

# Remains of Oregon soldier from WW II identified

■ Dale W. Ross, who went missing during the Guadalcanal campaign in 1943, was from Ashland

By Gillian Fiaccus  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The remains of a World War II soldier from Oregon who went missing in the final weeks of the Guadalcanal campaign have been positively identified 76 years after he was listed as missing in action, according to the U.S. government.

Skeletal remains recovered two years ago on the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific are those of Pfc. Dale W. Ross, according to a statement from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Ross was born in North Dakota, but moved with his family as a young child to Ashland. He was the third of four brothers who fought in World War II. Assigned to the Army's 25th Infantry Division, he was listed as MIA on Jan. 14, 1943, during the final weeks of the Guadalcanal campaign. He was last seen in an area that saw heavy fighting around a Japanese-held hilltop.

A search was conducted, but fellow soldiers were unable to locate his remains. On July 14, 1949, based on a lack of information, the U.S. Army determined Ross to be non-recoverable, the statement said. He was 22 at the time he was last seen alive.

The other three Ross brothers made it back home, including the oldest, Charles, who served aboard a Navy PT boat in the Solomons and visited Guadalcanal in the vain attempt to learn about his brother Dale's fate.

Then, in 2017, a WWII researcher named Donna Esposito was fulfilling a lifelong dream to visit the South Pacific when she traveled to the Solomon Islands. While there, a local man said his neighbor's son had found dog tags and remains believed to be those of an American soldier, according to an Associated Press story on the case in 2017.

The man gave her a pressing of the dog tags, which included Ross' name and hometown of Ashland, Oregon, Esposito said in a phone interview Monday from her home in upstate New York.

She tracked down his nieces and nephew in Southern Oregon, and in August 2017 Esposito returned to Guadalcanal with his nephew, Dale Ross Jr., and one of his nieces, Peggy Freitas. On the island, the family that had the dog tags and several bones handed them over to the Americans, who turned them in to a Pentagon team that was on Guadalcanal searching for U.S. MIAs 75 years after the start of the Solomon Islands campaign.

The test results, released publicly on April 18, positively identified what the younger Ross and Freitas already believed to be true — they had finally found their uncle.

"I feel just so incredibly happy to finally have this case solved," said Esposito, who lives in upstate New York. "It was an honor to be involved in the reparation of his remains."

The younger Ross and Freitas did not respond to emails and phone calls Monday.

One of Ross' nieces, Vicki Plankenhorn, of Talent, Oregon, said the family would like to bury his remains in a cemetery where his mother and three other brothers are interred. Ross' mother hoped for years that her son was a prisoner of war, but died without closure, she said.

"They're all right there together," she said of the family plot. "He'll be right there with his mom. He'll be home with his family."

# Groups sue over sage grouse

By Keith Ridler  
Associated Press

BOISE — Four conservation groups have asked a judge to block a Trump administration plan allowing drilling, mining and other activities in seven Western states they say will harm sage grouse.

Western Watersheds Project and other groups asked for the injunction in U.S. District Court in Idaho late last week for Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, California and Oregon.

The groups in March sued Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service over changes to land-management plans involving sage grouse.

The March action supplemented a 2016 lawsuit that said a 2015 federal plan put forward by the President Barack Obama inadequately protected sage grouse. The groups say the plan put forward by President Donald Trump weakens protections further.

"Defendants falsely assert that the 2019 BLM plan amendments build upon the 2015 plans, but in truth they rescind or weaken numerous 2015 plan measures," the request for the injunction states.

The U.S. Department of Justice, which defends federal agencies in lawsuits, acknowledged on Monday receiving an emailed inquiry from The Associated Press about the injunction request but didn't respond further.

Millions of sage grouse, a chicken-sized bird that relies on sagebrush, once roamed the West, but development, livestock grazing and wildfires have reduced the bird's population to fewer than 500,000. Most of the bird's habitat — sagebrush steppe — is on land administered by the BLM.

# Sports

# Lillard scores 50, hits shot at buzzer to help Blazers advance in NBA playoffs

By Anne M. Peterson  
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — After Damian Lillard hit his walk-off 3-pointer to send the Trail Blazers along in the playoffs, he waved goodbye to the Thunder bench.

