

OBITUARIES

Gwynn Marie Bakkensen

Portland

Oct. 4, 1931 — Nov. 1, 2021

Gwynn and Joe Bakkensen were together till the end. Gwynn died on Nov. 1, 2021, at 90, and Joe died on Nov. 8, 2021. They were married for 68 years, had five children, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Gwynn was proud of her family, and they were always the center of her life.

She was preceded in death by her eldest daughter, Laurie Bakkensen Odium (Jim), and survived by Nancy Bakkensen Plumlee (Maury), of Vancouver, Washington, Joni Bakkensen Juergens (Eric), of Madison, Wisconsin, Drew Bakkensen (Debbie), of Portland, and Jim Bakkensen (Laura), of Scappoose.

Gwynn Marie Calkins was born on Oct. 4, 1931, in Portland. Gwynn had a difficult childhood, with limited parental involvement. She never used this as an excuse not to succeed.

Gwynn graduated from Astoria High School. She married Joe Bakkensen on June 6, 1953. The newlyweds lived in Portland and Seattle, settling in Astoria in 1961.

Gwynn later got an associate degree from Clatsop Community College. She then worked as a realtor in Astoria. When Joe's work took them to Oklahoma, she continued her education at Oklahoma State University. At the time she had three children in college, and found humor in comparing GPAs, as hers was always a 4.0.

Typical of her generation, Gwynn's primary focus was her family. Gwynn managed a household with five children, and always had room at the table for cousins and friends. When they remodeled their Astoria home in the 1970s, Gwynn put a picnic table in the kitchen. You could always add another person to the table with bench seating.

Kindness and humor were hallmarks of Gwynn's personality. When Gwynn's health made a move to assisted living necessary, one of her big concerns was who would take the Meals on Wheels route that she and Joe covered.

Gwynn took on leadership roles in church,

scouting and the Rotary club, as well as any organization her kids were involved in.

Her kids' activities often took her out of her comfort zone. She learned to load a horse in a trailer, took sewing classes so she could keep one step ahead and brought home snakes and frogs from the country club to entertain her sons.

She was involved in the League of Women Voters, and felt strongly about educational opportunities for women. She was a lifelong learner. The Philanthropic Educational Organization was a passion of hers. Gwynn was the chairwoman of the educational committee for many years.

Although Gwynn immersed herself in her husband's Scandinavian culture, she was also proud of her heritage. She knit Irish fisherman afghans for all her children and grandchildren as high school graduation gifts. Considering the crippling arthritis in her hands, this was a gift of pure love and devotion.

Joe and Gwynn loved the game of golf, and it influenced much of their leisure time, as well as travel. Gwynn had three holes-in-one, and fully enjoyed the competition and the social aspects of the game.

They built a home in Surf Pines, and enjoyed the proximity to the Astoria Golf & Country Club. Gwynn walked a loop to the beach most days with her dog, and stayed fit her whole life. Gwynn was also a master gardener, although the sandy soil in Surf Pines challenged her green thumb.

There will be a celebration of life for both Gwynn and Joe on March 5 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, with a reception to follow.

To accommodate any COVID-19 related changes to this plan, please RSVP to gwynn.joe.service@gmail.com

Donations may be made in Gwynn's memory to the P.E.O. Oregon Marguerite Scholarship Fund; donations may be sent to the Oregon State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood Charitable Trust, in care of A. Carpenter, P.O. Box 777, Astoria, OR., 97103.



Gwynn and Joe Bakkensen

Joseph Edward Bakkensen

Portland

Feb. 9, 1929 — Nov. 8, 2021



Joe and Gwynn Bakkensen were together till the end. Joe died at 92, on Nov. 8, 2021, joining his wife, Gwynn, who died on Nov. 1, 2021. They were married for 68 years, had five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Joe's family was his pride and joy, and the center of his life.

He was preceded in death by his eldest daughter, Laurie Bakkensen Odium (Jim), and is survived by Nancy Bakkensen Plumlee (Maury), of Vancouver, Washington, Joni Bakkensen Juergens (Eric), of Madison, Wisconsin, Drew Bakkensen (Debbie), of Portland, and Jim Bakkensen (Laura), of Scappoose.

