

Local

BAKER COUNTY OFFICIAL IS UNIT COMMANDER FOR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Medical Reserve Corps seeks members

By Andrew Cutler
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As Oregon residents work to get back to some sort of normalcy, the Oregon Health Authority is increasing efforts to recruit health care professionals to join the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers across the state.

Since March, SERV-OR has added more than 800 volunteers, strengthening OHA's ability to contain COVID-19 cases and building the capacity of the volunteer program to respond to future emergencies.

The effort is picking up steam in Eastern Oregon.

"There has been a significant increase in people volunteering for different regions across the state for the Eastern Oregon Medical Reserve Corps (EOMRC) and for Serve Oregon," said Jason Yencopal, emergency management director for Baker County and the unit commander of the Eastern Oregon Medical Reserve Corps. "And we've seen that increase in Eastern Oregon, too."

Yencopal said about 30 volunteers have been added around the 10-county region that makes up the EOMRC, bringing the total volunteers in the region to about 90. Having volunteers spread out in all of the counties under

the EOMRC umbrella helps cut down on response times if volunteers are needed to travel from, say, Pendleton to Burns, Yencopal said.

"If we only have volunteers in three counties out of the 10, we're always pulling from those three," he said. "If we can get them spread out all over the region, the drive time for volunteers to respond in the case of a severe outbreak would decrease and make our response time increase."

The Oregon Health Authority is planning for volunteers to be a key part of the state's COVID-19 recovery effort by supporting contact tracing, testing and community wellness campaigns, and studies of long-term community effects and mass vaccination programs. Volunteers who sign up in the coming days will have the opportunity to train and deploy quickly.

"The objective is to get enough contact tracers for the counties and then, whether it's county or state, we have enough contact tracers to support positive cases in order to be able to go through that process to keep people safe and to reduce the spread," Yencopal said.

Getting the word out to potential volunteers in Eastern Oregon has been productive. "It's been positive," said

Ray Denny, public safety director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and a manager for the EOMRC.

The EOMRC is a group of doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians and residents around Eastern Oregon. The organization falls under the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers. The Corps supports local county health departments, area hospitals, emergency management offices and local response teams in a 10-county area: Baker, Grant, Gilliam, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler.

In addition to helping with disease outbreaks, SERV-OR volunteers are ready to respond to other emergencies and natural disasters, such as flooding, wildfire and earthquakes. A couple of events the EOMRC has been involved with, Yencopal said, include the solar eclipse in 2017 and supporting the Red Cross shelter during the February flooding in Umatilla County.

Health care professionals can register to volunteer with SERV-OR at SERV-OR.org.

"Oregon's health care workers are our most valuable asset in the fight against COVID-19," said OHA Director Patrick Allen. "Their skills and energy are saving lives

every day, in every part of the state. SERV-OR provides another opportunity to give back and support response efforts while connecting volunteers to high-quality training."

While the backbone of the EOMRC are health care volunteers, Denny said there is a need for volunteers without a medical background.

"Sometimes we just need somebody there to help direct people. We don't want to take a nurse and put them in that role unless we have to," he said. "We'd rather have them be able to immunize or whatever we're doing there. So, we would be looking for some regular volunteers as well."

SERV-OR is Oregon's roster of licensed physicians, nurses, pharmacists, Emergency Medical Technicians, behavioral health providers, respiratory therapists and other medical professionals who have registered to volunteer in response to local, state or federal emergencies.

"When our health care system was preparing for the worst of this, volunteer health care workers answered the call," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said. "I want to commend all our health care professionals and volunteers for their incredible work protecting the lives, safety, and wellness of Oregonians during this crisis."

BAKER COUNTY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 26

■ **Baker School District Budget Committee:** 5 p.m., Zoom video meeting; for details about how to access the meeting, call the District Office, 541-524-2260.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

■ **Baker City Council:** 7 p.m., City Hall, 1655 First St. For details on how to access meeting go to bakercity.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

■ **Baker County Commission:** 9 a.m. to noon; for details about how to access the meeting, go to bakercounty.org

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald May 26, 1970

UNITY — Voters in the Hereford-Unity-Ironside School District approved the district's revised 1970-71 school budget of \$207,324 by a vote of 118 yes votes to 90 no votes.

On May 4 the district's voters had rejected the district's proposed budget of \$215,324. The voters in the district have to vote on the entire budget as it has no tax base.

25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 26, 1995

For the second time this week, the Baker Ranger District has sent an unresolved appeal of a timber sale to the U.S. Forest Service's regional office in Portland.

10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald May 26, 2010

The owner of Baker City's four grass tennis courts has asked the city's Planning Commission for permission to leave the court lights shining until 10 p.m. on as many as 10 nights per year, instead of the current lights-out time of 9 p.m.

Don McClure, who bought the courts a few years ago from original owners Borden and Sandy Granger, also wants to play host to tennis tournaments on as many as 30 days per year, eight days more than the current city-imposed limit of 22.

ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald May 27, 2019

Jim Lampkins pauses in his war story, the memories from 75 years ago still raw in his mind.

"Our toughest duty was Okinawa," he said.

Stationed on a U.S. Navy destroyer in the Pacific theater during World War II, Lampkins' ship was on "picket" duty sent halfway to Japan. Their mission: intercept Japanese kamikaze pilots before they got to the main fleet.

"We never got hit," Lampkins said.

Other ships weren't so lucky. Lampkins and other sailors were charged with finding the survivors.

"There weren't many — oil burning on the water, the ship still exploding," he said.

Then he pauses, collecting his thoughts.

