

Leon: Also helped maintain equipment and engines

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 He didn't just try it. Leon became a fixture for the department.
 He remembers his first — and only — forest fire. He said that was when he realized the danger of wildland firefighting.
 "The first big fire I went to was a forest fire up by Dutch Creek, just outside of town a little ways," Leon said. "Three of us guys went up the end of Parry Road and down a canyon toward Black Rock Road, and the fire jumped over our heads down to the canyon ahead of us."
 They were supposed to scout the fire and radio back the location, but they were surprised by how it was moving and found themselves in danger. The



MEGAN SYKES/for the Itemizer-Observer
Leon and his wife, Alice, with his award for 51 years of service to the department.

guys he was with, understandably, decided to retreat to a safer spot. Leon had contracted polio when he was younger, so he couldn't move as fast and

was left behind.
 "I had to go the long way to get past the fire line," he said. "When I got back down to Black Rock Road, the fire chief back then grabbed me by the collar and put me in his rig and then read me the riot act. He never wanted to see me on a forest fire again. I didn't know the situation I was in. I didn't even know what forest fires were in those days because back where we're from, they didn't have such a thing."
 "We lived in the prairies. We didn't have trees," Alice explained.
 That fire eventually blew itself out, Leon said. He believes the town was lucky.
 "If it had made that first canyon, it would have been in town," he said. "It was

something interesting because, like I said, it was all new to me at that time."
 Alice said she was afraid for Leon on that call.
 "It looked worse than it was because it was all smoke," she said. "We were smoked in."
 She added the fire department training and meeting became Leon's social life. He wasn't one to "go out with the boys," she said.
 In addition to firefighting duties, Leon helped maintain the department's equipment and engines. The crew has been successful in that mission. There's a 1965 truck on the fleet that's been with the department longer than Leon by almost a year.
 About 30 years ago, Leon

took the role of treasurer for the department and eventually switched to a support role on calls.
 Though Leon is experiencing physical limitations that prompted his retirement in April, he isn't complaining, and he looks forward to attending fire board meetings.
 "Life has been real good to me, all the way through," he said smiling.
 Alice added her husband's dedication — and patience and attitude toward life — sets him apart. "I'll tell you this, he's probably one man in a million. There ain't nobody like him," she said, smiling. "My mother used to say, when they made Leon, they threw away the pattern."

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS
 Arrests/Citation
 • Taina L. Sturdivant, 61, of Dallas in the 1600 block of Southeast Jonathan Avenue on May 24 on charges of misdemeanor strangulation and mis-

demeanor fourth-degree assault.
 • Tamara S. Gardner, 53, of Dallas in the 500 block of Southwest Levens Street on May 22 on a charge of driving while suspended or revoked.
INDEPENDENCE
 Arrests/Citations

• Guadalupe Trujillo, 29, of Independence, in the 100 block of N. Polk St. on May 20 for contempt of court and on a warrant for probation violation.
 • Kathleen Mary Golden-Phillips, 51, of Placentia, Calif., in the 100 block of N. Gun Club Rd. on May 22 for driving

under the influence of intoxicants.
 • Maria Ramirez Alvarez, 25, of Salem, at Independence Hwy. and Boyd Ln. on May 22 for DUII.
 • Gustavo Alvarado Facundo Jr., 23, of Independence, at Randall Way and S. 10th St. on

May 22 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.
MONMOUTH
 Arrests/Citations
 • Terri M. Smith, 38, of Monmouth, in the 200 block of Hefley St. S. on May 13 on two counts of having a dog as a public nuisance.

OBITUARIES

Nina Irene Wells Matthews
 Dec. 26, 1933 – May 13, 2017
 Nina Irene Wells Matthews, age 83, died Saturday, May 13, 2017, in Las Vegas.
 She was born Dec. 26, 1933, in Slater, Wyo., to John Clarence and Phoebe Hirschy Moon.

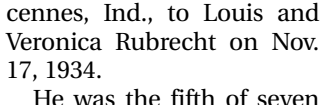
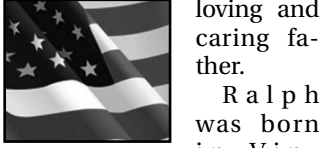


On April 26, 1953, she married Gordon Commodore Wells in Stevenson, Wash. He preceded her in death on Aug. 6, 1986.
 In 1991, she married Robert Donovan Matthews in Buena Vista. He preceded her in death in June 1998.
 Nina grew up in Wyoming, moving with her family to Independence when she was 7.
 She was married at 19, then later earned her Bachelor's Degree in Art and Education, and eventually her Master's Degree.
 She loved teaching school and was a hard worker. She raised sheep and wove with the wool from the sheep she raised on the Wells family farm.

