

# 'We can't say thank you enough to this community'

## Firefighter motivated by community's appreciation

By Marissa Williams  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The thank you signs, posted throughout the community, motivate firefighter Robert Holmes to continue to work hard on the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

But there are other motivators, too.

"What stands out the most for me are the simple things, like the first few days we were here, our apparatus was parked on the street and coming out to go to work and finding notes and goodies left on the seats. That means so much to the crews."

Holmes, who works for the Lane Fire Authority headquartered in Veneta, was working on the Warm Springs fire when he and the rest of his crew were transferred to the Canyon Creek Complex fire Saturday, Aug. 15.

He is one of 707 fire personnel working the fire.

"We have been working in the south division of the fire since we arrived," he said. "We've kind of been all over in the areas south of Canyon City. This fire is definitely high on



The Eagle/Nancy McCarthy

Thank you signs went up throughout John Day and Canyon City to show appreciation for the firefighters fighting the Canyon Creek Complex fire. This sign was posted on the fence at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

my personal list. The last fire that came close was when I was on the Douglas complex a couple years ago."

Ever since the fire started

Aug. 12, the community has been showing its appreciation.

Handmade thank you signs for the firefighters are scattered throughout John Day and Can-

yon City on fences, telephone poles and anywhere else staples or tape will stick.

Some offer messages of thanks; others display kids'

handprints, drawings and motivational messages like, "Kick Ash."

Most of the crews hail far away from Grant County. Wild-

land and structural fire crews drove through the night to get here to hit the fire lines.

Holmes is part of a Lane County task force that includes agencies from all around the Eugene area.

"I've been with them for 22 years, 19 as a volunteer until I was hired on in 2012," Holmes said.

He and the rest of his crew of 14 guys head to the Grant County Fairgrounds, where they live in tents after they come off their 12-hour shift from the fire.

The Eagle tracked Holmes down via Facebook after seeing the appreciation message he posted to the community's Canyon Creek Complex fire Facebook page.

"As far as what I've seen from the community, it started with the signs. The thank you signs coming back into camp are a huge motivation for the crews," Holmes said.

Everyone appreciates the support, he added.

"I know people have commented on 'how thank you isn't enough.' Well, I can tell you what people call a simple 'thank you' is an incredible thing for crews.

"We can't say thank you enough to this community for their support. It's been absolutely amazing."



Robert Holmes

### About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Blue Mountain Eagle. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries submitted to the Eagle with incorrect information may be corrected and republished as paid notices. Send obituaries by e-mail, cheryl@bmeagle.com; fax, 541-575-1244; or mail, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. The deadline to submit an obituary is noon Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-575-0710.

### OBITUARY

#### Charlene Lambeth

Jan. 1, 1953 – Aug. 17, 2015

PORTLAND – Charlene Lambeth, 62, of John Day, died Aug. 17 at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. A Celebration of Life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at the John Day Senior Center.

Mrs. Lambeth was born Jan. 1, 1953, in Mapleton, to Gaylord and Emily Lambeth. She had a sister, Geneva.

Survivors include her daughter, Brandy; son-in-law, Shane; 3-year-old granddaughter, Lacey; and brothers, Richard, Gary and Ralph and their families.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grant County Food Bank through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

### ANNIVERSARY

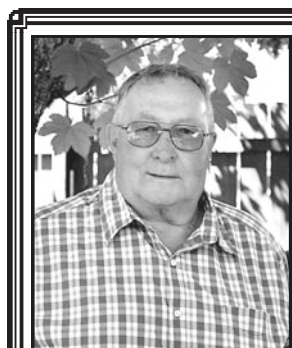
#### Jim and Lola Pettyjohn

Jim and Lola (McCabe) Pettyjohn, of Umatilla, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with a party hosted by their children and close friends from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Family Closet Building, 205 Tumbleweed Blvd., Irrigon.

The Pettyjohns worked in Canyon City in the early 1980s, where they operated Pettyjohn Weed and Pest Control Company.

The couple have four children, Earl James Pettyjohn, of Anchorage, Alaska; Linda Groce, of Boardman; Jerry Pettyjohn, of Heppner, and Nancy Lancaster, of Oak Harbor, Wash.; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Jim is a retired farmer and truck driver, and Lola was a homemaker.



Keith "Mick" Dougharity was born Jan. 23, 1941, in Baker Oregon to G.A. "Mick" and Lucy "Justice" Dougharity. He attended school in Austin and Prairie City, and graduated from Imbler High School. Mick served in the U.S. Navy after high school in 1956. In 1963 He married Charlotte "Thompson" and made his living as an owner/operator of Mick Dougharity Inc., a logging contractor, logging and building roads all over Grant, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties. In 1978, Mick sold the logging operation and moved home to Grant County where he ranched and worked for the Grant County Road Department from 1979 until he retired in 1988. Mick was an active member of the Elks, the Masons and Eastern Star. All of his life he made his family a priority from 4H and rodeo, to hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, waterskiing and watching youth sports. Wrestling was his very favorite sport to watch. He loved watching his three grandsons win state titles, and every little kid tournament. Mick passed away Aug. 10, 2015 at home with his wife at his side. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Charlotte; his son Mick and his wife Karyn, and their children Mick and Brynna; his son Keith and wife Eva; stepchildren Katie and Wayne and their families; his daughter Cindy and husband John Spencer; grandchildren Jacob, Caleb and Rebecca; step-grandchildren Peyton, Braden and Madison; his sisters Beth Dunkleburger, Patty Bingaman, and their families. He will be remembered for his quick wit, ability to fix almost anything, making delicious jerky, and his love of life and family. All who knew him were impacted by his magnetic personality.

Paid for by the Dougharity family. 02567

### ENGAGEMENT

#### Shannon Croghan and Garret Gardner

Mark and Lorie Croghan, of Mt. Vernon, announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon Croghan, to Garret Gardner, son of Tony and Carmen Gardner, of Canyon City.

The bride-to-be lives in Walla Walla, Wash., where she is completing her last year of college on an externship as a sonographer at Providence St. Mary's Medical Center.

The prospective groom lives in Canyon City, where he is employed in the family business, Gardner Enterprises.

The couple plans a Sept. 5 wedding at Riverside School Bed and Breakfast in Prairie City. They plan to make their home in John Day after Shannon finishes school.



### WEATHER FORECAST

Widespread haze, smoke Wednesday 94/50

20% chance of T-storms Thursday 90/53

Slight chance of T-storms Friday 86/55

Slight chance of showers Saturday 81/49

Slight chance of showers Sunday 85/50

Slight chance of showers Monday 80/39

Showers possible Tuesday 80/41

#### LAST WEEK

	AUG. 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
John Day	87/NA	90/56	90/55	83/55	81/44	94/50	91/57
Sheep Rock	90/55	99/52	92/59	95/55	89/45	86/53	99/55

#### 24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; WWW.TRIPCHECK.COM  
WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM/INFO

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY — 162.500 MHZ

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