

OBITUARIES

Thomas James Decker Aug. 24, 1933 — June 10, 2016

Thomas James Decker, 82, a longtime Mt. Vernon resident, died June 10 at Valley View Assisted Living in John Day.

Decker was born Aug. 24, 1933, in Phelps, Wisc., to Thomas M. Decker and Hazel (Kranke) Decker. He was raised by his mother and grandparents on their farm in Phelps. He recalled with fondness the freedom and beauty of the farm and the Wisconsin woods. It was there that his love of nature first took root.

As a young man, he lifeguarded on the beaches of Florida. Later, he saw much of the West while working as a locomotive fireman for the railroad. He fished in Alaska, prospected in Nevada and worked in the woods of Oregon.

His greatest joy in life was raising his son, John, who preceded him in death in 1990.

He was an avid fisherman and hunter, but most of all enjoyed mushrooming. He often returned from camp with a truckload of morels, boletus and even puffballs, too big to fit in a five-gallon bucket.

In the woods, he not only found mushrooms but friends. He held lifelong friendships with the friends he made mushrooming. The trees, hills and streams he loved remain.

Arrangements are under the care of Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

For condolences, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



Benjamin 'Benny' Dodds May 29, 1929 — June 12, 2016

Benjamin "Benny" Dodds, 87, died June 12 at Mothers Creek Ranch Adult Foster Home in Bear Valley. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 3, at Mothers Creek Ranch.

Dodds was born May 29, 1929, in Scottsbluff, Neb. He attended school in Union and graduated from Union High School in 1947.

He enjoyed family, hunting, fishing and trap shooting. He had many good stories on himself and on others.

He worked for many sawmills in Union and Grant counties. He was a member of several shooting clubs and was still active in shooting trap. The shooters were part of his family.

He loved to watch wildlife and be outdoors. He was watching a baby fawn with its mother playing in the field below the adult foster home when he died.

He was known for teaching youth in Grant County shooting skills and safety.

In 1964, he married Zouva Sharp and became a stepfather to Johnny and Art Meisner and Cecil Sharp.

He loved to do work on his home on Harper Creek in Mt. Vernon, and loved being a grandfather.

He came to live at Mothers Creek Ranch in April 2013. He became a part of a very large family.

Survivors include stepsons, Art and Cecil; daughter-in-law, Liz; sister-in-law, Mary Dodds; grandchildren; and his many friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Zouva; brothers, Bob and Bill; sisters, Beth Jones and Berdine Sanders; and stepson, Johnny.



Robert 'Bob' Skiens Dec. 6, 1940 — June 4, 2016

Robert "Bob" Skiens, 75, died June 4 at his John Day home. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 9, at the Prairie City Senior Center, 204 N. McHaley Ave., followed by a potluck at noon.

Skiens was born Dec. 6, 1940, in Burns, to Robert Lee and Madge (Gearhart) Skiens. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1963. He spent his career working as an electrician, retiring in 2000.

He loved to read. He enjoyed cookbooks and had a large collection of them. He enjoyed golfing, gold mining and making jewelry from stones. He was also a pilot.

Survivors include his brothers, Richard Skiens of Yakima, Wash., and Tom Skiens of John Day; sisters, Bonnie (Darrell) Cochran of Vale, Linda Skiens Maladonado of John Day and Beverly (Clayton) Curtis of Prairie City.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Dennis R. Skiens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grant County Library or Families First Parent Resource Center of John Day through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

For condolences, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Paul Dean 'Pete' Fortenberry

A memorial service for Paul Dean "Pete" Fortenberry will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 25, at the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall, about one mile east of Mt. Vernon on Highway 26.

A potluck lunch, with meat provided, will follow the service.

Fortenberry, of John Day, died Nov. 5, 2015, at age 77.

Seth Logan Blakeslee

Seth Logan Blakeslee, 19, of Monument, died June 18. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25, in the Monument School gymnasium.

Arrangements are under the care of Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Gary and LoLieta Gregg

Gary and LoLieta Gregg of John Day will celebrate 60 years of marriage at a party given by their children on Saturday, July 2, in Kimberly.

The Greggs were married on July 1, 1956, in Dayville.

Gary works as a newspaper delivery driver for the Blue Mountain Eagle.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

APRIL, MAY — LONG CREEK SCHOOL



Charles Kreamier, grade 4
Long Creek student of the month for May.



Jaynee Davis, freshman
Long Creek student of the month for April.



Near Bunning, junior
Long Creek student of the month for May.



Raquel Melo Silva, senior
Long Creek student of the month for April.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

DAYVILLE SCHOOL



Dayville School students of the month for March: from left, Sophia Pinkal, grades 4-6; Kendall Hettinga, high school; and Preston Fretwell, grades K-3.



Dayville School students of the month for April: from left, Cody Kluser, high school; Cash Moore, grades 4-6; and Dawson Jenks, grades K-3.



Dayville School students of the month for May: from left, Lillianne Walczyk, grades 4-6; Kellen Fretwell, grades K-3; and Faith Brown, high school.



Dayville School students of the month for June: from left, Ravyn Walker, high school; Dally Moore, grades K-3; and Ethan Thompson, grades 4-6.

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ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:
Did you know a service-connected disabled veteran is entitled to **FREE** use of Oregon State Parks?
See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Courthouse.
Open Mon, Wed, & Fri, 10 am - 4 pm, by appointment. Call 541-575-1631

DEWITT MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR
Kathy Smith
IS MOVING ON!
JOIN US IN SAYING GOODBYE!
CAKE & REFRESHMENTS AT DEWITT MUSEUM IN PRAIRIE CITY
June 24, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S TEMPS

JOHN DAY	H/I	LO
TUESDAY	60/43	
WEDNESDAY	55/42	
THURSDAY	59/40	
FRIDAY	73/46	
SATURDAY	61/47	
SUNDAY	76/39	
MONDAY	83/49	

RIVER FLOWS ON JUNE 20

	Discharge	Last year	Avg.	% of Avg.
JD River near John Day	111	56	275	40
Middle Fork @ Ritter	107	51	279	38
North Fork @ Monument	528	275	1350	39
JD River @ Service Creek	883	370	1990	44
JD River @ McDonald Ferry	799	351	2220	36
Canyon Ck @ Thissells Ranch Bridge	23	New	25	92
Canyon Creek @ Adams Drive Bridge	23	22	25	92

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 22-28

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sunny	Mostly sunny	Slight chance of showers	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
84	77	71	80	87	87	85
50	47	42	46	48	49	52

FORECAST AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122 ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM; NOAA WEATHER RADIO:162.500 MHz