"That was the last word," he said afterward. "That was having the last word."

Lillard finished with a franchise playoff-record 50 points and Portland eliminated Oklahoma City from the postseason in five games with a 118-115 victory on Tuesday night.

With the game tied, Lillard dribbled just inside of halfcourt near the Blazers logo and then pulled up and hit the game-winner at the buzzer from 37-feet. After his wave, Lillard was mobbed by his teammates and the crowd chanted "MVP! MVP!"

Lillard finished 10 3-pointers, second-most ever in an

NBA playoff game.

"All of those things that we did to give ourselves a chance to win were huge," Lillard said. "And my part in it, I think, was probably my most important performance."

Portland advances to the Western Conference semifinals to face the winner of the series between the Nuggets and San Antonio. Denver won 108-90 earlier in the night to take a 3-2 lead in that series.

It was the 12th straight road playoff loss for the Thunder, who have been eliminated in the opening round for three straight seasons.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists for his 10th career playoff triple-double and his second of the series. Paul George added 36 points.

"Very, very disappointing. It's as simple as that," George said. "We let this one slip away but it is what it is."

Lillard had 34 points in the first half alone — more than Westbrook and George had combined (32) for the Thunder — but the Blazers had just a 61-60 edge going into the second half.

The Thunder led 90-88 going into the final quarter. Westbrook hit a 3-pointer to extend the lead while Lillard took a break on the bench.

Oklahoma City went up 105-90 with 7:45 left on Dennis Schroder's pullup jumper as Portland struggled.

Lillard's 3-pointer pulled the Blazers within 108-103, but Westbrook answered with his own 3. CJ McCollum's bank shot cut Oklahoma City's lead to 113-109 with 1:39 left. Maurice Harkless added free throws to get the Blazers within two.

McCollum tied it with a jumper with just under a minute left, but George scored on the other end. Lillard's lay-

up re-tied it then Westbrook missed a layup with 18.3 seconds left to set up Lillard's epic buzzer beater.

"I don't care what anybody says, that's a bad shot," George said about Lillard's 3. "But he made it and that story will be told, but it was a bad shot. You live with it."

McCollum finished with 17 for the Blazers and Enes Kanter had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

The Blazers stole one in Oklahoma City, winning 111-98 on Sunday.

Portland was swept in the first round of the playoffs for the past two seasons, last year by New Orleans and the previous year by Golden State.

The Blazers last trip to the Western Conference semifinals came in 2016, when they beat the Clippers in the opening round before falling to the Warriors in five games.

## BAKER TENNIS

# Bulldogs sweep Vale to stay undefeated

By Gerry Steele  
gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Baker completed a Greater Oregon League tennis sweep over Vale Tuesday at the Ash Grove courts.

The Baker boys won 5-0, and the girls

3-2. "It's really nice to have two wins over Vale. We haven't done that often," said Baker coach Kristin Schwin.

"And we're still undefeated in league matches."

Zach Schwin, Shane Cunningham

and Alex Davila swept the boys singles matches. Cunningham needed three

sets for his win.

Isaac Nemec and Luke Barnes also needed three sets, and a tie-breaker to win the No. 1 doubles.

Anthony Cowan and Eli Lien won the No. 2 doubles in two sets.

In girls singles, Hannah Johnson, Gabbie Trebilcock and Andrea Pettit all won in straight sets.

