

## Gates

Continued from A1

The Daly Creek and Manning Creek roads are public roads that can't legally be blocked.

But a section of the Lookout Mountain Road, south of its intersection with the two other roads, crosses private land, some owned by Allen Potato LLC and some by Manning Creek LLC of Durkee, for which there is no public easement, as the county conceded in the lawsuit settlement agreement.

As a result, the county has no legal remedy to prevent locked gates from being installed on that section of the Lookout Mountain Road, County Roadmaster Noodle Perkins said.

He said two locked gates were installed on the road earlier this summer. They are on property owned by Allen Potato LLC.

There is also a sign designating the county and private sections of road, and showing private property boundaries.

The sign states: "Private Road — Not Maintained. Travel At Your Own Risk. This Road May Be Closed at Anytime. No Trespassing Off Of Roadway."

The lawsuit settlement agreement refers to this as the "upper loop road," and states that the county concedes the property owner has "exclusive control" over that section of the road. That section of road "is not needed to provide public access to the Connor Creek Road from Daly Creek Road," according to the settlement. The settlement also states that the county will "execute and record a quitclaim deed releasing any right, title or interest that it might claim in that road," meaning the upper loop road section of the Lookout Mountain Road.

Perkins said he has had several phone calls from people upset about the new gates.

"There's nothing we can do about those," he said, citing the settlement.

County Commissioner Bruce Nichols said the new gates have convinced him that the lawsuit settlement, which he and Commissioner Mark Bennett and



Contributed Photo

**A locked gate on the Lookout Mountain Road between Manning Creek and Lookout Mountain.**

Commission Chairman Bill Harvey signed, was not a good deal for the county.

(Harvey had voted against a September 2021 memorandum of understanding to negotiate a settlement in the lawsuit, stating that he disagreed with a sentence, which is part of the settlement agreement, stating that a county official had given landowner Todd Longgood permission to lock the gate on Connor Creek Road.)

*"There's nothing we can do about those."*

— Noodle Perkins, county roadmaster, about the gates

"I'm not pleased with our agreement at all," Nichols said on Tuesday, Sept. 20. "But we're stuck with it."

Nichols said he signed the lawsuit settlement because he didn't want the county to continue to pay attorney fees. And although Nichols said he was upset that the county paid \$125,000 to the previous landowners for a permanent public easement on the Connor Creek Road, he was satisfied that the settlement did address the issue — the gate installed in 2017 — that led to public complaints and ultimately prompted the county to file the lawsuit in 2019.

"I was focused on Connor Creek Road," Nichols said. The problem, Nichols said, is

that the other road — the upper loop road section of the Lookout Mountain Road — that was previously open is now blocked, in effect trading one section of closed road for another.

He said he didn't consider the potential for the upper loop road to be gated. That issue wasn't central to the commissioners' discussions prior to approving the lawsuit settlement, he said.

Nichols said the county might have been better off pursuing a public easement for the upper loop road than for the Connor Creek Road, thereby maintaining public access to the entire Lookout Mountain Road.

The Lookout Mountain Road is a better maintained and more heavily traveled route than the Connor Creek Road, which becomes very rocky and rough as it descends to the Snake River Road along Brownlee Reservoir.

Harvey said the county accomplished its goal with the lawsuit, gaining a permanent public easement for the Connor Creek Road. He said that road is vital for public and firefighting access.

"That's the only one we had to deal with," Harvey said.

He emphasized that the county has no authority over the section of Lookout Mountain Road that has gates.

Harvey said that section of road was built in the 1970s, and has never had a public easement

although it has in the past generally been open to the public.

**Upper loop road came up in lawsuit**

The potential for what amounts to a swap — allowing the landowner to leave the Connor Creek Road gate locked but keeping the entire Lookout Mountain Road open — is part of the lawsuit record.

According to the counterclaim that the defendants' lawyer, Charles F. Hudson, filed on July 1, 2020, Longgood, "proposed that if the plaintiff agreed with his closure of the (Connor Creek Road), he would agree to

keep another private road crossing the property, referred to as the 'Upper Loop Road,' open for public use."

The counterclaim also notes that the upper loop road "ultimately provides a north-south connection between Richland and I-84."

That connection is severed while the new gates are locked, although it's still possible to drive between Richland and I-84, the difference being that the route connects to the freeway at Durkee, by way of Manning Creek Road, rather than near Weatherby, by way of Lookout Mountain Road.

**Gates prevent loop driving routes**

The new gates on the Lookout Mountain Road have a significant effect on public access in the area, Perkins said.

Although, as the lawsuit settlement notes, people still have access to the Connor Creek, Manning Creek and Daly Creek roads, the locked gates do block people from loop routes that also include the Lookout Mountain Road.

