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HONORING VETERANS



Cheltzy Cox hauling equipment in Afghanistan.

Contributed photo/Cheltzy Cox



Army Supply Sergeant Byron Rudishauser stands in front of a Quonset hut while serving in Alaska in the mid-1950s.

Contributed photo

Building a future far from home

Cox becomes equipment operator for Navy Seabees

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Cheltzy Cox grew up with one goal in mind: becoming an equipment operator.

Her cousin Blake Lawrence inspired her to pursue the occupation. Wes Grant, a retired chief of the U.S. Navy and Grant County veteran, told Cox about his career and gave her the goal of joining the Navy Seabees.

Cox grew up working on her family's ranch in Monument. This job was something Cox enjoyed, and it also prepared her for the physically demanding tasks at boot camp.

Beginning her service

Several years after graduating high school, Cox joined the Navy and was sent to boot camp on April 3, 2006.

"Boot camp was not as hard as I thought it was going to be," Cox said. "I grew up working a lot and it helped me. I was surprised to see people who couldn't do push-ups or stuff like that because they didn't have to do physical stuff every day. Boot camp was a breeze for me."

She outran all the girls in her camp and every guy except two. Bucking hay, building fences, working on the ranch and operating equipment had prepared Cox physically.

While being from a rural town of 100 people benefited Cox in boot camp, being stationed in Port Hueneme, California, presented a complicated environment to learn in.

"It was kind of a shock, but you adapt to it."

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Cheltzy Cox

Veteran recalls threat of war looming after ceasefire

Learning to respect the flag, the country and the people

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

When Byron Rudishauser, a John Day resident, joined the Army in September 1953, a ceasefire in the Korean War had taken place the month before. But the threat of war loomed.

"We started basic training and got the hell scared out of us," Rudishauser said. "The trainer said, 'I've got news for you.' He said the ceasefire had been canceled and fighting had started again, and 'You're going to the front lines in two weeks.'"

Rudishauser said the trainer was pulling their leg and, shortly after, said he was just letting them know things could change overnight. Fresh out of high school, Rudishauser was 19 when he entered military service.

He'd received a notice that he would be

drafted while he was still attending Yoncalla High School in southwest Oregon. So he decided to sign up.

"Looking back on it, I really wasn't worried about it," he said. "If your name came up, it came up."

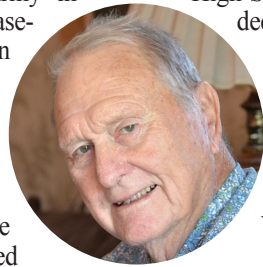
There were classmates he knew who died in the Korean War.

Rudishauser was the son of a logger. The family lives in Seneca and Canyon City while his dad worked at Edward Hines Lumber Co. in Seneca in his early years.

His family moved to Yoncalla for one year, then returned to Grant County.

During basic training at Fort Ord in

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Byron Rudishauser

Bentz announces run for Walden's congressional seat

Findley plans to run for Bentz's Oregon Senate seat

EO Media Group

Oregon state Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, announced last week that he will run for the seat in Congress being vacated by retiring Republican Rep. Greg Walden.

Walden, who was first elected to Congress in 1998, announced Oct. 28 that he would not run for re-election in 2020.

Bentz said in a news release that he was surprised to learn that Walden would not continue



Oregon Sen. Cliff Bentz

in the position. "Congressman Walden has done (and is still doing) a great job as Oregon's only Republican Congressman," he said. Bentz served 10 years in the Oregon House of Representatives as the Republican state representative from District 60, and almost two years in the Oregon State Senate as the Republican state senator for District 30. Bentz said that experience has been critical in preparing him to represent the people in the state's 2nd Con-



Oregon Rep. Lynn Findley

gressional District — a sprawling district that covers much of Central, Southern and Eastern Oregon.

"The challenges in Washington, D.C., are great," he said. "However, based upon my years of working as a rancher, farmer, attorney, and as a member of the Republican party successfully passing legislation in a Legislature controlled by Democrats, I feel confident

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