



Contributed photo

**Eighteen firefighters from Mt. Vernon, John Day, Long Creek, Prairie City and Monument fire departments recently completed the Grant-Harney Training Association firefighter academy, including, from left, front row, instructor Chad LaVallee, Gabe McKinley, Chase Workman, Ron Phillips and Joy Brown; middle row, Denise Porter, Jennifer Garinger, Tyler Stout, Peter Case, Don Porter and Andy Hutsell; and back row, Shea Pogne, Quade Day, Andy Watkins, Kevin Mitchell, Dan Pogue, Peter Mohnen and instructor Don Willis.**

# Eighteen firefighters complete academy training

Blue Mountain Eagle

In January and February, the Grant-Harney Training Association held its annual firefighter training academy.

Eighteen firefighters from the Grant County communities of John Day, Prairie City, Mt. Vernon, Monument and Long Creek devoted 63 hours of their time over three

weekends to train as firefighters. Some of the firefighters were training for the first time. Others were reviewing the knowledge they have gained over a period of years. The firefighters ranged in age from 16 to 67. Sixteen is the youngest you can be to fight fire with a department, but the maximum age is open as long as you can do the job.

This year the annual fire academy was held in Long Creek. Ten Classes were taught at the Grant-Harney Training Academy. Some of the classes included fire behavior, firefighter safety and survival, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, building construction and communications.

Instructors for the academy were Don Willis, Chad LaVallee and Hayden

Jones from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training; Don Porter, Denise Porter, Ed Studtmann and Peter Case from the Long Creek Fire Department; and Dave Riess from the Hines Fire Department.

In March, these firefighters and others will participate in a hazardous materials class, a 16-hour class over two days.

## OBITUARIES

### David Sandersfeld

David Sandersfeld, 67, of Canyon City passed away at his residence on Feb. 22. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel of John Day and service details will be announced soon. To leave an online condolence, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

### Robert Dean Burnett

Robert Dean Burnett, 74, of Winston, formerly of John Day, passed away Monday, Feb. 18, at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. Arrangements are pending with Taylor's Family Chapel, 541-679-6983.

### Oaklee 'Lee' Hyder

Jan. 10, 1926 — Feb. 16, 2019

Oaklee "Lee" Hyder, age 93, of John Day passed away on Saturday, Feb. 16. Lee was born on Jan. 10, 1926, in Carter County, Tennessee, to John and Melissa Hayes. She married her childhood friend and neighbor, William "Bill" Hyder, on Aug. 17, 1942. Together, they had a son, William Jr., and a daughter, Connie. During Bill's career in the Navy, they traveled extensively and lived in San Diego, Washington, Japan and Hawaii. In 1961 they bought a ranch in Mt. Vernon, Oregon, where they lived happily raising their children and grandchildren until Bill's death in 2000.



Lee was known for being a hard worker from the age of 4 up into her 70s. She loved gardening and cooking and was famous for her pies and baked goods. She possessed a deep faith in the Lord and loved her church community dearly; above all, she loved spending time with her family. She loved holidays and get-togethers, cooking for everyone and visiting with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will always be remembered for her gentle heart and unfailing kindness.

Lee is survived by her two children, William Hyder of Surprise, Arizona, and Connie Maddox of Wasilla, Alaska; four grandchildren, Vicki Kirchnavy of Boise, Idaho, Russell McIntosh of Bend, Oregon, Ryan McIntosh of Nampa, Idaho, and Will Hyder of Bellingham, Washington; six great-grandchildren, Brandon and Brittany Bartron, Todd Snyder, Tristyn McIntosh, Alora Hansen and Brenner McIntosh; and two great-great-grandchildren, Lily and Lexie Bartron.

Join us in celebrating Lee's life on Saturday, March 16, at 2 p.m. at Living Word Christian Center, 59357 Highway 26, Mt. Vernon, OR 97865. She is well known for her beautiful purple outfits; therefore we encourage attendees to wear the color purple in her memory.

To leave an online condolence in honor of Oaklee, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

### Mary Ellen Groen

Mary Ellen Groen, 97, of John Day passed away at her residence in Valley View Assisted Living on Feb. 23. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel. A funeral service will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at Driskill Memorial Chapel. Vault interment will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City at 1 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the John Day Elks Lodge 1824 through Driskill Memorial Chapel. To leave a condolence for the family, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

### Wilma Jane Averill

Wilma Jane Averill, 87, of Mt. Vernon passed away at the Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day on Feb. 21. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel of John Day. A graveside service will be held Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at Willamette Memorial, Albany. To leave an online condolence, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).



