

Community

FIRE FRIENDS

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The firefighters' easy manner and smiling faces put the youngsters at immediate ease. And that's how they want to keep it. Especially if the men should arrive at one of the children's homes on a mission to find a child trapped by fire. "If there's a fire and you can't get out of the house, we're going to do our best to come in and get you," Bybee told his small friends as they gathered on the floor of a Brooklyn classroom to watch and listen. Bybee showed the students how the boots the firefighters wear at the station zip off and allow them to step into their firefighting boots. "We just slide them on and go, there are no laces, no nothing," he said.

The double-layered fire-resistant pants, which are bigger in the waist and baggy in the legs, also are easy to put on over their other clothing. A big, thick fire-resistant jacket covers their shirt. "It's going to be hot, but it's still me," he told the students. Decker explained that firefighters are trained to put on their gear from beginning to end in less than 2 minutes. "And most of us can do it way faster than that," he said. Bybee's appearance began to change even more as he covered his head and neck with more protection. Next came a mask to help him breathe during a rescue mission. He carried a backpack and air tank on his back and placed his helmet on his head. "I look kind of different, don't I?" he asked the students who

responded with a loud group "yes." "I sound kind of different, don't I?" "But am I still just me?" And again, the children responded that they knew he was still Firefighter Jason under all that protective gear. The firefighters explained that the purpose of their demonstration was to ensure that children respond to calls should they become trapped inside a burning house. "So when I come in to get you, you don't want to hide," Bybee instructed them. In response to "Fire department, call out" the children practiced yelling on demand: "I'm right here." Decker told the second-graders that making noise is very important if they need help. "Make lots of noise," he said.

"Somebody like this us is coming to get you." After fielding a few more questions, the one on many of the students' minds finally was asked: "When is Smokey coming?" The Baker City firefighters finished up with a few more safety lessons to make way for Smokey Bear. Phyllis Thomas, a U.S. Forest Service fire operation clerk, introduced the furry character dressed in blue jeans and wearing his well-known forest ranger hat. Thomas first showed students a video that told about how the original Smokey Bear was burned in a wildfire started by an unattended campfire. The students lined up to give the big bear a hug after reviewing fire safety rules they'd learn from the Baker City firefighters and the video presentation.

— Chris Collins

LOCAL BRIEFING

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."

Gas station closure 'company decision'

The recent closure of the USA Gasoline station and food mart at 1010 Campbell St. was a "company decision," according to a spokesperson for the company. In an email response to the Herald's question about the business closure, Stefanie Griffith didn't give any other information about the decision.

Vector Control District board meeting

Baker Valley Vector Control District's board of directors will meet Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the District office, 19611 S. Airport Lane (near the Baker City Airport). The Vector Control District is responsible for controlling mosquitoes in a 200,000-acre area that includes most of Baker, Bowen and Keating valleys.

County giving away herbicide

Baker County's Weed District is again giving away pre-mixed herbicide designed to target whitetop and Scotch thistle. There are changes to this year's event. First, the person who picks up the herbicide must also be the one who will apply it. The applicator's name must be affixed to the container. Applicators must bring their own chemical-resistant container, preferably one that held gas or oil, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. There is a 5-gallon limit per household. The giveaway locations and times:

- Huntington Lions Park, May 10, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Richland, wildflower corner along Highway 86, west side of town, May 17, 7 a.m. to noon
- Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., May 24, 7 a.m. to noon
- Baker City, former ODOT building, 1050 S. Bridge St., June 1, 7 a.m. to noon
- Hereford Community Hall and Unity Community Hall, June 7, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

County seeks volunteers for boards

Baker County is seeking volunteers for the following boards/committees:

- Early Learning Regional Council
- Baker County Planning Commission (A commission member and an alternate)
- Baker County Fair Board
- Transportation/Traffic Safety Commission
- Transient Lodging Tax Committee
- Baker County Cultural Coalition
- Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee: The County is seeking a co-exist member.
- Baker County Compensation Board

Volunteer forms are at www.bakercounty.org/commissioners. More information is available by calling the Commissioners' Office at 541-523-8200 or by emailing hmartin@bakercounty.org

— Compiled from staff reports and press releases

Marvin Lee

Formerly of Richland, 1934-2019

Marvin T. Lee, 85, of Belle Plaine, Minnesota, and formerly of Richland, Glendive, Montana, and Portland, died May 1, 2019, at his home.

His memorial service took place Monday at the Kolden Funeral Home in Belle Plaine. Military honors followed the service. Marvin's last round was at Johan's following the services.

