



Eagle file photo

Grand Marshal Carla Wright, far right, rides in the Calvary Horse Camp's carriage during the Fourth of July parade in Prairie City. Joining her are, from left, Mikaila Crane, Katie Johnson and Larry Wright in 2019.

Prairie City fireworks show is back

City plans 5K run in the morning, parade at noon

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Fourth of July fireworks show in Prairie City is back this year after being canceled last year due to COVID-19 concerns.

In addition to the fireworks show, dubbed "Live Freedom," the city will have a parade and 5K run.

Jim Hamsher, Prairie City mayor, said the fireworks show would be on July 3 at dusk in front of the Oxbow.

He said July 3 was the only time the city could schedule a pyrotechnic company.

Hamsher said a Fourth of July 5K run kicks off at 8 a.m. at Depot Park. He said the registration cost is

by donation only. All of the proceeds will benefit the Prairie City Community Center. He said the 5K run begins and ends at Depot Park.

He said the town would have a parade at noon. Pam Woodworth will be the grand marshal this year.

"With everything starting to come back," Hamsher said, "I think people are very happy."

Events across Oregon were canceled last year — from the Oregon State Fair to Cycle Oregon, which planned rides through Grant County in September, to the BMW Riders of Oregon's Chief Joseph Rally, which takes place at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

The loss of Grant County's summer events impacted the county's already hobbled economy that relies on tourism to get through the year.

ODF implements regulated use closure

Blue Mountain Eagle

Wildfires resulting from human activities continue to plague firefighters in Oregon Department of Forestry's Central Oregon District.

"We are seeing fire behavior similar to what is typical in July or even August," said District Forester Mike Shaw in a press release. "Wildland fuels are incredibly dry, and the moisture from last week's precipitation has already dried out of the finer fuels, and never penetrated the larger ones."

In an effort to reduce these fires the district has implemented a 10 a.m. regulated use closure, which restricts high risk activities linked to wildfire starts. The following restrictions are in effect:

- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling in a motorized vehicle, except on federal and state highways, county roads and driveways: one shovel and one gallon of water or one operational 2.5 pound or larger fire extinguisher, except all-terrain

vehicles and motorcycles, which must be equipped with an approved spark arrestor in good working condition.

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except in designated areas.
- Chainsaw use is prohibited, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Chainsaw use is permitted at all other hours, if the following firefighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel and one operational 8-ounce or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the use of each saw.
- Mowing dried grass with power driven equipment is prohibited, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., except for the commercial culture/harvest of agricultural crops.
- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Use of motor vehicles, including

motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads and except for vehicle use by a landowner and employees of the landowner upon their own land while conducting activities associated with their livelihood.

• The use of fireworks and blasting is prohibited.

Additional restrictions, a map and the official proclamation can be found at oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restrictions.aspx.

Operators should refer to oregon.gov/odf/fire/Documents/fire-season-requirements-for-industrial-operations.pdf for information specific to industrial operations during fire season, or call the local ODF office, 541-575-1139.

Burning of logging slash and larger debris piles is not currently allowed in the John Day Unit. Burning yard debris and burn barrels is no longer permitted on lands protected by ODF.

For additional information on ODF's Central Oregon District, including contact information and unit offices, visit odfcentraloregon.com.

Forest implements Phase B public use restrictions

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Malheur National Forest moved to Phase B of public use restrictions, prohibiting fires, smoking and chainsaw use from 1-8 p.m.

The Emigrant Creek Ranger District in the southern zone moved to Phase B of public use restrictions Friday, June 25, and the Blue Mountain and Prairie City ranger districts in the northern zone moved to Phase B Monday, June 28, both implementing Industrial Fire Precaution Level II.

Under Phase B of public use restrictions, the following are prohibited:

1. Building, maintain-

ing, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal briquette or stove fire, except within a designated recreation site.