## CORRECTION

The Jan. 30 article "Coordinating 'coordination'" attributed an explanation of the role of coordination between the Forest Service and county governments to John Hagengruber, the state liaison for the Forest Service's Region 1 office.

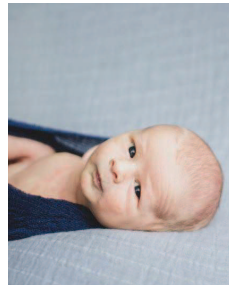
The remarks actually came from a document written by the Forest Service's Directorate of Ecosystem Management and Coordination in Washington, D.C., that the Agriculture Secretary sent to elected officials at the congressional and county level.



## BIRTH Arntz



William Davis Arntz was born on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day. He was 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and 20.5 inches long. His parents are Werner and Lisa Arntz of Mt. Vernon. Grandparents are Deborah and David Arntz of Burns and Don Freeman of Dardanelle, Arkansas, and Diana Freeman of Fayetteville, Arkansas.



Michael Anthony Duckett, age 29, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 16 in Boca Raton, Florida. He was born on July 9, 1989 in Pendleton, Oregon to parents Stacey Moore and Richard Dean Pedro. He grew up in John Day, Oregon and graduated from Pendleton High School in 2008. Michael received a track scholarship to attend George Fox University and studied business entrepreneurship.

Michael lived a fuller life in 29 years than a lot of people have in their entire life. He had the uncanny ability to reach people in a deep way. He touched everyone positively and always left a big impression wherever he went. To say that Michael had a beautiful soul, is an understatement; he had a huge heart of gold and saw the good in every single person.

Michael had the best dimpled smile and most genuine hearty hugs that made your soul feel warm inside and, in that moment, you knew everything was going to be okay. His laugh lit up the whole room with the way his eyes crinkled, his hand would grab at his stomach, and he would bend over with an uncontrollable chuckle. If you wanted to find Michael, you could find him living it up with friends and family, working in the hospitality industry, making all the girls blush with his infectious personality, freestyle rapping, writing poetry, or playing sports, because boy, was he athletic at everything.

Michael wouldn't want his loved ones to mourn his death, but instead celebrate his life. He would want us to pull the ones we love closer and live every moment to its fullest potential like it were our last. Michael lived his life by uplifting others, opening his heart, making the time to reach out to friends and family, lending an extra hand, and not letting negativity consume him. For Michael's memory to live on through each of us, we should follow his example and strive to be the best version of ourselves. As Michael would say, MAD love.

Michael is survived by his parents, Stacey Moore and Richard Dean Pedro (Rik); stepfather Erik Moore; siblings, Brandi Jo Moore, Ashley Moore, and Jay Moore; maternal grandma, Linda Duckett; paternal grandma, Angie Pedro; aunts and uncles, Casey and Jimilly Pedro, Lee Duckett, Grant and Michelle, Brandon, Jaime, David; cousins and many family friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be donated to Pioneer Chapel or directly to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com), search keywords "Michael Duckett's Memorial Services." *Paid for by the family of Michael Anthony Duckett*

### Thaddeus Cowan Thompson

Thaddeus Cowan Thompson, 39, of John Day passed away at his residence Feb. 26. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel of John Day. To leave an online condolence, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

*I would like to thank the staff from Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City and the staff from Kim Chesley's Elderberry House for the loving care of my mother, Virginia Moore, for so many years. I would also like to thank Troy and Amber from Driskill Memorial Chapel for all their help and the senior center for providing the refreshments at her service. A very special thanks goes to Myla and Mike Corley, and family, who were always there for our family over the last 50 years. Thank you for all the cards and donations, which will go to the Long Creek EMT. Sincerely, Bill Moore.*

## Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday .....	33/26
Wednesday .....	33/18
Thursday.....	30/21
Friday.....	36/19
Saturday.....	36/29
Sunday.....	39/29
Monday.....	30/20

### 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 FEB. 27-MARCH 5

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Afternoon rain	Morning snow	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy
<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>