

# Bear Valley home destroyed in fire

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A home in Bear Valley was completely destroyed in an early morning fire Sept. 19.

Gregg Haberly said his father Byron Haberly and Byron's wife, Linda, were in bed in the modular house when the fire occurred. He said Linda smelled smoke and asked Byron if he had made a fire.

Byron went into the kitchen and saw a wall on fire, Gregg said. Byron tried to put out the fire using a mop bucket and the kitchen sink, but there wasn't enough water pressure to fill the bucket.

When Byron opened a window to relieve the smoke, the fire blew up and got into the ceiling and roof. Byron and Linda got out of the house but had to drive to another home to make a 911 call for assistance.

Byron, who owns Byron's Septic Service and Byron's Excavating, suffered mild injuries from smoke inhalation but was going about his normal errands the next day. He and his wife were unable to remove belongings, and the home was a total loss, Gregg

said. The John Day Emergency Communications Center received a 911 emergency call reporting the fire at 11:42 p.m. on Sept. 18, according to Dispatch Manager Valerie Maynard.

A log entry with the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 12:25 a.m. reported a grass and brush fire about three-tenths of an acre in size.

ODF responded with two engines, but the home was engulfed in fire by the time firefighters arrived, Oregon Department of Forestry Unit Forester Ryan Miller told the Eagle.

Two private water tenders from nearby ranches were already on the scene to assist with the suppression effort and had stopped most of the wildfire from spreading and causing a forest fire. ODF later sent a water tender to assist with the suppression effort.

ODF firefighters remained on scene overnight to prevent the wildfire from spreading any further, Miller said. The burned area was estimated to be one-third to half an acre, he said. No firefighters were injured.

## OBITUARIES

### Christopher W. Swanson May 11, 1954 - Sept. 15, 2018

Christopher W. Swanson, 64, passed away on Sept. 15 in John Day.

A celebration of life will be held at the Community Hall in Mt. Vernon at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Christopher was born on May 11, 1954, in Prairie City and was the beloved son of Wallace and Fay Schrier Swanson. He and his family moved to Pendleton in 1957, where he lived for many years before moving back to John Day.

He loved his family very much and made sure they all knew it, and he was always there to help people when they needed it. Christopher loved the mountains and spent much time roaming them. He picked mushrooms and at times drove many miles to make sure his mother and sister got some. He was an artist and designed the cover for the Pendleton High School Annual one year. After a very bad hand injury, he was no longer able to draw.

Christopher was a gentle and totally unselfish individual. He was preceded in death by his father Wallace Swanson; niece Carri Dagley; cousins Kenneth and Larry Schrier; and 11 aunts and uncles.

Christopher is survived by his mother Fay Swanson; sister Sandra Morris; daughter Savanna Swanson; stepdaughter Leanna Perkins; two grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; aunt Rosemary King; two nephews, Ben Dagley and Jesse Hall; one grandniece, Avienda Dagley; and numerous cousins.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).



### Curtis 'Curt' Antone Pereira Jan. 20, 1976 - Sept. 15, 2018

Curtis "Curt" Antone Pereira, 42, of John Day passed away at his residence on Sept. 15.

Curt was born in John Day to Art Pereira and Cheryle (Cuff) Eggers on Jan. 20, 1976. He graduated from Grant Union High School in 1995.

Curt met Lisa Green in 2004. As they grew to know one another, they bonded over conversations involving Ford pickup trucks. Lisa told Curt that if she married him, he would have to "marry me and my horse"; they were married on horseback in Mt. Vernon on Sept. 17, 2005.

He spent many years working as a ranch hand and mechanic for the Holliday Ranch and the Mullin Ranch. In 2012, an opportunity came up for Curt to work for Tobias Ranch in California doing the same work. As much as he enjoyed it, he decided John Day was where he wanted to be and moved back in 2014. He started working for Tidewater as a truck mechanic later that year. From a young age, Curt watched and learned mechanics from his grandfather, who was a big part of his world. He could be found on a tractor out in the field or in the shop tinkering away.

He enjoyed being in the outdoors, gathering firewood, four-wheeling, spending time with his wife and pups, working in the shop with his father and working on his Kenworth truck. Curt's sense of humor and big heart will be missed by his family and friends.

Curt is survived by his wife, Lisa; parents, Art and Cheryle; stepfather Ken Eggers; and sister Kelly Pereira. He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Memorial contributions may be made to Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.



### Charlotte (Blank) Low

Charlotte (Blank) Low, 95, Albany, formerly of Canyon City, passed away Aug. 2 in Albany. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Canyon City Cemetery.

### Thomas Ray Bessler

Thomas Ray Bessler, 83, of Seneca died Sept. 13 in Boise. Arrangements are under the direction of Cremation Society of Idaho. A celebration of life is being planned for Saturday, Oct. 13, at Seneca City Hall.

### Norman Strawn

Norman Strawn, 88, a longtime resident of Mt. Vernon, passed away July 23. A memorial is planned at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the John Day Senior Center. Family and friends are invited to this potluck event.