"The ones who weren't ... we took their life jacket and dog tags. It was terrible."

Lampkins turns 97 on June 14. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy in 1942 in Enterprise, where he worked at a bank post-graduation.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, May 23

5 — 12 — 22 — 36 — 40 — 47

Next jackpot: \$1.8 million

POWERBALL, May 23

2 — 8 — 18 — 21 — 23 PB 16

Next jackpot: \$114 million

MEGA MILLIONS, May 22

8 — 10 — 20 — 44 — 46 Mega 18

Next jackpot: \$313 million

WIN FOR LIFE, May 23

7 — 16 — 19 — 64

PICK 4, May 24

• 1 p.m.: 5 — 8 — 3 — 3

• 4 p.m.: 3 — 4 — 5 — 7

• 7 p.m.: 3 — 0 — 8 — 4

• 10 p.m.: 8 — 6 — 7 — 5

LUCKY LINES, May 24

3-6-11-13-20-21-25-30

Next jackpot: \$68,000

SENIOR MENUS

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Spaghetti with beef sauce, cauliflower, garlic bread, pea-and-onion salad, birthday cake

■ **THURSDAY:** Breaded pork loin, baked potato, mixed vegetables, roll, broccoli-bacon salad, cheesecake

■ **FRIDAY:** Boneless chicken breast with cream gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli-blend vegetables, roll, fruit ambrosia, apple crisp

■ **MONDAY (June 1):** Chicken broccoli Alfredo over fettuccine, biscuit, fruit cup, lemon bars

■ **TUESDAY (June 2):** Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, carrot-raisin salad, sherbet

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$4.50 donation (60 and older), \$6.75 for those under 60. Due to the coronavirus crisis, meals must be picked up; there is no dining on site.

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'Shorty' Welch

Richland, 1944-2020

Leon D. "Shorty" Welch, 75, a long-time resident of the Vernonia and Richland communities, died May 20, 2020, at his home in Richland.

Shorty was born on June 21, 1944, at North Platte, Nebraska, the son of the late Wayne Lester and Idris Inez (Dillon) Welch.

As a young child he moved with his family from Nebraska to the Vernonia community, where he was raised and received his education having been a graduate of Vernonia High School.

Following his graduation, he worked in the logging industry until he enlisted in the United States Army in June 1965 at Portland.

Upon his return from Vietnam and honorable discharge from the Army, Shorty made his home in the Vernonia community and worked with numerous logging companies in the area. Eventually, he made his way up to Alaska where he also worked in the logging industry for close to 30 years. Shorty enjoyed his retirement in Richland for 20 years.

Among his special interests, he enjoyed spending time with his family and many friends, hunting and fishing with his brothers and nephews, cutting firewood, and making friends everywhere he went.

Shorty is survived by his son and

daughter-in-law, Michael and Cody Welch of Sheridan, Wyoming; his two brothers and sisters-in-law, Wayne "Larry" and Lorna Welch of British Columbia, Canada, and Darwin Lee and Linda Welch of Vernonia; his sister, Darlene Faye McLeod of Vernonia; and his sister and brother-in-law, Gayle Rogene and Clifford Yokley of Atwater, California; his three grandchildren, Kyler Canun Welch of Oklahoma, Scout Avery Welch of Sheridan, Wyoming, and Grace Ann Dahlen of Sheridan, Wyoming; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Shorty was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne Lester and Idris Inez Welch, and his brother, Ronald "Ron" Welch.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of Shorty, the family suggests Creating Memories (helping those children with ability in their challenges to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and more) through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Raelene Maddox

Baker City, 1944-2020

Raelene Florene Maddox, 73, of Baker City, died on May 19, 2020, at her home.

There will be a private memorial service at a later date.

Raelene was born on Dec. 16, 1946, at Abilene, Texas, to Raymond DeFrenne and Mary Minor (Axe) DeFrenne. She

graduated high school in 1965. On July 20, 1968, Raelene married James Maddox at Santa Rosa, California. Together they had two children, James and Mary. Raelene's main occupation was being a mother and housewife, but she also worked for the health care industry for 40 years until her retirement in 2008. She enjoyed crafts, computer graphics and spending time with her family. She was very proud to have raised two very successful children.

Raelene is survived by her husband of 53 years, James E. Maddox of Baker City; her son, James C. Maddox of Hawaii; her daughter, Mary LaVelle Miller of Lewistown, Montana; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Minor DeFrenne.

To light a candle in memory of Raelene, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Diane Miller

Medical Springs

Diane Miller, 76, of Medical Springs, died March 25, 2020, at her home, surrounded by the love of her family.

Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com



Raelene Maddox



Shorty Welch



Diane Miller

NEWS OF RECORD

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT

(domestic), HARASSMENT: Adrienna Dione Morris, 22, transient, 10:32 p.m. Saturday in the 1500

block of Sixth Street; jailed. Morris was also cited on a Baker County Justice Court warrant.

OFFENSIVE LITTERING: Juan Pablo Burgos, 58, transient, 10:27 p.m. Saturday at Cherry and Campbell streets; cited and released.

SECOND-DEGREE CRIMINAL TRESPASSING: Jamie Joseph Weiss, 55, transient, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Sam-O Park, cited and released. Weiss was also cited on a Baker County Justice Court warrant for contempt of court on 8:38 a.m.

Saturday at Birch and Campbell streets.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Michael E. Cassidy, 63, Baker City, 5:57 a.m. Saturday in the 2900 block of 10th Street; cited and released.

With summer here, there is lots of traveling. Be safe & have fun!



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