Joseph Edward Bakkensen was born at home, in Astoria, on Feb. 9, 1929. He was the youngest of nine children in a loud and loving Scandinavian family. Joe graduated from Astoria High School early, and joined the U.S. Army at 17.

He served in World War II in Japan, and then returned to Oregon, using the GI Bill to attend Linfield College. Joe was president of his fraternity, and his class, while a student at Linfield.

He married Gwynn Marie Calkins the weekend after he graduated from college on June 6, 1953. They lived in Portland and Seattle, returning to Astoria when Joe became a sales representative for Bumble Bee Seafoods. Later, to avoid relocation out of state, Joe became vice president of Barbey Packing Co. Joe purchased Barbey Packing, and expanded the business to include Union Fish.

Joe was fond of retiring, but was not good at it. After he sold Barbey, he went to work as business manager of Claterbos Construction. Next, Joe put his political acumen to work as a Clatsop County commissioner. Finally, he worked for the federal government with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Joe provided many opportunities for his children and grandchildren that he did not have

growing up, and for him that was the measure of success.

Joe had an infectious enthusiasm for life. He was a raconteur, and thoroughly enjoyed entertaining. He could remember events in great detail, up until the end of his life.

One constant in Joe's life was a dog. From his first dog, "Wacky," to his last dog "Hari," they could always be seen by his side. They were usually waiting for a table scrap or a ride in his truck, and they were important to him. He even suggested his loyal companion Hari should be nominated for sainthood.

He was devoted to Astoria, and served the community in numerous ways. He volunteered for, was on the board of, or was president of, many local businesses and nonprofit organizations. Joe never met an organization he didn't want to join and lead. He was known by his colleagues for his intelligence, but was quick to remind his children, "it's nice to be smart, but it's smarter to be nice."

Joe loved playing, watching and coaching sports of all kinds. Golf was his primary sport, and something he shared with his family. He had three holes-in-one. Joe and Gwynn enjoyed international travel for work and pleasure, often with golf clubs in tow. Joe was a grandmaster at bridge, and he loved a good bridge tournament.

In June 2014, Joe, Gwynn and their youngest son, Jim, were thrilled to attend an honor flight to Washington, D.C.

A celebration of life for Joe and Gwynn will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside on March 5. A reception will follow.

To accommodate any COVID-19 related changes to this plan, please RSVP to gwynn.joe.service@gmail.com

To honor Joe's love of golf and education, memorial donations may go to the Evans Scholarship for caddies: Evans Scholars Foundation, 2501 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, IL., 60626-8022.



Joe and Gwynn Bakkensen

US plans for more thinning, controlled burns to reduce wildfires

By **MATTHEW BROWN** and **JONATHAN J. COOPER**
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Biden administration said Tuesday it will significantly expand efforts to stave off catastrophic wildfires that have torched areas of the U.S. West by more aggressively thinning forests around "hot spots" where nature and neighborhoods collide.

As climate change heats up and dries out the West, administration officials said they have crafted a \$50 billion plan to more than double the use of controlled fires and logging to reduce trees and other vegetation that serves as tinder in the most at-risk areas. Only some of the work has funding so far.

Projects will begin this year, and the plan will focus on regions where out-of-control blazes have wiped out neighborhoods and sometimes entire communities — including California's Sierra Nevada mountains, the east side of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and portions of Arizona, Oregon and Washington state. Homes keep getting built in fire-prone areas, even as conditions that stoke blazes get worse.

"You're going to have forest fires. The question is how catastrophic do those fires have to be," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "The time to act is now if we want to ultimately over time change the trajectory of these fires."

Specific projects weren't immediately released, and it's not clear who would pay for the full scope of work envisioned across almost 80,000 square miles — an

area almost as large as Idaho. Much of that area is controlled by states, tribes or is privately owned.

Reaching that goal would require an estimated \$20 billion over 10 years for work on national forests and \$30 billion for work on other federal, state, tribal and private lands, said Vilsack spokesperson Kate Waters.