Baker travels to Skyview, Idaho, today for a nonleague match. The Baker girls

then host Hermiston Thursday, and the boys and girls host Ontario Friday.

|                                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Vale at Baker Boys singles</b>                     |  |
| Schwin (B) def. Ramirez 6-3, 6-2                      |  |
| Cunningham (B) def. McKrila 4-6, 6-3, 6-0             |  |
| Devila (B) def. Gonzalez 6-0, 6-0                     |  |
| <b>Boys doubles</b>                                   |  |
| Nemec/Barnes (B) def. Kelsa/Liza 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5)  |  |
| Cowan/Lien (B) def. Duhrig/Hawley 6-1, 6-1            |  |
| <b>Girls singles</b>                                  |  |
| Johnson (B) def. Bruton 6-3, 7-5                      |  |
| Trebilcock (B) def. Milleson 6-0, 6-2                 |  |
| Pettit (B) def. McGoury 6-2, 6-3                      |  |
| <b>Girls doubles</b>                                  |  |
| Wolf/DeLong (V) def. Finley/Delle 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4) |  |
| Kesey/Schaffel (V) def. Macas/Wooward 6-4, 6-0        |  |

## SCOREBOARD

### MAJOR LEAGUES

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

| East Division |    |    |      |    |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
|               | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Tampa Bay     | 16 | 8  | .667 | —  |
| New York      | 13 | 10 | .565 | 2½ |
| Toronto       | 11 | 13 | .458 | 5  |
| Boston        | 9  | 15 | .375 | 7  |
| Baltimore     | 9  | 16 | .360 | 7½ |

| Central Division |    |    |      |    |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Minnesota        | 13 | 8  | .619 | —  |
| Cleveland        | 12 | 10 | .545 | 1½ |
| Detroit          | 12 | 10 | .545 | 1½ |
| Chicago          | 9  | 13 | .409 | 4½ |
| Kansas City      | 7  | 17 | .292 | 7½ |

| West Division |    |    |      |    |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
|               | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Seattle       | 16 | 10 | .615 | —  |
| Houston       | 14 | 9  | .609 | ½  |
| Texas         | 12 | 10 | .545 | 2  |
| Oakland       | 13 | 13 | .500 | 3  |
| Los Angeles   | 9  | 15 | .375 | 6  |

| Tuesday's Games                  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Detroit 7, Boston 4, 1st game    |  |  |  |  |
| Miami 3, Cleveland 1             |  |  |  |  |
| Baltimore 9, Chicago White Sox 1 |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco 7, Toronto 6       |  |  |  |  |
| Detroit 4, Boston 2, 2nd game    |  |  |  |  |
| Tampa Bay 5, Kansas City 2       |  |  |  |  |
| Houston 10, Minnesota 4          |  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Yankees 7, L.A. Angels 5    |  |  |  |  |
| Oakland 11, Texas 5              |  |  |  |  |
| San Diego 6, Seattle 3           |  |  |  |  |

| Today's Games                                                     |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| All Times PDT                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| Kansas City (Junis 1-2) at Tampa Bay (Snell 2-1), 10:10 a.m.      |  |  |  |  |
| Miami (Alcantara 1-2) at Cleveland (Rodriguez 0-1), 10:10 a.m.    |  |  |  |  |
| Texas (TBD) at Oakland (Brooks 2-2), 12:37 p.m.                   |  |  |  |  |
| Seattle (Hernandez 1-1) at San Diego (Padack 0-1), 12:40 p.m.     |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco (Pomeranz 0-2) at Toronto (Buchholz 0-0), 1:07 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago White Sox (Santana 0-1) at Balti-                         |  |  |  |  |

more (Means 2-2), 4:05 p.m.  
Detroit (Ross 1-2) at Boston (Rodriguez 1-2), 4:10 p.m.  
Minnesota (Stewart 0-0) at Houston (Verlander 3-0), 5:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Pena 0-1), 7:07 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Detroit (Zimmermann 0-3) at Boston (Porcello 0-3), 4:10 p.m.  
Cleveland (Kluber 2-2) at Houston (Cole 1-3), 5:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 2-1) at L.A. Angels (Cahill 1-2), 6:07 p.m.  
Texas (Sampson 0-1) at Seattle (Gonzales 4-0), 7:10 p.m.

