

Polk No. 1 burns to learn in Buena Vista

Itemizer-Observer staff report
BUENA VISTA — If you noticed smoke and flames near the corner of Buena Vista and Prather roads on May 25, don't worry. It was just a training exercise. That evening, Polk County Fire District No. 1 firefighters conducted a "live fire" training activity, according to the fire department. Starting at 7 p.m., a double wide manufactured

home was burned at the location, allowing firefighters to train with the realism and intensity of actual fire. The exercise also gave firefighters an opportunity to build skills in exposure protection, mobile water supply, vehicle operation, pump operations and recognizing fire behavior. Although this training exercise was for the Willamette Valley Communications Center (dispatch), district personnel were called to the scene later in the evening by a passer-by who saw the smoldering pile of debris and report it

as an active fire. Polk County Fire District No. 1 is a combination career and volunteer fire district of four fire stations covering 185 square miles servicing a population of about 25,500 people in Southeast Polk County and Western Marion County. The cities of Monmouth and Independence continue to form the heart of the District, with the communities of Buena Vista, Suver, Airlie, and Pedee forming the rural areas. For more information, or to volunteer: 503-838-1510. Photo by Neal Olson.



OBITUARIES

Tara Kadell (Lytle)

March 10, 1986 – May 15, 2016
 Tara Kadell (Lytle), 30, of Dallas, died May 15 in Monmouth. She was born in Dallas to Glenda Pruett and Bryan Lytle.

Tara had much respect for nature and adored spending time outdoors gardening, looking for rocks, and being amongst trees. She was a true artist and created beautiful jewelry, paintings, and loved music.

She was a home maker. She'll be missed by so many and will always be remembered for her ability to make everybody laugh and feel so peaceful being in her presence.

Survived by husband Phillip Kadell; parents Glenda Pruett and Bryan Lytle; daughters Colene, Andera and Opal; sister Leslie Lytle; and brother Bryce Lytle. Services were held.

Dave Driscoll

1950 – May 23, 2016
 David D. Driscoll, 66, of Dallas, died May 23. Dave was born in Wisconsin to Joyce Roloff and John J. Driscoll. He spent his childhood in Milwaukee and Wausau, Wis., and Marquette, Mich. He traveled west as a

teenager and served in the Army in Korea. Dave married his wife Debra Minar in Minnesota in 1980. In 1984, the couple moved to Oregon. During the following years, Dave was the full-time parent to their two children. The family lived in Bend, Coquille and Dallas.

Dave enjoyed playing the banjo and other instruments, traveling, hiking, observing animals in nature, and researching his Irish heritage. His sister Diane, and aunt Dorothy died before he did.

Survived by wife, Debra; daughter Megan; son Patrick; one granddaughter; one step-grandson; brothers Daniel and Dennis; and extended family. A memorial potluck gathering is being planned for Oregon friends and family. Memorial donations may be made to Willamette Valley Hospice or to a charity of one's choice.

Lee Victoria Howard
Nov. 29, 1953 – May 15, 2016
 Lee Victoria Howard, 62, of Dallas, died May 15 at her home.

She was born to Harold and Virginia White Howard. Lee was raised in the Tucson area of Arizona, where she attended school.

She married Gary Dahlstrom, and they later divorced. In 2001, she graduated from Western Oregon University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She went on to be a drug and alcohol counselor with Hazelden and Springbrook Counseling services in Newberg. For the past 10 to 15 years, she lived in Dallas.

She enjoyed reading, gardening, watching crime shows and skydiving. Survived by son, Travis Dahlstrom, of Dallas; daughter, Kelsey Dahlstrom, of Dallas; brother, Steve Howard; and sister, Lisa McGuire.

A private family gathering will be held. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Carl August Koenig

May 28, 1925 – May 21, 2016
 Carl August Koenig, 90, of Dallas, died on May 21 in Dallas.

He was born to John and Rosa Koenig in Lebanon and grew up in Gervais. He served in the Navy in World War II aboard the USS Makin Island. After

the war, he went to Coyne Electrical School in Chicago. He married Doris Bartlett in 1953, in Drain. Doris died in 1974.