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

3. Operating a chainsaw between the hours of 1-8 p.m. Saw operators are required to have a shovel (8 inches wide, 26 inches in length) and fire extinguisher (minimum ABC 8 oz.) in their possession. A one-hour fire watch is required after saw operations cease.

LEMCKE, K9 OAKIE EARN TRAILING CERTIFICATIONS



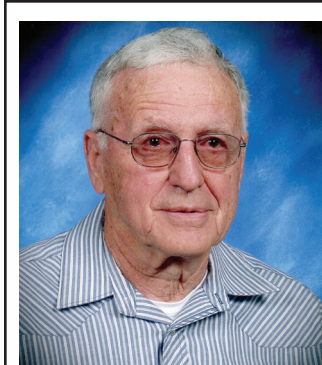
Contributed photo
Cindy Lemcke and K9 Oakie passed their Wilderness Trailing Type II national certification with Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States. They also received their trailing certification with the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

65TH ANNIVERSARY Gary and LoLieta Gregg

Gary Gregg married LoLieta Craig July 1, 1956, in Dayville, Oregon. They will celebrate their 65th anniversary July 1, 2021.

The couple had three children, Shannon (born 1957), Mitch (born 1959) and Mindy (born 1965).

They have four grandchildren, Amanda Couzens, Jeff Lippert, Britt Wilcox and Riley Gregg, and four great-grandchildren, Jenna Kelso, Shelby Couzens, Ryan Lippert and Aura Wilcox.



William "Bill" Robert Thomas

August 25, 1929 - June 16, 2021

William "Bill" Robert Thomas, age 91, of John Day, Oregon passed away on June 16, 2021, at Blue Mt Hospital in John Day, Oregon.

Bill was born August 25, 1929, in Portland Oregon, to William and Martha (Rudishauser) Thomas. He lived with his parents and siblings in John Day and Mt. Vernon, Oregon

until he enlisted in the Navy on August 2, 1948. He served as Radarman Third Class in the Navy and was honorably discharged on July 31st, 1952.

He met his first wife, Janet Weyell, during a brief docking in New York City and got engaged three days later. Bill and Janet married on August 10, 1952, at the Helena's Catholic Church shortly after his discharge from the Navy. Right after their marriage, they took the train across the United States to Pendleton, Oregon. They had to hitch hike from Pendleton to Mt. Vernon as the "stage" was not running on the day they arrived in Pendleton. They were stopped and questioned by the local Sheriff for being runaways and had to show proof of their marriage. This was all being conducted while Janet was standing on her suitcase in the middle of the road because of the horrible grasshopper infestation that year. They were later picked up by Harley McGetrick, a log truck driver, who delivered them to Mt. Vernon.

They set up their home in Kimberly at the Orchard and later they moved to the W4 Ranch and set up their home in the large White house on the banks of the John Day River. They resided for a year in the Kimberly area where their first child, Linda was born. From Kimberly, they moved to Yuba City, CA where he worked as a truck driver and their second child, Billy was born. From Yuba City they moved to Palmdale/Lancaster California where Bill worked for Northrop and Hughes Aircraft Aviation and their third child Chuck, was born. Bill transferred from Northrop/Hughes to McClellan AFB in Sacramento. They lived for a short time in Rio Linda and then onto Sacramento where they purchased their home and resided for the next nine years. In 1969, the family moved back to Kimberly, OR where he worked at the family orchard until he retired and moved to John Day Oregon in 1994.

After the passing of his beloved wife Janet on August 2, 1999, he married Judy Gibbs on April 21, 2001. They had 20 wonderful years together and enjoyed a nightly competitive game of cribbage. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, obtained his pilot license and loved the outdoors. He passed on his amazing shooting, archery and hunting skills to his daughter, Linda, to his sons, Billy, and Chuckie and to his grandchildren, Shannon, Sean, Colby, Cassie, Whitney, and Bianca. He passed his love of the outdoors to all his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The grandchildren would make his day when they would stop by or call him with their recent hunting and/or hiking adventures.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother Martha, father William Bailey, stepmom Emily, and his wife Janet.

