

# Blaze destroys home of Wallowa man

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP  
For the Wallowa County Chieftain



Firefighters douse the last embers of the fire that severely damaged the home of Merel Hawkins on Bear Creek Road southwest of Wallowa on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The structure was ruled a total loss, according to his daughter, Mary Hawkins.

Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — A fire that likely started in an attached woodshed severely damaged the home of 84-year-old Merel Hawkins on Bear Creek Road southwest of Wallowa on Tuesday afternoon, April 13.

Firefighters from Wallowa, Lostine, Enterprise and Joseph responded along with Oregon Department of Forestry fire crews.

The house was a total loss, said Merel Hawkins' daughter, Mary Hawkins, on Saturday.

"The fire looked like it started in the woodshed," she said. "It spread really fast."

Merel Hawkins was shaken, but unhurt and consoled by family, friends and neighbors at the scene. His caregiver, Michaela Shane, had taken the wheelchair-bound family patriarch and former packer out the front door to safety promptly at the first sign of smoke before the fire spread.

The property includes the Hawkins Sisters Chicken Ranch, where several sparks landed.

"Thanks to the Lostine Fire Department's careful work, nothing caught fire, including a trailer I had that was full of hay," Mary Hawkins said.

ODF fire crews extinguished a grass fire that spread about 200 feet from

the house. She also praised the quick arrival of the Wallowa Fire Department.

"They were here fighting the fire in only 11 minutes after we called," she said.

She also praised Lending Heart Community Resources. The Wallowa nonprofit provided replacement equipment to meet her father's medical needs so he could comfortably take

up residence at the Mingo Motel after the fire, she said.

Although the house and a significant amount of memorabilia were lost, Merel Hawkins remains upbeat.

"Dad's said it's a chance for a new start," Mary Hawkins said. "I just hope I can have that kind of attitude when I'm 84."

## IN BRIEF

### Vendor symposium takes place Saturday

JOSEPH — The Wallowa County Farmers Market is holding its 2021 ven-

tor symposium virtually on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. The event, which is open to the public, is free.

According to a press release, speakers include Stangel Bison Ranch, Lo and Rip Lip Products, and Earth and Ether Rocks and Gems. The speakers will offer tips and information

on marketing, booth display and customer service to current and potential market vendors. There will be a question session.

Participants will meet a market manager, learn how to apply to be a vendor at the farmers market and learn about updated COVID-19 regulations, market protocols and safety procedures.

The event will include a door prize, sponsored by Wild Carrot Herbs, the Bookloft and Genuine Wallowa County, that will be awarded at the conclusion of the symposium.

There are several ways

to register. Visit [tinyurl.com/vendwallowacounty](http://tinyurl.com/vendwallowacounty), the Wallowa County Farmers Market website at [www.wallowacountyfarmers-market.com](http://www.wallowacountyfarmers-market.com), or on Facebook or Instagram. Following registration, and prior to the symposium, registrants will receive a Zoom link to virtually attend the symposium. Eventbrite, which is coordinating registration, will send registrants a reminder and the Zoom link before the symposium begins. Registration is required to be part of the door prize drawing.

— Chieftain staff

### Helen Bernice (Clark) Beard

March 6, 1928 – October 7, 2019

Helen Bernice Beard, 91, a long time Asotin resident, passed away peacefully on October 7th, 2019 at the Sycamore Glen facility, after a long illness.



Helen was born March 6, 1928 in Boise, Idaho to Albert Leroy Clark and Mabel Margaret Wilson. In February, 1939, Helen and 5 of her 6 siblings went to live with their uncle and aunt, Walt and Edith Wilson who resided in the Langell Valley of Klamath County, Oregon. She attended school in Bonanza, Oregon and graduated from Bonanza High School in 1946.

Helen was married to Charles Edward Akin, Sr. on March 22, 1946 in Malin, Oregon. Charles and Helen became the parents of Marilyn Ann, Charles Edward Jr., Robert Shane and Kevin Patrick Akin. Helen later married the love of her life, Ralph Everett Beard, on August 11, 1967 in Enterprise, Oregon and they were together until his passing in 2001.