Prior to the gates, people could make a loop, either driving the Manning Creek or Daly Creek Road to the Lookout Mountain Road, then continuing south on the Lookout Mountain Road, which runs for more than 10 miles to its end at Interstate 84 near Weatherby.

Conversely, drivers starting at the freeway could head north on the Lookout Mountain Road and connect to either the Man-

ning Creek Road, which runs east to Durkee, the Daly Creek Road, which continues north to Richland, or the Connor Creek Road, which heads east to Brownlee Reservoir.

None of those routes is possible when the gates are locked because the closed section of the Lookout Mountain Road — the upper loop road mentioned in the defendants' counterclaim and in the lawsuit settlement — is the common link to all the routes.

To access Lookout Mountain itself — a public road leads to the fire lookout on its 7,100-foot summit — and areas to the south, drivers have to come from the south, either on the main road starting from the freeway between Mileposts 337 and 338, or from one of the side roads that branch off from Lookout Mountain Road, including Morgan Creek, Hibbard Creek and Fox Creek roads.

To get to Daly Creek Road and Richland, drivers either have to take Manning Creek Road from Durkee, which is a well-maintained gravel road, or Connor Creek Road from the east, the rough section used primarily by ATVs.

Bennett said he's had one phone call from someone concerned about the new gates.

Bennett said the gates are an inconvenience since they prevent drivers from making the loops that were possible previously. But he noted that hunters and other visitors still have access to all the public land in the area.

Registration is open for the Baker City Church of the Nazarene Basketball and Cheer League!

**UPWARD  
SPORTS**

This league is for Kindergarten - 6th Grade.

The Registrations cost per child for Basketball is \$65

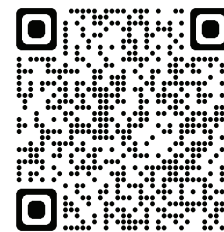
The Registration cost per child for Cheerleading is \$65

Evaluations for BASKETBALL: November 19th & December 3rd

Deadline for registration is 12/5/2022. There will be a late fee if registered after 12/5/2022.

Open Gym will be held throughout the season. Times TBA

Season is  
January-February  
2023



For questions please contact the League Director at 541.523.3533

## Pumpkins

Continued from A1

Only 300 tickets are available, at \$25 each. No tickets will be sold the day of the event.

Purchase tickets at Baker Aircraft, 43769 Heilner Dr., or Grumpy's Repair, 225 H St. You must bring your own pumpkin.

Prizes are awarded for the top three who are closest to the center of the bull's-eye.

"It's very competitive," Woydziak said.

This event isn't just for those toting pumpkins to toss.

Everyone is welcome to partake in the afternoon, which also features music by Frank Carlson, beverages from Barley Brown's Brewpub and Brewin' with D, and food for sale (hot dogs, chili dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers).

Sweatshirts and t-shirts will

also be for sale.

The event is sponsored by Country Financial Insurance and D&J Taco Shop.

"That helped us get the event insurance," Woydziak said.

**Foundation**

The Spc. Mabry James Anders Memorial Foundation was established to help local graduates pursue higher education.

The foundation also pro-

vides financial assistance to current and former members of the military who want to undergo aviation training.

The scholarship application, which opens in spring 2023, includes an essay on either "Why I am proud to be an American" or "What it means to be an American soldier."

To learn more about the scholarship, or to donate to the Foundation, visit the website, mabryanders.org.

### Vena "Teddy" Hobart

January 1, 1942 - September 12, 2022

Vena "Teddy" Hobart died on September 12, 2022, in Sacramento, California, from complications from Crohn's disease and Parkinson's disease.

She was born Vena Octavia Janoe, the first baby of the New Year in Baker City, Oregon, on January 1, 1942.

She met and married Leonardo Moreno in Baker but later moved to Sacramento, California, where they raised 7 children, 5 of whom were delivered by Dr. John Higgins at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker, Oregon.

She was known as Teddy to friends and family.

Teddy was predeceased by her mother, Vena Udell Wynn (née Clouse), father, Gordon Janoe, stepfather, Fred Walter Wynn, brothers, Charles Janoe and Steven Wynn, first husband, Leonardo Moreno, sons, Leonard Moreno, Jr. and Frank Moreno and nephew, Dan Janoe.

