

Honoring Local Veterans



Rick Gloria, far right, Baker County’s veterans service officer, awarded metal flags to local veterans on Saturday at the Veterans Memorial Hall. From left to right: Geraldine Lynn, U.S. Navy, 1990-92; Robert Warner, U.S. Army, 1945-46; Wayne Everett, Marine Corps, 1966-69; Patrick Arriola, Coast Guard, 1990-95; and James Berka, Air Force, 1965-68. Ty Gassin, a 2013 Baker High School graduate who owns a metal-working business in Ontario, created a metal U.S. flag for each veteran, featuring the emblem of their service branch.



William Burr Clark’s dress uniform hat is at the Baker Heritage Museum.

UNIFORM

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“It was so exciting when we came to this uniform,” she said. “I sat at the same picnic table with this fellow.”

On Nov. 5, 1944, Clark’s plane was shot down over Yugoslavia. For nearly a year he was listed as missing in action.

News came in October 1945 that Clark died the day he disappeared — Nov. 5, 1944. He was 27.

In Stanford Gwilliam’s remembrance of Clark, he wrote: “I have known Burr for nearly twenty years — in work and school and play — and have known for nearly twenty years that he never thrived on ease

nor chose the course of least resistance, either in the greater or lesser concerns of life.”

Gwilliam went on to describe his friend’s early life.

When he graduated from Baker High, Clark was named outstanding senior boy and earned a trophy for best athlete. He competed in three sports plus debate, and served as class president his junior and senior years.

He graduated from West Point as a second lieutenant and entered the Army Air Corps. He earned his wings in Alabama in December 1942 and went on to teach air corps crews at Boise, Casper, Wyoming, Bruning, Nebraska, and Murdoc,



California. He left for overseas duty in January 1944 as Maj. William Clark. The day he died Clark was on his 43rd mission from Italy. To that point he had engaged in aerial combat over 11 European countries. Gwilliam notes that Clark was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, two air medals with three oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the presidential citation, and distinguished unit badge. Gwilliam closed the obituary with these final words: “His memory and influence for greatness abides, and will continue to abide, in the hears of a vast community of men and women.”

Past, Present & Future Veterans

Thank You.

B

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

La Grande recently received a quiet zone designation. The city will spend an estimated \$200,000 to make improvements to its five railroad crossings to meet federal safety standards.

In other business Tuesday:

Industrial park land sale

Councilors will consider a proposal to sell 14.28 acres of city property in the Elkhorn View Industrial Park to Simplot AB Retail Inc., which wants to build a fertilizer batch plant. The project would include construction of a spur line to the nearby Union Pacific tracks.

The Industrial Park is at the northwest corner of town, west of 17th Street and south of Pocahontas Road.

Behlen Manufacturing has a factory at the north end of the Industrial Park, and other tenants include Cutters Edge saws and Powder River Precision.

Simplot is offering to pay the city \$235,620. That equates to \$16,500 per acre, the same price the city charged when it sold 2.2 acres in the Industrial Park to a sewing pattern company earlier this year.

Simplot has an existing plant near the railroad tracks north of Broadway Street, but it lacks needed capacity, according to a staff report to the City Council.

If Simplot built a new plant in the Industrial Park it would retain its current workforce and add one or two jobs, according to the staff report.

The company would have to apply for a conditional-use permit from the city because the 72-foot fertilizer storage container it would build exceeds the maximum height in the industrial zone.

Economic development discussion

Councilors will talk about the city’s contribution to economic development efforts in the city and county.

Due to a shortfall in lodging tax revenue,

Baker County commissioners decided earlier this year to cancel the county’s contract with Greg Smith, who had been the county’s economic developer for several years.

The Baker County Economic Development Council decided to combine economic and community development, and the county will be issuing a request for proposals to do that work.

City charter revision ballot measure

Councilors will discuss whether to ask voters in the May 2020 election to make changes to the city charter.

Possible changes include increasing the dollar value thresholds for the sale of city property without having to get voter approval.

Now, the charter requires voters to approve the sale of real estate worth more than \$5,000, and the sale of other property worth more than \$10,000. That section of the charter dates to the 1950s.

In a report to the Council, Warner wrote that the \$10,000 limit is impractical because the city sometimes seeks to sell surplus property, such as vehicles and heavy equipment, that exceeds that limit.

Warner proposes asking voters to eliminate the dollar value limit for surplus property, and to increase the threshold for real estate property sales from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

Warner also suggests asking voters to eliminate a section of the charter that lists pay for city councilors.

They earn \$10 per meeting, to a maximum of \$150 per year.

Liquor license endorsement for brewery

Councilors will consider a request to endorse an application by John L. Coop and Twila P. Lavery to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for a liquor license for a brewery to be operated in the basement of the Ison House, 1790 Washington Ave. They plan to start brewing in the spring of 2020.

All of us at Farmer’s Insurance would like to say “Thank You” to Petty Officer 2nd Class Will Mercado, US Navy, MSGT Daryll Clark, US Air Force.

Thank you to all our Veterans past & present.

FARMERS

INSURANCE

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Today, we honor our veterans for the sacrifices they’ve made in serving the country we are so proud to live in!

THANK YOU!

Jim Grove, Shannon Downing, Kristen McAdams, Karla Smith, Tamara Claflin, Mary Jo Grove, and Mitch Grove

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