Vilsack acknowledged that the new effort will also require a "paradigm shift" within the U.S. Forest Service, from an agency devoted to stamping out fires, into one that uses what some Native Americans call "good fire" on forests and rangeland to prevent even larger blazes.

Forest Service planning documents indicate the work will focus on "hotspots" that make up only 10% of the fire-prone areas across the U.S. but account for 80% of risk to communities because of their population densities and locations.

The recently-passed federal infrastructure bill put a down payment on the initiative — about \$3 billion over five years that Vilsack said will get work going quickly.

Wildfire expert John Abatzoglou said lessening fire dangers on the amount of land envisioned under the administration's plan is a "lofty goal" that represents even more acreage than burned over the past 10 years across the West. But Abatzoglou, a University of California Merced engineering professor, said the focus on wildfire hazards closest to communities makes sense.

"Our scorecard for fire should be about lives saved rather than acres that didn't burn," he said.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day before publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/obituaries, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 1257.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
51 42 A little morning rain	49 36 Rather cloudy	52 38 Partly sunny	52 39 Partly sunny	53 38 Partly sunny	52 38 Plenty of sunshine	51 39 Mostly cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday

Temperatures

High/low 49/45
Normal high/low 50/38
Record high 61 in 2009
Record low 11 in 1943

Precipitation

Tuesday 0.05"
Month to date 12.45"
Normal month to date 6.41"
Year to date 12.45"
Normal year to date 6.41"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2022

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Aries, the Ram, is located between Taurus and Pegasus nearly overhead before midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:51 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:03 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:01 p.m.
Moonset today 9:45 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan 25	Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 16

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
	3:11 a.m.	7.6	8:43 a.m.	3.2
	2:12 p.m.	8.5	9:13 p.m.	-0.2
Cape Disappointment	2:47 a.m.	7.4	7:49 a.m.	3.6
	1:51 p.m.	8.5	8:26 p.m.	-0.2
Hammond	3:00 a.m.	7.7	8:12 a.m.	3.4
	2:04 p.m.	8.8	8:45 p.m.	-0.3
Warrenton	3:06 a.m.	7.9	8:27 a.m.	3.3
	2:07 p.m.	8.9	8:57 p.m.	-0.1
Knappa	3:48 a.m.	7.8	9:44 a.m.	2.8
	2:49 p.m.	8.7	10:14 p.m.	-0.2
Depoe Bay	2:03 a.m.	7.5	7:17 a.m.	3.7
	1:03 p.m.	8.8	7:56 p.m.	-0.4

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	49/35/r	37/28/sn
Boston	34/10/sn	20/13/pc
Chicago	16/7/s	23/16/s
Dallas	36/21/pc	44/24/s
Denver	41/24/pc	37/20/sn
Honolulu	80/65/pc	81/68/s
Houston	47/33/r	46/30/c
Los Angeles	75/52/s	73/51/s
Miami	78/69/s	79/68/t
New York City	35/13/sn	22/15/pc
Phoenix	71/47/s	70/46/s
San Francisco	59/47/s	62/49/s
Wash., DC	38/19/r	27/20/c
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	52/42	38/20/pc	Wenatchee	39/29	55/38/pc
Tacoma	52/38	59/47/s	Moses Lake	41/27	51/35/pc
Aberdeen	50/39	51/38	Yakima	48/28	48/36
Olympia	51/38	52/42	Kennewick	53/35	49/35
Longview	52/42	53/38	Walla Walla	49/35	48/36
Astoria	51/42	53/38	Hermiston	55/37	41/30
Portland	54/41	53/38	Pendleton	53/35	41/30
Corvallis	54/37	56/39	La Grande	44/34	49/34/c
Eugene	54/38	56/39	John Day	46/37	41/30
Bend	55/29	46/37	Ontario	37/28	41/30
Burns	45/25	46/37	Caldwell	41/30	41/30
Medford	59/38	59/47/s			
Klamath Falls	50/23	50/40/c			