

Umatilla airman dies in Syria

Hermiston Herald

Staff Sgt. Austin Bieren, 25, of Umatilla died Tuesday, March 28, while serving as an Air Force security forces airman in northern Syria.



Bieren

The Department of Defense released Bieren's name Thursday, March 30, and stated that he appeared to have died from natural causes in a non-combat situation.

His mother Tracy Finck said joining the military

had been her son's plan from a young age.

"He was amazing, kind, smart, always wanted to join the service," she wrote in a brief message to the *East Oregonian*.

She said he leaves behind his wife of six years, Rachel, sister Brianna Bieren and a nephew Jaren, "who he adored," as well as parents Tracy and Jody Finck and John and Amber Bieren. His identical twin brother, Thomas, died at age 14.

Finck said Bieren played basketball and football as a Umatilla High School student.

According to AirForce Times, Bieren is the second American serviceman known to have died in Syria. There are currently about 900 U.S. troops there providing support to Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against ISIS.

Bieren was assigned to the 21st Space Wing at Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base.

A post by the Peterson

Air Force Base's Facebook page said Bieren "was a valuable and beloved member of our team and will be sorely missed. His dedication to his country was evident in his actions — he was a superb Airman."

Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, led the Oregon House of Representatives in a moment of silence Thursday in honor of Bieren.

A celebration of life service for Bieren has been scheduled for Saturday, April 15, at the Umatilla High School gymnasium.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JON MISHRA

Jon Mishra, who served as the Hermiston School District's director of Special Programs, has accepted a job as the superintendent of Waitsburg School District starting in July.

Barns being raised at EOTEC

By JADE McDOWELL
Staff Writer

Construction on barns at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center has gone vertical.

Now that the snow is gone and the groundwork laid, contractors are working to raise the three large barns, adding their silhouettes to those of the event center and rodeo arena on the EOTEC grounds.

"It's starting to look like a fairgrounds out there," board member Larry Givens remarked during the EOTEC board's Friday morning meeting.

John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction said work on the barns is going well so far. He expects paving for the commons area where vendors will set up shop to be completed this week. They are also working on the donor wall, restrooms and landscaping.

Eckhardt said securing enough water to irrigate that landscaping, in addition to all of the other water that will be needed at EOTEC for fair week,



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Work has begun on the barns at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

continues to be a challenge. The third well that was dug did not pan out, and well number four is producing only 50 gallons per minute. He said there were other options available besides wells, however, that EOTEC chair and Hermiston city manager Byron Smith continues to work on.

Board member Dan Dorran said he and Uma-

tilla County Fair board chair Gay Newman looked at the pens and panels being ordered for the barns and they are very pleased with the design.

"I've seen hog panels across the U.S. ... and these are pretty slick," Dorran said.

On the rodeo arena side, Carl Hendon of Hendon Construction said the concrete arena itself is

"substantially complete" and they are working to add things like ADA ramps and the gold buckle area. Fabrication of the bleachers is about 90 percent complete, he said.

"We're on, if not ahead, of the schedule we're shooting for," he said.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Roberts sworn in as battalion chief

Umatilla County Fire District 1 saw a changing of the guard last week, from retiring battalion chief Jeff Adkins to the swearing in of the newest battalion chief, J.W. Roberts.



Roberts

Adkins was honored at a ceremony Thursday afternoon, and Roberts was sworn in Friday morning.

Adkins served with local fire departments for nearly 26 years. He began

his career in Roseburg, and joined the Hermiston Fire Department in 1991. He has served as battalion chief since 2008.

"Jeff was a major influence in helping plan and shape the future direction of the district and its personnel," the department said in a press release. "He was passionate about his 'fire family' and the fire service traditions that went with it."

Roberts, a Hermiston

native, has volunteered for both Hermiston Fire and the Umatilla Rural Fire District, and was hired

in Hermiston full time in 2003. He is the EMS coordinator for Eastern Oregon.

NEW SPRING INDOOR & OUTDOOR DECOR & FASHION ACCESSORIES!

Put a smile on the heart with the power of flowers.

Cottage Flowers

HWY 395, HERMISTON
541-567-4305
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm • Sun 12pm-5am
www.cottageflowersonline.com

Balance Chiropractic & Massage is pleased to welcome Dr. Bianca Munoz to our clinic!

Dr. Munoz works with patients of all ages to improve quality of life and overall health.

Bring this ad in for a \$20 credit on your account when you schedule your appointment with Dr. Munoz.

Si Habla Español
Call today to schedule your appointment
541-289-9966
1155 W. Linda Ave., St. B, Hermiston

Need Outdoor Living Space? We've Got YOU Covered!

Backyard By Design, LLC

FREE estimates!
541-720-0772

Visit our Showroom:
102 E Columbia Dr
Kennewick, WA 99336
(call for current hours)
www.mybackyardbydesign.com

Patio Covers
Pergolas • Sunrooms
Retractable Awnings
Screen Rooms
Handrail • Sun/Solar
Shades & More!

MULTI-MEDIA SALES

Great work environment.
Super awesome team.
Good pay. Retirement plan.
Weekends off. Interested?

East Oregonian has an opening for multi-media sales. No multi-media experience? That's fine, as long as you understand the importance of customer service, working hard and a desire to enjoy your job. Could this be you?

Base wage plus commissions, benefits and mileage reimbursement. Benefits include Paid Time Off (PTO), insurances and a 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan.

Send resume and letter of interest to
EO Media Group
PO Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048
by fax to 503-371-2935 or
e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com

They're your dreams. Start building them.

Consider a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next project. With competitive rates and flexible payment options, lasting home improvements could be within reach. Introductory rates start as low as 1.99% APR.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT	Introductory rate for 6 months Rates as low as 1.99% APR*	Variable rate after introductory period 4.64% APR*
	Rate available 2/25/17 – 5/5/17. Rates are subject to change.	Rate shown for lines of credit: – Up to 70% loan-to-value – U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package Actual rate may be lower. Visit usbank.com for custom rates.



Call 800.209.BANK (2265), visit a local branch, or go to usbank.com/dreambig

the POWER of POSSIBLE™ **usbank**

*1.99% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.99% during the 6-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from February 25 – May 5, 2017. After the 6-month introductory period, the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of March 16, 2017, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 3.51% APR to 8.29% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, a credit limit below \$100,000, an LTV above 70%, and/or a credit score less than 730. A U.S. Bank Consumer Silver, Gold, or Platinum Checking Package account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 3.01% APR – 3.25% APR, depending on market. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loans are subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank Consumer Platinum Checking Package. The Consumer Pricing Information brochure lists terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Consumer Checking Package accounts and can be obtained by calling 800.872.2657. Member FDIC. ©2017 U.S. Bank. 170184C 2/17 U.S. Bank was named a 2016 MONEY® Magazine "Best Bank," November 2016. ©2016 Time Inc. Money is a registered trademark of Time Inc. and is used under license. Money and Time Inc. are not affiliated with and do not endorse products or services of U.S. Bank.