| NATIONAL LEAGUE |    |    |      |    |
|-----------------|----|----|------|----|
| East Division   |    |    |      |    |
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| New York        | 13 | 10 | .565 | —  |
| Philadelphia    | 12 | 11 | .522 | 1  |
| Atlanta         | 11 | 11 | .500 | 1½ |
| Washington      | 11 | 11 | .500 | 1½ |
| Miami           | 7  | 16 | .304 | 6  |

| Central Division |    |    |      |    |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| St. Louis        | 14 | 9  | .609 | —  |
| Pittsburgh       | 12 | 9  | .571 | 1  |
| Chicago          | 11 | 10 | .524 | 2  |
| Milwaukee        | 13 | 12 | .520 | 2  |
| Cincinnati       | 9  | 13 | .409 | 4½ |

| West Division |    |    |      |    |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
|               | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Los Angeles   | 15 | 10 | .600 | —  |
| Arizona       | 13 | 11 | .542 | 1½ |
| San Diego     | 13 | 11 | .542 | 1½ |
| Colorado      | 10 | 14 | .417 | 4½ |
| San Francisco | 10 | 14 | .417 | 4½ |

| Tuesday's Games                |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Miami 3, Cleveland 1           |  |  |  |  |
| Cincinnati 7, Atlanta 6        |  |  |  |  |
| Arizona 2, Pittsburgh 1        |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco 7, Toronto 6     |  |  |  |  |
| N.Y. Mets 9, Philadelphia 0    |  |  |  |  |
| St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 3       |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago Cubs 7, L.A. Dodgers 2 |  |  |  |  |

Washington 6, Colorado 3  
San Diego 6, Seattle 3

#### Today's Games

**All Times PDT**  
Miami (Alcantara 1-2) at Cleveland (Rodriguez 0-1), 10:10 a.m.  
Milwaukee (Grein 2-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 1-2), 10:15 a.m.  
Washington (Sanchez 0-2) at Colorado (Marquez 2-1), 12:10 p.m.  
Seattle (Hernandez 1-1) at San Diego (Padack 0-1), 12:40 p.m.  
San Francisco (Pomeranz 0-2) at Toronto (Buchholz 0-0), 1:07 p.m.  
Atlanta (Soroka 0-1) at Cincinnati (Roark 1-0), 3:40 p.m.  
Arizona (Kelly 1-2) at Pittsburgh (Lyles 2-0), 4:05 p.m.  
Philadelphia (Velasquez 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Vargas 1-0), 4:10 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 2-0) at Chicago Cubs (Harnels 3-0), 5:05 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Arizona (Greinke 3-1) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 1-2), 9:35 a.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 1-1) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 1-0), 11:20 a.m.  
Atlanta (Teheran 2-2) at Cincinnati (Castillo 2-1), 3:40 p.m.  
Miami (Smith 2-0) at Philadelphia (Noia 2-0), 4:05 p.m.

#### NBA PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**  
(Best-of-7, x-if necessary)  
**All Times PDT**  
**Eastern Conference Milwaukee 4, Detroit 0**  
Sunday, April 14: Milwaukee 121, Detroit 86  
Wednesday, April 17: Milwaukee 120, Detroit 99  
Saturday, April 20: Milwaukee 119, Detroit 103  
Monday, April 22: Milwaukee 127, Detroit 104.

**Orlando 4, Toronto 1**  
Saturday, April 13: Orlando 104, Toronto 101

**Baseball season is here!**

**Watch out for Little Leaguers!**



**Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.**

2390 Broadway, Baker City  
541-523-5223

**ELTRYM THEATER**

**MOVIE SHOWTIMES APRIL 19-25**

**THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA** R

FRI & SAT: (4:20) 7:20, 9:30  
SUN: (4:20) 7:20 MON-TH: 7:20

**THE MUSTANG** R

FRI & SAT: (4:10) 7:10, 9:25  
SUN: (4:10) 7:10 MON-TH: 7:10

**MISSING LINK** PG

FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:00, 9:20  
SUN: (4:00) 7:00 MON-W: 7:00

**AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-13) OPENS THURS 4/25 7:00**

**1809 First, Baker City • 541-523-2522 • eltrym.com**



**PASSENGER TIRES**

**Starting at \$39.99**



**All Season Tire Economically Priced 50,000 Miles Warranty**

**We gladly make appointments**

**LEW BROS**

**210 Bridge**

**541-523-3679**

**AFTER HOURS: 541-518-7100**