Helen had an adventurous spirit of independence which took her to many places during her lifetime. In 1951, with her husband, Charles and 2 small children, she spent her first of many years on the Snake River in Hell's Canyon at Temperance Creek where Charles worked herding sheep. She and Ralph would later return to work at the Copper Creek Lodge multiple times in the years between 1974 and 1982. Helen also traveled to Alaska to where she cooked for her son Chuck on surveying jobs throughout Alaska in the years 1979-1988, including David River, Circle Hot Springs, Kasigluk, Tuntituliak and the Colville River on the North Slope. She wrote of her many adventures in the newsletters she sent to family and friends from the distant communities.

An avid collector, Helen most enjoyed hunting for antiques, blue willow china, and campaign buttons. She developed an interesting genealogy and traveled to meet and share research with newly found family members. She wrote poetry and was a member of the Palouse Cowboy Poetry Club. She was a lifetime member of the Asotin County Historical Society Museum and shared her knowledge of the Snake River area with anyone interested. Helen was a supporter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a long time member of the Eagle Cap Auxillary Post No. 4307 in Enterprise, Oregon.

"A kind hearted person, Helen always had a smile and an open door for family, friends and those who were yet to become her friends. She never met a stranger and could make you feel welcome. As a grandmother, she was always willing to listen and gave her heart when you needed it the most. Meals with Helen were special moments, and although the food might be simple, the time together sharing a meal are some of the happiest memories of the family. A strong spirit of determination helped see her through difficult times, and she loved to tell stories of her life adventures and the interesting people she had met along her journey. She enjoyed the Grange Hall dances of her earlier years and was known for the many Halloween costumes she created for Ralph and herself."

Helen is survived by her sons Charles "Chuck" (Tracy) Akin of Anchorage, AK, Robert "Bob" (Shirley) Akin of Golden Valley, AZ and Kevin (Beverly) Akin of Fair Oaks, CA; her "unofficial" son Chris Borgerding of Joseph; her grandchildren Lisa Snodderly and Julie (Michael) Jackson, Valerie (Gary) Michael, Lindsey (Eric) Salazar, Jared (Jacqueline) Akin and Joshua (Rebecca) Akin; her great-grandchildren Rowdy (Sara) Snodderly, Tyler (Yenni) Snodderly, Logan Jackson, Jude Salazar, Micah Laylah and Gabriella Akin, and Ashlyn Akin. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Marilyn Mooring.

Helen strongly believed that no one should ever go hungry, so the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials would be welcome, made to the Asotin County Food Bank in her honor. The address is 1546 Maple Street, Clarkston, WA 99402.

A memorial service celebrating Helen's life will be held May 1st, 2021 at the First Christian Church 840 10th st Clarkston, Wa at 2pm with meal to follow downstairs, elevator available.

## Weather Forecast



Courtesy of Weather Underground • wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
April 22	61	35	showers
April 23	62	37	partly cloudy
April 24	62	38	cloudy
April 25	56	35	showers
April 26	53	34	showers
April 27	56	36	showers
April 28	59	37	showers

### Phases of the moon

April 26	May 03	May 10	May 17
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE & SUNSET APRIL 22 – 28  
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
5:49	5:48	5:46	5:44	5:42	5:41	5:40
7:46	7:47	7:48	7:49	7:51	7:52	7:53

### Melvin Davis

March 9, 1926 – March 9, 2021

Melvin Davis passed away on his birthday, March 9, 2021 at the age of 95. He was born March 9, 1926 on Lower Prairie Creek in Joseph, Oregon.

Melvin grew up on the family farm, and was in the Navy during WWII. He became ill with Tuberculosis during the war, and spent 13 months in the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington. Melvin was given an honorable discharge, and told by the doctors he would never be able to work another day in his life.

He married Beverley Casper in 1949. They had 4 sons. Melvin went to OTI, and learned the auto body repair trade. Later, he worked for Chevrolet Garage called McDanniel Motors, and the Dodge Garage owned by Mick Courtney. In 1971 Melvin opened Davis Body Shop, and retired at the age of 70.

He is survived by; Jim and Marta Davis of Wallowa; Wayne and Susan Davis of Enterprise; several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved barbecues, family, and friend, his Mariners, Trail Blazers, Seahawks, and his flowers. Many have remarked since his passing that he was a good man, and treated people fairly. That is about as good as it gets. He was loved, and will be missed.