She is survived by her second husband, Phelps Hobart, her sister-in-law, Helen Hobart and family, sister-in-law, Judy Janoe (née Brown) and Charles' children, Charles Eric "Rick" Janoe, nieces, Kristen Janoe (née Hansen), Laura Way (Bill) and their respective families. Teddy's daughters, Elaina Goettsch (Mike), Linda Moreno (Clark Boomhower), and Sandy Moro (Gary), daughter-in-law, Carla Moreno and sons, Michael Moreno and Tom Moreno share in the loss of their mother, as do her 12 grandchildren and their partners or spouses, Jeremy Goettsch (Lisa), Kevin Goettsch (Kara Bertram), Sara Moreno, Ryan Moreno (Kenna), Matthew Perry, Shannon Hobbs (James), Casey Moreno, Elyse Smith (Josh Allen), Shane Moro (Leigha), Joshua Moro, Jake Moro (Jessica) and Zac Moro (Emily) and 15 great-grandchildren. Teddy is also survived by her sisters, Pat "Tris" Wynn of Meridian, Idaho, and Debra "Debbie" Wynn (Allen Maberry) of Portland, Oregon, and brother, Monty Wynn of Boise, Idaho. Numerous other extended family members and friends will miss their beloved "Teddy."

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1500 27th Street, Sacramento, California, 95816.

Teddy was active in her Lutheran congregation, Sacramento community theater, the Sacramento Symphony and Philharmonic League, and The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary.

Donations in her memory may be given to the charity of one's choice.



### Patrick Colin Morrissey

March 24, 1925 - September 12, 2022

Patrick Colin Morrissey, 97, of Baker City, Oregon, passed away on September 12, 2022, at Settler's Park, Baker City, Oregon.

Patrick was born on March 24, 1925, in Grass Valley, Oregon, to Jack Morrissey and Margaret Martin Morrissey. He graduated from Highline High School in Burien, Washington, in 1943. That was the middle of World War II, and he obtained a few months' draft deferral so he could receive his diploma before leaving for Basic Training. He served in the 99th Infantry Division of the US Army, fighting as a corporal in the Battle of the Bulge and a staff sergeant in the final Allied advance into Germany.

He was released from the Army in 1946 and enrolled at Washington State University, where he met and married E'Jay Towner of Pomeroy, Washington, in 1947. He graduated from Washington State University with a degree in agricultural science in 1948. After graduation Patrick and E'Jay joined his mother and stepfather, Bob Steward, running 250 Hereford cows and their calves on the Steward & Morrissey ranch in the Keating Valley. They raised two children, Sara Lee and Mike, and expanded the ranch from 250 to 1,000 cows during their marriage of 22 years. They were divorced in 1968.

In response to a scours epidemic at the ranch, Patrick began looking for ways to improve animal health in ranch operations. His research led to being appointed Chair of the Animal Health Committee for the Baker County Livestock Association in 1961. The following year he led the Oregon Cattleman's Animal Health Committee and, in 1963, was named President of the Oregon Animal Health Council, which included representatives from the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon grange, and other livestock industries. This committee was instrumental in raising funds to build a virology lab at Oregon State University.

Patrick continued to travel back and forth to the Willamette Valley for his committee work. In the fall of 1970, he met Beth Johnson, who was working as a legal secretary in a prestigious Portland law firm, and persuaded her to come to Eastern Oregon. They were married on February 6, 1971, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary a few months before her death in September 2021.

Soon after their marriage, the ranch began transitioning to raising and selling range-ready Limousin bulls to commercial

ranchers. This required extensive record-keeping, genetic analysis, and lots of paperwork and marked the beginning of Patrick's love of computers. It also meant

marketing, salesmanship, and a money-back guarantee on Steward & Morrissey bulls. Patrick boasted that he had become a "top-notch bull shipper!"

In addition to ranch life, Patrick and Beth worked together on community projects. They helped launch the Baker Family YMCA, heading up several sustaining campaigns in the early years, and were instrumental in managing a successful campaign in 1984 which raised funding

to build the Sam-O-Swim Center.

Patrick and Beth were active members of the Baker City Nazarene Church, where they developed many good friends over the years. They taught Sunday School, led small groups, and sang in the church choir. Patrick enjoyed taking an annual role in the Easter musicals and even grew a beard for one of the productions! He served successive terms on the Board of Elders and played a key role in helping build the "new" church and Family Life Center on Hughes Lane.

Survivors include Patrick's son Mike Morrissey (Janie) of Keating, Oregon; daughter Sara Lee Seaman of Bellingham, Washington; stepson Eric Johnson (Joy) of Riverton, Utah; stepson Paul Johnson (Nancy) of Baker City, Oregon; stepson Ronn Johnson of Brookings, Oregon; stepdaughter Betty Palmer (Rob) of Baker City, Oregon; 14 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

Patrick was preceded in death by his wife, Beth Morrissey, father, Jack Morrissey, mother, Margaret Steward, stepfather Bob Steward, and son-in-law John Seaman.

A memorial service will be held on October 22, 2022, at 10 a.m., at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Lennie Spooner will be officiating the service. The service will also be live-streamed by the Baker City Church of the Nazarene. An inurnment service is planned for 1 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery and will include military honors in recognition of Patrick's service during WWII.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Baker City Church of the Nazarene through Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, Oregon 97814.

Please visit [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com) to leave an online condolence for the family.