July celebration and planning for the next started on Monday evening as the volunteers held their meeting at the Haines Steak House. Plans are underway for the fall "Dollar-a-Dip" fundraiser and the group is hopeful they will once again be able to have the Elks Drum and Bugle Corps perform.

Artists Invited to Show their Artwork

Crossroads would like to invite artists to show their artwork at the 17th Annual Art at the Crossroads regional art exhibit. Artwork will be accepted Monday, Aug. 31, and Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 8:30 - 5:30 p.m. each day, and the show will open on Friday, Sept. 4, 2015. Cash awards totaling over \$1000 will be awarded at the judge's discretion including a special Northwest Pastel Society Award. The People's Choice cash award will be selected by those attending the opening reception. There is a \$20 entry fee for up to 3 works of art.

For entry guidelines go to our website crossroads-arts.org and click on forms, or call Crossroads at 541-523-5369.

Virgil Borger Celebrates with Applause and Laughter in Five Octaves

By Dan Sizer

Laughter of all ages fills Virgil Borger's living room on sunny Saturday morning. Of the more than thirty relatives present, some cook, others clean, but most sit listening. The youngest is two, the oldest is ninety. That's Virgil. The native Iowan and WWII veteran's 90th birthday celebration has lasted a week, and it's not over yet.

Terra Hahn, Virgil's great-granddaughter, picks from a jar of brightly colored post-its and reads another favorite memory of Virgil, written by one of his family members. This particular note describes a trick Virgil used to play on new boyfriends the girls brought home. If a young man asked for butter at dinner, Virgil passed it to him in such a way that the fellow would mistakenly plunge his thumb into the soft stick. "Run the butter up his thumb," he called it.

"Did that happen to dad?" a great-granddaughter asks. "Yep," her mother answers, "He broke the ice that way and everything was somehow more comfortable."

Amid giggles and hoots, Virgil surveys the crowd with a smile and says to his wife Jackie, "We made this." Next year marks the couple's seventieth wedding anniversary, and they will soon be great-great grandparents. Terra, the woman reading the post-its, is three months pregnant.

Virgil is a family man and the scene in the Borger living room

proves it. (Nearly) five generations are present and only one tupperware of Jackie Borger's 44 dozen cookies remains. Little ones run in and out, couples snuggle, everyone seems happy to be together, Virgil most of all.

"The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful family," Virgil counts his blessings as they walk past him in the kitchen.

A gunner's mate in the South Pacific during WWII, Virgil thanks God for his own life as well.

When suicide boats hit the landing craft support vessel Virgil was stationed on at Bhutan, he was the only one in his department to survive. He doesn't remember the sound of the explosion or what happened to him. He came to in a life raft. Only later was he told that he had been blown across a rocket launcher and that a mate had thrown him overboard, saving his life.

If he had not been on watch duty, he says, he would have died. Some would call it chance or good luck. With a twinkle in his eye, Virgil says otherwise. "God's looking out for you, but often you're too dumb to know it."

Virgil was awarded a purple heart for his service. He met his wife Jackie while on survivors leave, and they were married as soon as Virgil was discharged. She was 19. He was 21. Virgil made a living doing what he calls "chicken peddling," work-

ing for major corporations including Pillsbury and ConAgra. He retired from Long Beach in 1984, moved to Eastern Oregon and built their home on Pocahontas Road the same year.

Looking back on 90 years, Virgil admits that the world has changed a lot - in many ways not for the better. He speaks of simpler times and simpler wars, that while still horrific, do not compare to what the news portrays today. Virgil remembers gas at 10 cents a gallon and, at the end of the day, having only 19 cents to spend on potatoes for dinner. They were poor days but happy days, for as Jackie remarks, "We didn't know we were poor. Everyone else was the same."

While it irks Virgil to see his youngest offspring in front of an iPad instead of playing outdoors, family, he says, is the most important thing in life.

Sitting in a living room packed full of family members listening to their own memories of Virgil being read aloud, I began to form a good picture of the man I had just met minutes ago. A man who, despite the world changing around him, continues to live by the principles of his youth, treating those around him with honesty, kindness and humor.

The last post-it was read to a loud round of applause and laughter in five octaves.

Log Loader Rolls onto Roadway for Unknown Reason



Photo by Gina Perkins

Photo by Gina Perkins

Fire fighters responded to an apparent combine fire at Allen Farms east of Haines. Several acres burned, but it was contained.



Thank You X 90

Dwight Riggs' family along with Charlene, want to extend our appreciation for the outpouring of support, cards, calls and great attendance at his 90th birthday celebration. AND the appearance of the Elks Drum & Bugle Corps put the icing on his cake. THANK YOU all for honoring this awesome guy!



Please join us for fellowship & worship Sunday mornings at 10:45.



Haines United Methodist Church

721 Robert Street, Haines, Oregon
Sally Wiens, Lay Minister • 541.963.6991 (home phone)

This will bring a smile!



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Longtime Subscriber Stops By



photo by Gina Perkins

Kerwyn Tally who lived on Talley Dobbins Lane and graduated from Powder Valley in 1945 stopped by the office to say hello. He's a long time subscriber and had returned from his home in Myrtle Point for the All School Reunion. He shared that he worked for the highway department for years and happened to have the late Vernon Shull as his boss in The Dalles, long after Tally had moved from this area and prior to the Shulls moving to Haines. It's a small world.



Join

Baker County Cattlewomen & Cattlemen
and
Support the Shriners Hospital for Children
Saturday, August 1st
Cowboy Breakfast!

6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Geiser-Pollman Park in Baker City
Steak, eggs, pancakes & coffee only \$10 • No steak? \$7

New This Year, "GRIDIRON" Tailgate & Grill-Off with Auction.

Tailgate 12-6 p.m. • Auction 2 p.m.

Prior to football game - watch for more details.

To pre-order tickets: www.eastwestshrinefootball.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Proceeds from both events help purchase the Shrine Steer which is auctioned off during half time of the E-W Shrine game; Those funds go directly to the Shriners Hospital for Children



Shriners Hospitals for Children
Love to the rescue.®