## FOR THE RECORD

### APRIL 3

**4:55 a.m.** — Report of commercial alarm in Enterprise.  
**4:38 p.m.** — Suspicious vehicle reported in rural Enterprise.  
**4:55 p.m.** — 911 traffic complaint in rural Enterprise.  
**5:15 p.m.** — Traffic complaint in rural Enterprise.  
**6:18 p.m.** — Animal complaint in rural Joseph.  
**6:49 p.m.** — Report of injured deer in rural Enterprise.  
**8:14 p.m.** — 911 driving complaint in Enterprise.  
**9:32 p.m.** — Noise complaint in Joseph.

### APRIL 4

**4:08 a.m.** — 911 call reporting a traffic complaint in rural Joseph.  
**5:51 a.m.** — Umatilla Tribal Police arrested Zachery Ryan Chayse Smith, 25, of Enterprise, on a Wallowa County Community Corrections order of arrest and detention for probation violation. Original charge: second-degree theft. Smith was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.  
**6:38 a.m.** — The Umatilla Tribal Police arrested Gerritt James Johnson, 28, of Enterprise on a Wallowa County Community Corrections order of arrest and detention for parole violation. Original charge: delivery of methamphetamine. Johnson was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

**2:39 p.m.** — 911 report of a fire in Wallowa.

**3:47 p.m.** — Animal complaint in Joseph.

**10:22 p.m.** — Report of possible fire in Enterprise. Found to be a controlled burn.

### APRIL 5

**10:22 a.m.** — Dog as a public nuisance reported in Joseph.

**1:21 p.m.** — Vandalism, theft reported in Wallowa.

**2:32 p.m.** — Caller reported a dumpster fire in Elgin — 911 call was transferred to La Grande.

**4:52 p.m.** — Possible drug offense reported in Enterprise.

### APRIL 6

**5:10 a.m.** — Noise complaint reported in Enterprise.

**6:19 a.m.** — Vehicle vs. deer reported on Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.

**7:45 a.m.** — Predator depredation reported in rural Joseph.

**1:26 p.m.** — Burglary reported in Wallowa.

**2:10 p.m.** — Report of menacing in Enterprise

**3:52 p.m.** — Burglary reported in Lostine.

### APRIL 7

**5:23 a.m.** — Single-vehicle injury traffic crash reported in Lostine. Call was referred to Oregon State Police.

**8:43 a.m.** — Black and brown short-haired dog with collar and tags seed on road in rural Enterprise.

**10:03 a.m.** — Dog as a public nuisance in Wallowa.

**11:04 a.m.** — Loose dock reported at Wallowa Lake.

**11:47 a.m.** — Dogs running at large reported in Enterprise.

**3:31 p.m.** — Grass fire spreading to a grain tower in rural Joseph reported. Joseph and Enterprise fire departments responded.

**5:39 p.m.** — Two female golden-doodle dogs reported as lost in Joseph.

**11:06 p.m.** — Civil dispute reported in Enterprise.

### APRIL 8

**8:13 a.m.** Border collie mix and German Shepherd mix running at large in Enterprise. Dogs were retrieved by owners.

**9:21 a.m.** — Wallowa County Sheriff's Office issued a warning for speeding at a traffic stop in rural Joseph.

**9:36 a.m.** — WCSO issued a warning at a traffic stop in rural Joseph.

**12:05 p.m.** — Caller reported a possible drug offense. WCSO arrested Kevan W. Sadecki, 29, of Wallowa, for unlawful possession of heroin and providing false information to a peace officer. He was transported to the Umatilla County Jail.

**11:34 p.m.** — Enterprise Police Department issued a warning at a traffic stop.

### APRIL 9

**7:48 a.m.** — Lost black angus bulls reported in rural Joseph.

**11:47 a.m.** — Out-of-control grass fire reported in rural Enterprise.

**2:22 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Joseph. Joseph and Enterprise fire departments and Oregon Department of Forestry responded and put out the fire.

**3:26 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Enterprise. Enterprise and Joseph fire department and Ore-

gon Department of Forestry responded.