He is survived by his wife Judy, sister Alice Mills, daughter Linda (Kenny) McMurry, his sons Bill and Chuck (Maria) Thomas, Stepchildren Marvin (Jennifer), David (Roni), Shawn (Jim) and Brad (Julie), brothers John and Jim Thomas, 11 grandchildren: Shannon, Sean, Cassie, Colby, Amanda, Whitney, Bianca, Ethan, Maya, Bailey, Mark, and 16 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandson, 12 Step grandchildren and 26 step great grandchildren, one step great, great grandchild, several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held at the John Day Nazarene Church followed by private graveside services.

"The journey does not end here. You will live in our hearts forever and we will cherish the memories made until we meet again."

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Blue Mt. Hospital Scholarship Fund and local Nazarene Church.

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Paid for by the family of Bill Thomas.

OBITUARIES

Howard H. Bloxham

May 17, 1924 — June 24, 2021

Howard H. Bloxham passed away on June 24, 2021, at St. Charles Hospital in Bend, Oregon. He was 97 years old.

Howard was born on May 17, 1924, to Heber Daniel and Grace Henderson Bloxham in Layton, Utah. The baby of nine children (Bill, Sam, Vestal, Zettie, Ruth, Erma and two babies who died in infancy). School years were spent in Kaysville, Utah, where he graduated from Davis High School. He attended Utah State Agricultural College before entering the Army in 1943. He served during World War II in Arizona, Texas, Guam and was preparing to go to Okinawa when the war ended. While stationed in San Antonio, Texas, he married Afton Grandsen on June 25, 1944, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and would have celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary the day after he passed away. They have four children.

Howard ranched throughout Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Utah for over 65 years. He always said he had the best job in the world. He spent his life loving what he did for a living, his family, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a dedicated life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and had a strong faith in his Savior, Jesus Christ. He was a "man's man," fiercely loyal to his country and concerned about the disintegration of its moral fiber. He worried about the world that his grandchildren would grow up in. He was a proud patriot.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and one great-grandchild.

Howard is survived by wife, Afton; his children Dennis Bloxham, Mary (Rondo) Fehlberg, Mark (Judy) Bloxham and Nancy (Dan) Mullin; 19 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

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



Norbert Ross Smith

Norbert Ross Smith, 75, was born to Josephine (DeSouza) and Herman Smith in Prairie City on Oct. 2, 1945. He attended 12 years of school in Mt. Vernon and graduated from Eastern Oregon University. After a few years of teaching, he married Mary Mutch from Portland, Oregon, and moved to Newberg, Oregon, where he started and ran NRS construction.

Norbert often returned to Grant County to visit family and hunt. For 16 years he owned a ranch north of Mt. Vernon, and he and Mary introduced many tourists to the beauty of the area through their bed and breakfast, The Inn at Juniper Ridge.

Norbert enjoyed golfing, crocheting, doing puzzles, traveling and hunting.

Norbert was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Gary Smith and sister Arlita Arnett.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary; son Justin Jake Smith and Kelly of Salem, Oregon, and Michael Ross Smith and Ellen of Mesa, Arizona. His great regret was leaving his grandchildren Lilli, age 8, and Marlo, age 3. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

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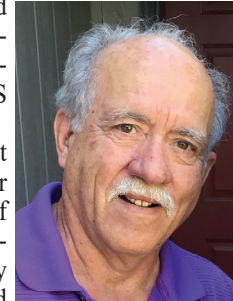
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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	81/64
Wednesday	91/58
Thursday.....	91/59
Friday.....	89/60
Saturday.....	97/60
Sunday.....	101/66
Monday.....	102/68

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 JUNE 30 - JULY 6

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Hot	Chance of thunderstorms	Chance of thunderstorms	Mostly sunny and hot	Mostly sunny and hot	Sunny	Sunny
106	100	100	99	98	97	95
67	66	66	65	64	49	57