Marvin was born on March 6, 1934, at Fairview, Montana, to Ole and Helen (Thorsen) Lee. He graduated from high school in 1952 in Kalispell, Montana. He enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country from 1952 to 1956. He then spent four years in the U.S. Reserves and was honorably discharged in 1960. He married in 1957 and with that union had two daughters. Marvin was a telegrapher for Burlington Northern Railroad, which landed him in Glendive, Montana. He moved to Portland in 1986, where he worked for Lewis and Clark College as a painter. He had a long career as a painter. Marvin retired in 1985 and spent the next 20 years in Richland. He married Beverly McClery in 1991. She passed away in 2010. Due to his health issues he moved to Belle Plaine in 2016 to be near his daughter. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, dancing, and playing cards. He also enjoyed singing and had sang in a quartet in the Navy Choir. He also enjoyed doing clay work, even though his eyesight had deteriorated. Marvin is survived by his two daughters, Sharon (Curt) Meeds of Belle Plaine, and Karen (Jim) Sefton of Seward, Alaska; his grandchildren, Kevin Meeds of Belle Plaine, and Kelley Sefton of Anchorage, Alaska; his brother, Ralph Lee of Billings, Montana; and many stepchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Beverly; his siblings, Harriet Counsel, Ellis Lee, Dorothy Bunse and Judy Lee; and his grandchildren, Grant Sefton and Eric Meeds. Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Marvin may do so per his request to the Eagle Valley Ambulance through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Leroy Bunten

Baker City, 1936-2019

Leroy John Bunten, 82, of Baker City, died April 30, 2019 at his home, surrounded by his wife and children.

A celebration of his life will take place on May 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Oxford Suites, 1050 N. First St. in Hermiston. Please come join the family as they celebrate Leroy. Leroy was born on May 26, 1936, at La Grande to John L. Bunten and Bessie G. (Hoffman) Bunten, the fifth of eight children. Leroy was a lifelong resident of Oregon, settling in Hermiston in 1943. He joined the United States Air Force, his period of active duty from Jan. 8, 1954, until Oct. 7, 1957. He served in Korea and Japan. Leroy met his wife, Theresa W. Hill of Irrigon, and they were married in Hermiston on Sept. 18, 1960. Leroy worked for the Union Pacific Railroad at Hinkle for several years. He then went to work at the Umatilla Army Depot, where he retired in 1994. In retirement Leroy and Theresa moved to Sumpter, where they had previously enjoyed family vacations and owned a home. In 2008 they moved to Baker City — "where you don't need a backhoe for the snow." Leroy's greatest passion was trading and dealing vehicles, equipment and antiques. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting,

going on drives through the mountains, and family time. Leroy was a member of the American Legion Post No. 0041 in Baker City and a 50-year member of the Hermiston Elks Lodge No. 1845. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Theresa; his daughter, Lesa Bunten, and his son, Ricky Bunten; his sisters, Betty (Bunten) Gulzow and Janie (Bunten) Bates; and numerous nieces and nephews. Leroy was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, William, Raymond, Vernon and Freddie Bunten; and his sister, Juanita (Bunten) Cross. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Leroy, the family requests the Opal Foundation (Heart 'N Home Hospice) to help people who cannot pay for hospice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

'Bonnie' Paulson

Baker City, 1925-2019

Bonita Rae "Bonnie" Paulson, 94, of Baker City died April 28, 2019, at her residence in Meadowbrook Place. Bonnie was born on April 13, 1925, at Salt Lake City to Jesse Milard Smith and Della Christine (Hadley) Smith. In December 1960 she married Gilbert Paulson in Sunnyside, Washington. She was a devoted housewife and mother. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Schauer of Baker City; and her son, Raymond White of Everett, Washington. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert Paulson; and her son, Warren Beckstead. To light a candle in memory of Bonnie, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com



Bonnie Paulson

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Stephen Aniston: 89, of Baker City, died May 5, 2019, at his resident at Settler's Park Assisted Living Community. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Stephen, go to www.grayswestco.com

Virginia V. Bryant: 92, of Baker City, died May 7, 2019, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Services are under the direction of Coles Tribute Center. To light a candle in Virginia's memory, go to www.coletributecenter.com

FUNERALS PENDING

Josephine "Jo" Snook-Dickson: Her memorial service will be Friday, May 17, at 10 a.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane, with a reception following at the Nazarene Church Fellowship Hall. Memorial contributions can be made to the McEwen Church or Camp Elkanah through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City OR 97814. To light a candle for Jo, go to www.grayswestco.com

Russel Hunt: There will be a celebration of his life, with military honors, at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 18, at the Baker City Christian Church, 675 Highway 7. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cove Christian Camp, the Blue Yesterdays or the Navy Musicians Association,

through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Russ or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations

THIRD-DEGREE ROBBERY, MENACING (Malheur County warrants): Jacob Anthony Gal-

van, 39, Baker City, and Kaitlan M. Galvan, 21, Baker City, 8:43 p.m. Monday at Resort Street and Washington Avenue; both were jailed.

ATTENTION HUNTERS

The **FORSEA RANCH** in Richland has regretfully decided to discontinue public access and hunting rights on all Forsea land effective August 1, 2019.

Although we have 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.

Dan Forsea, Owner
Dan L. Forsea & Sons Ranch

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CALL TODAY! 877-234-2178