After she retired from teaching school, she volunteered as a tutor for struggling youth.
 As a faithful Christian, she enjoyed teaching Sunday School and working with the youth. She enjoyed reading, fishing, and painting.
 Survivors include her son, Stan Wells, of Logandale, Nev.; daughter, Susan Wells, of Helendale, Calif.; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mary McKern, of Salem. She was preceded in death by two sisters and three brothers.
 Memorial Services were held Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Mesquite, Nev. Interment will follow on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at 1 p.m. in the Buena Vista Cemetery in Buena Vista. Friends and family are invited to sign the online guest book at www.moapavalleymortuary.com.

Ralph H. Rubrecht
 Nov. 17, 1934 – April 25, 2017
 Ralph passed away on April 25, 2017, with his family around him.
 He had battled with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) for six short months,

and it had recently progressed to Leukemia.
 He will always be remembered as a loving and caring father.
 Ralph was born in Vincennes, Ind., to Louis and Veronica Rubrecht on Nov. 17, 1934.
 He was the fifth of seven children: Louis J. (deceased), Barbara Ramsey, Elizabeth Schultz, Bernard, Susie Berberich and Pat Pieroway.
 He graduated from Monroe City High School in Monroe City, Ind., in May 1953.
 After graduation, he joined the Navy and received training as an aviation machinist mate.
 While stationed at his last duty station, McGuire Air Force Base, in Trenton, N.J., he met his first wife, Bernice Cingcade.
 In August 1962, they and their three small children, Michael, Joseph and Andrea, left Indiana and moved to Roseburg to be closer to Bernice's family. Their fourth child, David, was born in their new home state.
 In 1970, Bernice passed away after a brief illness. In 1971, Ralph married Shirley Hargis and they blended their two families, growing



from four children to six — three sons and three daughters, adding her daughters, Cassie and Julie.
 Later, Ralph and Shirley would have two more sons, Russell and Matthew. Shirley passed away in December of 1988.
 After moving to Roseburg with Bernice, Ralph worked for a number of small businesses in the area for several years while going to night school to learn to weld.
 He worked at Hanna Nickel Mine in Riddle as a welder from 1966-1971.
 In 1972, he went to work for Douglas County Public Works and worked there for 25 years until his retirement.
 After retiring, Ralph moved from Roseburg to Dallas.
 He enjoyed spending his time gardening with his vegetables and flowers, tending to his apple and pear trees, and working on projects around his home.
 He also enjoyed driving the back roads through Polk County year-round, stopping at vegetable stands during the summer.
 He liked bluegrass and country music, and he enjoyed summer camping trips with his children and grandchildren.
 Most of all he loved having his children and grandchildren visit.
 He would prepare delicious meals for these occasions. Thanksgiving will not be the same without Dad/Grandpa Ralph serving

up something wonderful from his kitchen.
 Ralph is survived by his eight children: Michael Rubrecht (Debra), Joseph Rubrecht (Michele), Andrea Clarkson (Mark), Cassie Fummerton (Joe), David Rubrecht (Sara), Julie Hargis, Russell Rubrecht (Amanda), and Matthew Rubrecht (Alyson); and 17 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by one grandchild.
 A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 1775 E Douglas St., Roseburg. To honor Ralph's memory, donations can be made to the MDS Foundation, 4573 S Broad St., Suite 150, Yardville, NJ 08620.
 Or if you are able, please consider donating the life-saving gift of blood.
 The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center is caring for the family.
 To leave a memory or message for the family, please go to www.dallastribute.com.

Wayne Cooper
 Aug. 31, 1930 – May 22, 2017
 Graveside service will be Wednesday (today), May 31, at 2 p.m. in Dallas Cemetery, Dallas.
 Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

Billy R. Trussell
 April 17, 1930 – May 24, 2017
 Billy, 87, died May 24 in Sublimity. Services will be held at a later date. North Santiam Funeral Service, Stayton, handled arrangements.

Obituary Information

Obituaries cost \$8 per 25 words and include a photo and flag for veterans.
 Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.
 Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. Information may be submitted directly from family members. Obituaries submitted by private parties must be prepaid.
 The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.
 Death notices — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.
 Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to ionews@polkio.com.
 For more information: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373.

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8	1	9	7	3	5	2	4	6
5	4	6	2	1	9	3	8	7
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2	7	1	5	9	3	8	6	4

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