### Dennis Smith

April 20, 1932 - Sept. 15, 2018

Dennis Clayton Smith, 86, of Canyon City passed away at his residence on Sept. 15. A celebration of life for family and friends will be held from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, in the downstairs conference room at the airport.

Dennis was born April 20, 1932, in Seattle, Washington, to Ernest and Mary Smith. He moved with his family to Grant County in 1943, graduating from Grant Union High School in 1950. After two years of college, he joined the Marine Corps and spent two winters in South Korea living in a tent. His favorite time in the Marine Corps was in San Diego where he enjoyed the warm waters and sandy beaches.

He owned and operated Canyon Builders Supply in Canyon City for over 20 years. He was a go-to source for Grant County and especially Canyon City history and spent hours at the library, Grant County museum and courthouse researching available sources to verify his information before writing and cataloging the information.

He was also actively involved in multiple service organizations through the years as well as serving on boards and councils. Dennis had a love for flying and along with his wife, Barbara, purchased an airplane and became licensed pilots on the same day.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 42 years, Barbara Frederick Smith; brother Rodney (Sandra) of Baker City; children Paul (Kathy) of John Day and Kathryn (Jim) Sheets of Phoenix; stepchildren Tonja Ferguson of Seattle and Todd Thompson (Sarah) of Nampa, Idaho; seven grandchildren, Robbie, Nicholas, James, Jeffrey, Rachel, Raelynn and Jerin; and two beautiful little great granddaughters, Ridley and Gracen.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to Blue Mountain Hospital Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.



## BIRTHS BURTON

Lance and Sheena Burton of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, announce the birth of their twins, Joella Ann and Ian George, born July 5 at Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene. Joella Ann weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces, and Ian George weighed 7 pounds. Both measured 20 inches. Grandparents are Larry and Suzy Burton of John Day and Steve and Tanna Moore of Athol, Idaho.



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### Janet Lee Engle Hardin

04-26-36 - 09-14-18

Janet was born in Fox, OR on April 26, 1936 as the oldest child to Bud and Osie Engle. Janet lived her younger years in Redmond and moved to Monument in 1946. She attended elementary school at the Cottonwood schoolhouse. Janet had fond memories of her childhood on Cottonwood, including riding horseback to school as well as eventually driving other kids to school. She attended Monument High School and she graduated in 1954. Janet enjoyed horseback riding as a kid and served on the Spray rodeo court. Janet married Earl Lewis in August 1954. They had four children together. They divorced in 1973. Janet lived in Monument until 1975 when she relocated to Pendleton where Janet and Lester Hardin spent the majority of the next 40 years until Lester's death in August 2014. Janet owned and operated the Little Club restaurant in Pendleton for a number of years and had people driving for 100's of miles for her homemade cinnamon rolls. Her door was always open to everyone, and you never left hungry. She could create a feast fit for a king from seemingly empty cupboards. Janet resided between Pendleton and Bend for the last four years. Janet enjoyed traveling throughout the United States with Lester's job; she loved cooking, crocheting and more than anything loved her family. Between Janet and Lester they had eight children. Sandy Gandee of Sugar Hill, Georgia; Marlene Lewis of Bend OR; Valerie Hardin of Cartersville, Georgia; Donald "Buddy" Lewis of Umatilla, OR; Darrell Lewis, deceased; Julie Hardin of Walla Walla, WA; Earlene Dillard of Bend, OR; and Vicki Swenson of Tuscon, AZ. And finally not by blood but most certainly family, Chris, Kathy, Zeth, and Kate Allen of Pendleton. Janet had numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews as well as cousins. Janet is also survived by a brother, Gary & Patti Engle of Monument and sister Judy & Will Martin of John Day. She was preceded in death by her husband Lester Hardin, parents Bud and Osie Engle, son Darrell Lewis, brother Gayle Engle and grandson Casey Spivey. A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Monument Senior Center. Memorial contributions can be made to Partners In Care Hospice House 2075 NE Wyatt Ct Bend Or 97701

Paid for by the family of Janet Lee Engle Hardin

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### Michael Rushton, DPM

Podiatric Physician and Surgeon

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*Dr. Rushton is a Medicare participant and Preferred Provider for Lifewise and Blue Cross/Blue Shield*

Baker City

2830 10th Street

541-524-0122

Every other Monday in John Day at

Blue Mountain Hospital

170 Ford Rd. • 541-575-1311

*The Doctor speaks Spanish - el doctor habla Espanol.*

### LAST WEEK'S TEMPS

JOHN DAY	HI/LO
TUESDAY .....	72/42
WEDNESDAY .....	69/38
THURSDAY .....	71/39
FRIDAY .....	83/43
SATURDAY .....	69/52
SUNDAY .....	64/43
MONDAY .....	66/33

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHz

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 26-OCT. 2

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly cloudy	Light showers	Showers	Partly sunny
80	82	78	81	69	70	75
40	45	45	48	45	34	36