

REST: Forestry worker stumbled upon wreckage in 1973



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Art Miller of Walla Walla holds a pair of U.S. flags while waiting for the funeral ceremony for Ray Eugene Thompson along with other Patriot Riders on Wednesday at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton.

Continued From 1A

he worked on the ground as an airplane mechanic.

They discovered the truth when a military representative knocked at the family's front door and said Ray had gone down in a B-54 bomber.

The family got some closure in 1973 when a Papua New Guinea forestry worker stumbled upon aircraft wreckage and found scattered human remains and four sets of dog tags. One of the tags belonged to Ray E. Thompson. Family members watched as the mixed remains and dog tags were interred at Arlington Cemetery.

Wednesday's graveside service, however, closed a final chapter.

"His plane went down in the South Pacific and he was lost for decades,"

said Rev. Chris Clemons of the Pendleton Nazarene Church. "Today, his family is able to bring him home."

Emotion flickered in the faces of those who watched Verla receive her brother's purple heart and a freshly folded American flag that had draped the coffin.

In the crowd was Army Sgt. Daniel Chatman, who had escorted Ray Thompson's remains from the identification laboratory in Hawaii. In Portland, he and National Guardsmen escorted the remains from the plane to a waiting hearse for the drive to Pendleton.

"It was an honor," he said.

The family contingent included a nephew who was named after his uncle and two of Ray's first cousins, Vernitta Searles of Pendleton and

Leah Lundberg of Walla Walla, who watched from wheelchairs. Both were young when their cousin died and never knew him. The women's DNA, however, helped investigators make the identification. The DNA had to come from the mother's side, they were told. Verla, only sharing a father with Ray, didn't qualify.

"We were the only two left," Lundberg said.

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Let'er Buck Post participated in the service and hosted a lunch afterwards at the VFW hall. Surrounded by family members there, Verla said she felt closure.

"He's home," she said. "He's at rest."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@east-oregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

OBITUARIES

Berniece Augustine Ryan Hall

Mission

August 22, 1934-April 8, 2013

Berniece was born August 22, 1934, to James and Veronica Guyer Ryan on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She was raised by her grandparents, Andrew Barnhart and Jane Kash Kash, who raised her and her sister, Mary June, in a warm and loving home full of laughter, hard work and a sense of public service. She attended Chemawa Indian School and graduated in 1953, with distinction from St. Joseph's Academy, Pendleton, Ore.



Hall

Her first job was at St. Anthony Hospital in the newborn and delivery area, giving babies their first baths and stamping their footprints on their birth certificate. She was the first General Council secretary (formerly known as the Business Council) for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She also worked as enrollment clerk, validating the 1953 Census for vital statistics, formerly counting every Native on the Umatilla Reservation. She worked more than 30 years as a caseworker for the state of Oregon, Division of Adult and Family Services and Senior and Disabled Services. While a state of Oregon employee she was integral in employing Natives who built Indian Lake. She worked from the age of 16 until her retirement in 1991 to care for her husband.

Berniece will be remembered for her vibrant glow, sharp intellect and her undying compassion. She

"last woman speaker of the Cayuse People." Berniece served on the 1952 all-Native Pendleton Round-Up Court, serving with surviving princess Martina Gone and 'atway Diana McKay and Audrey Blackhawk.

Berniece was married in 1963 to David "Steve" Hall for 33 years, who preceded her in death on April 14, 1996. They raised three won-

derful children: Carla Deniece Hall of Mission; James William Hall of Thornhollow; and Andrea Kaye Hall of Mission. She is survived by her sister, Mary Jane Ryan Parr of Mission and first cousins Andrew Dumont and Adele Guyer. She was very proud to brag of her six grandchildren: Veronica Jayne (Carla and Chris Harris), Cedric Stephen (James and Laurie Alexander), Peyton Daneh and Kaeleh Rae (Andrea and Preston Eagleheart); and Devon Sehleya and Dreux Skyhler (Andrea and Kyle Spencer). They loved their Kautsa with her bright, beautiful smile and giving nature. She will be missed as a loving mother, sister and grandmother. She enjoyed her outings at the casino, dinner with family, watching the Seattle Mariners baseball, planting flowers and telling funny stories.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Veronica Guyer and James Ryan, and grandparents Andrew Barnhart and Jane Kash Kash.

Her children would like

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

TUESDAY

•A caller at 12:44 p.m. told Hermiston police someone is stealing wires from an abandoned house on East Ridgeway Avenue, Hermiston.

•An employee of Greg's Sleep Center, 1725 N. First St., No. B, Hermiston, told police at 8:44 a.m. someone siphoned fuel from two vehicles belonging to the business.

•A Hermiston resident at 1:41 p.m. told police someone stole their terrier named Miko from outside their residence at Chateaubri Mobile Home Park, 1030 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

•A Hermiston man at 2:18 p.m. told the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office someone stole 40 gallons of diesel from his tractor in the 81100 block of North Ott Road, Hermiston. He said there were tire tracks leading to the tractor and the thief or thieves must have had a pump.

•Someone stole a 2008 Suzuki GSX650F motorcycle from a residence in the 200 block of Northeast Fifth Street, Irrigon, a caller at 2:34 p.m. told the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. The caller also said the motorcycle's battery was dead.

WEDNESDAY

•A man at 1:52 a.m. told the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office someone during the day had broken into his house on the 800 block of Northeast Moe Lane, Hermiston, and stole a laptop computer, a .40-caliber Smith & Weston pistol and a Ruger rifle.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

Tuesday

•Oregon State Police arrested Steven Lloyd Smith, 22, of

Echo, for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Police also cited him for open container and failure to carry proof of insurance.

•Pendleton police arrested Bradley Allan Camp, 45, for second-degree disorderly conduct and aggravated harassment after the St. Anthony Hospital Emergency Department manager at 3:47 p.m. reported Camp threw his urine "all over the floor" and threatened to punch staff.

•Pendleton police arrested Martin Jacobo Molina Hernandez, 23, of Pendleton, for second-degree animal abuse after his girlfriend at 4:55 p.m. reported Hernandez "smashed her dog's face into the ground" in Pendleton.

An officer me caller, checked out herihuahua, Pomeranian mix and saw the dog "had extensive injury to his mouth that will require a visit to the vet." The officer booked Hernandez into the Umatilla County, Pendle-

ton. •Morrow County sheriff's deputies arrested a Heppner man after a woman at 7:46 p.m. reported he entered her apartment, hit a 6-year-old child in the cheek with a door and got into a fight with another man at 200 N.E. Pioneer Drive, Heppner. Kenneth Mari-on Stookey, 49, then tried to enter a vacant apartment and got into a second fight with the same man.

Deputies booked Stookey into the Umatilla County Jail for first-degree burglary, two counts of fourth-degree assault, harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct.

MEETINGS

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

BOARDMAN RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, 1 p.m., 300 S.W. Wilson Lane.

HERMISTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 4 p.m., District office conference room, 366 E. Burl-

HEALTH DISTRICT, 7 p.m., district office, 431 E. Main St., Athena.

PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Council Chambers, Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

PILOT ROCK CITY COUN-