He married Mary Lou Miller in 1975. He owned an electrical contracting business for many years, then worked for the state of Oregon as assistant chief electrical inspector, then for Washington County. Carl enjoyed bowling and sports.

Survived by his wife of 41 years, Mary Lou; daughters Twila (Clare) Bueller and Lorette (David) Waggerson; stepson Steven Miller; eight grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Services were held. Golden Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Kenneth J. Brown

April 6, 1924 – May 26, 2016
 Kenneth J. Brown, 92, of Dallas, died on Thursday in Dallas.

He was born in Dallas to Alba and Isabelle Brown. Ken grew up in Dallas and attended schools here. Ken served in the U.S. Air Force from 1943 until 1946. He married Verda Webster on July 30, 1949, in Vancouver, Wash.

Ken was an electrician and worked at Adolf's Electric in Dallas. He later owned and operated Dallas

Electric for many years until he retired.

Ken served on the Dallas Volunteer Fire Department from 1964 until he retired in 1993. He is a past Firefighter of the Year award recipient. He continued to attend department functions.

Ken was a member of Valley Life Center Church in Dallas. He enjoyed woodworking and building model airplanes. He was an avid NASCAR fan. He enjoyed camping, boating, waterskiing, motorcycling, and go-carts. He also enjoyed cruises and traveling to Hawaii.

Survived by wife, Verda, of Dallas; daughter, Malia Brandt (Bill), of Dallas; son, Rev. Ronald Brown (Debra), of Papua New Guinea; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be on Friday at 11 a.m. in Dallas Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dallas Fire Department in care of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, which handled arrangements. To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Ronald R. Gilbreath

Aug. 30, 1922 – April 25, 2016
 Ronald R. Gilbreath, 93, of Monmouth, died on April 25, at his home in Monmouth.

He was born in Apache, Okla. He served in World War II in the Pacific Theater. He had a long career as a professional truck driver. He settled in Fairfield, Calif., and retired in Mountain Ranch in Calaveras County. He eventually moved to Napa, Calif., and then to Monmouth in 2003.

Ron was active in the Monmouth Senior Center. He also was active with the Model A Ford Club and was a member of the Salem Chapter where he served as a board member.

Survived by children, Ron E. Gilbreath, of Roseburg, and Carole Cote, of Corvallis; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. A memorial is planned at Tulocay Cemetery in Napa.

Francis 'Frank' Earl Bean

April 2, 1940 – May 24, 2016
 Francis "Frank" Earl Bean, 76, of Gates, formerly of Grand Ronde, died May 24 in the Salem Hospital.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on June 10 in the Grand Ronde Tribal Gym. Interment with military honors will be in the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Merle W. Hague

June 16, 1941 – May 21, 2016
 Merle W. Hague, 74, of Dallas, died in Salem on May 21.

Merle was born in Marion to James L. and Betty V. (Olson) Hague. Merle graduated from Dallas High School in 1959, and then joined the U.S. Navy. He married Mary Marion on March 17, 1962.

They lived in Seattle, where Merle worked for Boeing. They later moved to Corvallis where he worked in a mill. Merle worked for Caterpillar Lift Trucks in Dallas for 29 years, spending 18 months with the company in Mexico before his retirement in 1990.

Merle and Mary lived on an 8-acre hobby farm just outside Dallas for 44 years. Merle loved being outdoors, hunting, fishing and photography.

Merle and his wife traveled the world extensively. Merle cleaned up and repaired homes hit by Hurricane Katrina, helped medical teams and built schools during seven different mission trips in the U.S. and abroad.

Merle was a founder of the Royal Rangers Boys Group through his church. He sang in the choir and quartet groups. He participated in church plays, and Easter and Christmas musicals. Merle was a member of the Gideon's International for more than 40 years.

Survived by wife, Mary; daughter, Susanna (Tom); and one granddaughter; mother, Betty; and brother, Bob (Noah).

His father, James, and brother, Jimmy died before he did. Services were held. Contributions in his memory can be made to Gideon's International. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

George W. Birchell
Feb. 22, 1925 – April 3, 2016
 Celebration of George Birchell's life will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Chapel at Dallas Retirement Village. A light lunch will follow services.

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