

HUNTING

Continued from Page 1A

In late January Forsea wrote in a letter to the editor to the Herald that he would consider closing his property to hunting if commissioners persisted in their legal challenge against the locked gates.

Commissioner Mark Bennett said this morning that he discussed those concerns with Forsea before Forsea announced his decision.

“I respect that landowners need to do what they need to do,” Bennett said. “I’m really sad that it came to this. I’d like to figure out something that works for everybody and get to some balance.”

Bennett, who is himself a rancher in southern Baker County, said Forsea has been “gracious to let people hunt.”

“I hate to see the polarization,” Bennett said. “I don’t want to have more anguish between landowners, users and the county.”

Although Bennett said he would be disappointed if the county gained public access only to have the public lose one of the main uses of the area — hunting — he believes the county has an obligation to determine whether there is a public right-of-way in this

case.

Commissioners intend to travel to the area later this spring to continue their discussion.

“It isn’t going to be a quick resolution,” Bennett said.

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey said Forsea’s decision has “no effect whatsoever” on the county’s efforts.

Harvey said the sole issue — and the only one the county has any legal authority over — is whether the public has right to cross the property owned by Todd Longgood, which is west of Forsea’s land.

“We’re not addressing hunting rights — that’s a peripheral discussion and to me there’s really not a connection,” Harvey said. “(Forsea) is free to do whatever he’d like to do with his property.”

Commissioners are pursuing two avenues — a court order requiring Longgood to unlock the gates, or designating an alternate route as a public road.

Forsea contends neither is necessary because both his family’s property in the Access & Habitat program, and scattered parcels of public land that border the Forsea property, are accessible from the east, via the Connor

Creek Road.

That road is much rougher than the western access road that passes through Longgood’s property, however, something Forsea concedes.

Forsea said he had not objected to the western road, which branches off the Look-out Mountain/Daly Creek Road, remaining open to the public.

But after Longgood locked the gates in 2017, Forsea said he noticed there were fewer hunters — especially people hunting from vehicles — and other changes he considers improvements.

“I like it this way because it’s cut down on traffic, the road stays in better shape, there’s less garbage and my cows are not moving around as much,” Forsea said.

He said his family generally has not restricted hunting on their property, even before the Access & Habitat Program started in the 1990s.

“We never stopped any hunting — we just didn’t get paid for it,” Forsea said.

In an advertisement he’s running in the Herald this week, Forsea wrote:

“Although we have had a good relationship with Fish and Wildlife with our Access & Habitat Program, we are

closing our property to public access for hunting because Baker County and its commissioners have been trying to push for a RS2477 road through our property, and we believe they are wrong. We feel this decision may be the only way the county will realize what it means to Baker County and hunters not to have access and hunting on our property. We encourage all hunters and other interested parties to contact the county commissioners and explain your concerns.”

Forsea said Sunday that he has read comments on the Herald’s Facebook post about his decision from posters claiming Forsea is closing his property so he can work with Sheep Mountain Outfitters, a hunting guide service that Longgood is associated with and that operates in the area.

Forsea denied that. “I don’t have anything to do with them,” he said.

Forsea contends that the county is squandering public dollars by pursuing its claim for a possible public right-of-way across Longgood’s property.

“If it goes to court they’re going to end up losing, and wasting taxpayer money,” Forsea said.

OBITUARY

‘Les’ Guttu

John Day, 1942-2019

Leslie “Les” Guttu, 76, of John Day, died April 17, 2019, at his home.

A celebration of his life took place May 3 at the John Day United Methodist Church.

Les was born on July 18, 1942, at Bottineau, North Dakota, to Sam and Sally Guttu. He lived in Missoula, Montana, until seventh grade. He then moved to Superior, Montana, and graduated from Superior High School in 1960.

Only months after graduation, he married Sonja (Sonie) Felstet, his high school sweetheart, on Nov. 11, 1960. They had attended all four years of high school together. They had four children — two boys and two girls.

Les worked at Diamond International Lumber Mill in Superior for 20 years. He became a certified lumber grader and eventually the quality control supervi-



Les Guttu

sor. He then moved to John Day, in 1986 where he worked for the Malheur Lumber Company for 20 additional years. Les changed career paths and began working for Winner’s Choice making custom bow strings. He did this for 10 years before retiring in 2004.