**3:39 p.m.** — Debit card found in Enterprise.

**4:35 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Enterprise. Enterprise Fire Department responded.

**8:55 p.m.** — EPD issued a warning at a traffic stop.

**9:35 p.m.** — WCSO issued a warning at a traffic stop.

### APRIL 10

**7:55 a.m.** — Driving complaint in Enterprise.

**9:21 a.m.** — Theft reported in rural Joseph.

**11:02 a.m.** — Driving complaint in rural Joseph.

**12:20 p.m.** — Injury traffic crash reported at Wallowa Lake. OSP investigated the crash.

**4:58 p.m.** — Lost wallet reported in Joseph or Enterprise.

**7:27 p.m.** — WCSO issued three warnings at a traffic stop in rural Enterprise.

**11:08 p.m.** — EPD issued a warning at a traffic stop.

### APRIL 11

**7:11 a.m.** — Lost dog in rural Joseph. Dog was reunited with its owner.

**8:12 a.m.** — Cows out in rural Joseph.

**11:03 a.m.** — EPD issued a warning at a traffic stop.

**2:29 p.m.** — Firearms complaint in rural Enterprise.

**4:47 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Enterprise. Joseph and Enterprise fire departments responded and put out the fire.

**6:02 p.m.** — WCSO issued citations for driving without insurance and speeding at a traffic stop in rural Joseph.

### APRIL 12

**3:58 p.m.** — Disturbance reported in Joseph.

**6:04 p.m.** — Trespass complaint reported in Enterprise.

**8:52 p.m.** — WCSO issued a warning at a traffic stop in Wallowa.

### APRIL 13

**3:29 p.m.** — Residential structure fire reported in Wallowa.

**4:04 p.m.** — Trespass reported in rural Enterprise

**7:25 p.m.** — Disturbance reported in Enterprise.

**8:26 p.m.** — Domestic call reported in Wallowa.

### APRIL 14

**2:34 p.m.** — Enterprise police arrested Austin Koski, 18, of Enterprise, for third-degree sexual abuse and harassment. He was cited and released.

**4:59 p.m.** — Enterprise police arrested Sean T. Phillips, 30, of Enterprise, for public indecency. He was transported to the Umatilla County Jail.

**5 p.m.** — Enterprise police arrested Leila R. Rogers, 57, of Enterprise, for second-degree burglary, second-degree theft, third-degree theft, two counts of second-degree trespass and parole violation. She was transported to the Umatilla County Jail.

Enterprise police also arrested David L. Palmer, 57, of Enterprise, for second-degree burglary, third-degree theft and second-degree trespass. He was transported to the Umatilla County Jail.

**7:02 p.m.** — WCSO issued a warning at a traffic stop in Lostine.

**7:18 p.m.** — WCSO arrested John H. Grimsbo, 39, of Pendleton, for DUII and resisting arrest. He was cited and released.

### APRIL 15

**8:47 a.m.** — Animal complaint in Enterprise.

**10:23 a.m.** — Civil dispute reported in Enterprise.

**11:26 a.m.** — Theft reported in Enterprise.

**5:58 p.m.** — Fire reported in rural Enterprise.

**7:15 p.m.** — Civil dispute reported in Joseph.

**10:19 p.m.** — WCSO issued a warning at a traffic stop in Wallowa.

### APRIL 16

**2:15 a.m.** — Theft reported in rural Enterprise.

**9:45 a.m.** — Lost ferret reported in Enterprise.

**5:32 p.m.** — Uncontrolled grass fire reported in rural Enterprise.

**9:52 p.m.** — Civil dispute reported in Wallowa.

### APRIL 17

**1:50 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Enterprise.

**2:45 p.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Wallowa.

**11:06 p.m.** — WCSO arrested Donald Reed Buhler, 32, of Joseph, for attempt to elude, reckless driving and DUII. Buhler was transferred to the Umatilla County Jail.

### APRIL 18

**8:02 a.m.** — Dog found in Joseph, a German shorthaired pointer with a leather collar.

**10:49 a.m.** — Grass fire reported in rural Joseph.

**4:36 p.m.** — Single-vehicle injury rollover crash reported in Imnaha.