Les coached shot put and discus at Grant Union High School for more than 20 years. He had some great athletes that he helped turn into champions. He loved watching all of his grandchildren excel in whatever sport they enjoyed playing. Even after his grandchildren graduated, he still supported Grant Union athletics.

Les enjoyed hunting and fishing with his boys, and sometimes even the girls got to go. In his later years, he enjoyed gardening, bowling and golfing and even made custom golf clubs. Les was also a dedicated and loyal fan of the Seattle Seahawks. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed telling stories.

Memorable dates included the day he married the love of his life, and Dec. 25,

2018, when his son Russell woke up from his heart transplant surgery.

Les is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sonja Guttu of John Day; his sons, Russell Guttu and his wife, Lydia, (and Hannah and Stockton) of League City, Texas, Eric Guttu and his wife, Jamie (and Chaliss, Hayden and Jake) of Hayburn, Idaho, and Kuna, Idaho; his daughters, Jodi and Robie Ranft (Austin and Tressa) of John Day, Darcy and Jason Dawson (Rylan and Samantha) of Cascade, Idaho; his brothers, Greg and Dave Guttu of Tacoma, Washington; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Hazel LilyMae.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Sandy; and his sister, Ave Rundquist.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Les, the family suggests Grant Union Track and Field through Tam’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

DREDGE

Continued from Page 2A

McBeth said that document will serve as the basis for agency officials’ decisions about how best to maintain the Dredge in future decades.

On Thursday, though the archaeologists weren’t finished inspecting the dredge, Delgado was ready to offer a preliminary assessment — one that greatly pleased McBeth.

“I think she’s in pretty good shape,” Delgado said. “This hull was very solidly built. The folks back then didn’t have computer-aided drafting and computers, but they knew what they were doing in a number of ways.”

That’s a relief, McBeth said.

The Parks Department doesn’t want to spend public money on more cosmetic issues at the Dredge if its very bones need attention.

That’s why the agency approved a \$48,380 contract with SEARCH Inc. for the hull assessment.

“This is a high-priority project,” McBeth said. “We want to make sure we’re not fixing windows on a boat that’s just going to collapse into that

water.”

That water, it turns out, is one reason the Dredge remains so solid decades after it was assembled.

Delgado said wood lasts much longer when it’s submerged — and the colder the water, the slower the wood degrades.

Parks Department officials had to deal with this issue in the mid 1990s. After a \$250,000 project in 1995 that raised the dredge and built a sand pedestal on which it still sits, some sections of the hull that had been submerged, on being exposed to the air, dried and rapidly deteriorated.

Workers had to replace some of those sections.

Water and metal generally don’t have such a symbiotic relationship, of course.

But Delgado said corrosion of metal parts, both above and below the water, is mainly superficial and is not compromising the Dredge’s structural

integrity.

The Parks Department’s efforts to stem leaks from the Dredge’s roof have also paid dividends, Delgado said.

“Leaking water is your biggest threat inside, but I’ve seen very little of that,” he said.

Although last week was Delgado’s first visit to the Dredge, he’s known about the mining machine for more than 30 years.

In 1987 he was hired to oversee a new program through the National Parks Service, the National Maritime Initiative. Its goal was to inventory all of America’s maritime resources, a list that included, naturally, quite a lot of boats but also featured several mining dredges. Among them was the Sumpter Dredge No. 3, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Delgado said the inventory that he helped create listed the Sumpter Dredge as a

“hulk.”

But that was before the Parks Department bought the property and restored the Dredge so that visitors can walk through much of its first level.

“I’ve been looking forward to this for over 30 years,” Delgado said on Thursday.

He said he’s impressed with how dedicated local residents are to preserving the Dredge and ensuring the public can enjoy it. Delgado said he’s examined other historic vessels that were more famous than the Dredge but never had the support of a group such as Friends of the Dredge, which has worked with the Parks Department for more than 20 years.

“I definitely see the local care and the love essential to keep something like this alive,” Delgado said. “This dredge really helped define what happened here. It’s an important part of the town.”

LOCAL BRIEFING

Auditions for children’s play set Tuesday

Auditions for “Willabella Witch’s Last Spell” will be at 6 p.m. May 7 at the Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, 2101 Main St., Suite 113, Baker City. Performances are set for June 27-30. Children ages 6-18 are welcome to audition.

The plot is this: It is Willabella Witch’s 400th birthday and she’s retiring from casting spells. But her plans go awry when people come back and demand she reverse her spells (Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Snow White, the Frog Prince, Sleeping Beauty and more).

Brooklyn School receives grant

Northwest Farm Credit Services has awarded Brooklyn Primary School a \$1,000 Northwest FCS Rural Community Grant.

“The rural grant awarded to Brooklyn Primary will be used to purchase a 75-inch HD television,” Principal Phil Anderson said in a press release. “This setup will assist teachers in modeling, displaying student work and ensuring all students have access to high quality displays. Brooklyn Primary appreciates Northwest FCS’ commitment to education.”

To date in 2019, Northwest FCS has committed over \$91,000 to 75 projects in rural communities across Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Since the program’s inception in 2007, it has awarded 1,067 grants totaling more than \$1.85 million.

The next rural grant deadline is June 1, 2019. If you think your rural project may be eligible for a grant, visit northwestfcs.com/Stewardship/Rural-Communities for more information and an application.

LDS Church offers new curriculum

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ new curriculum — “Come Follow Me: For individuals and Families” — is available for the spiritual study of the New Testament and the life of Jesus Christ. This home study curriculum is then used as a foundation for Sunday School and Primary (children 3-11) lessons to connect what is being taught at Church with the topics being discussed in the home. For the week of May 6-12 they will be studying the Gospels of Luke chapters 12-17 and John 11. The curriculum for this course of study is available to everyone at <http://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/study/come-follow-me?lang=eng> or from a free mobile app called “Gospel Library.”

Local students on EOU dean’s list

LA GRANDE — More than a dozen Baker County area students are among the 570 named to the dean’s list for the 2019 winter term at Eastern Oregon University. To qualify, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded EOU coursework.

- **Baker City** — Rochelle Adams, Keaton Bachman, Jesse Burk, Melody Castello, Dylan Chaves, Evan Daugherty, Madison Elms, Isabella Evans, Austin Folkman, James Hixenbaugh, Makenna Huggins, Matea Huggins, Wyatt Knadle, Megan McGuinness, Jose Ramirez, Whitney Rilee, Braden Staebler-Siewell, Alicia Wirth, Braden Witty, Molly Wynn, Malcolm Zoon
- **Huntington** — Gabrielle Smith
- **North Powder** — Kate Jesenko, Betsy Nedrow
- **Oxbow** — Nathan Seggerman

— Compiled from staff reports and press releases. To contribute, call 541-523-3673 or email information to news@bakercityherald.com

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Barbara Ann Foree: 80, of Baker City, died May 5, 2019, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Barbara, go to www.gray-swesutoo.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Celestine Lela “Teena” Seal: Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. MDT Wednesday, May 8, at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Ontario (829 S.W. Second Ave.). Interment will be at Fairview Cemetery in Ontario. Friends are invited to join the family for a reception at the church after the interment. The family suggests memorial contributions to the charity of one’s choice through Tam’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97814. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

valleyfuneralhome.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, Citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING (Baker County warrant): Skyler Wayne Croy, 29, 175 Church St. Apt. 3, 2:11 a.m. Sunday in the 2300 block of Chestnut Street; cited and released.
FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Kristi Ann Moudy-Koos, 42, Baker City, 1:46 p.m. Friday at the Courthouse; jailed.
BAKER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT WARRANT: Austin Jeffery Hinrichsen, 28, Umatilla, 1:46 p.m. Friday at the Courthouse; cited and released.
SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, RESISTING ARREST, SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: Adam Christopher Herman, 43, 2235 Carter St., 11:57 p.m. Friday in the 1900 block of Main Street; jailed.

She is the great mom you always wanted your kids to have



This Mother's Day, tell her that, and thank her in a great way.

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Sign up for Agility 101

- Sign up sheets available at Animal Clinic of Baker
- No dogs under 9 months
- 6 dogs per class
- Entries due May 30th
- Lessons held on Saturdays: June 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th



A balanced dog is a happy dog and a friend forever!
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