

## Obituaries

### Michael Anthony Graham

January 15, 1945 – June 4, 2015

Michael Anthony Graham, a resident of Sisters, died on June 4, 2015.

He was born on January 15, 1945, in Los Angeles, California, to Wayne A. Graham and Louise Whitman.

Michael's youth was spent perfecting his baseball game, a lifelong passion, as well as his creative talents for mischief. There may have been rigged light switches for exploding toilets or cars disassembled and reassembled inside his high school, but Michael's involvement can neither be confirmed nor denied. These creative efforts, however, did not distract Michael from earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Michael's life was irrevocably altered when Carolyn Berger walked into his English class at Pasadena City College. In front of the class, Michael beckoned Carolyn to come sit by him, to which Carolyn replied with a resounding "no." She only agreed out of sheer embarrassment, and 47 years later, Michael must have done something right.

After graduating with a degree in industrial engineering from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, and after a brief stint as an engineer, Michael decided to instead turn his passion for rare coins into his career of over 40 years. Having worked for and owned his own coin companies over the years, Michael was a member of the American Numismatic Association and the Professional Numismatists Guild. As a resident of Central Oregon, Michael bought and sold rare coins for over 30 years in Bend, Oregon, at his company, Mountain High Coins and Collectibles.

In addition to his love of coins, Michael loved to fish and was a big sports fanatic, always picking up ball caps from every sporting event he attended to add to his ever-growing collection. Michael could be found enjoying every major sporting event, and in the absence of any, you just might have found him scanning the channels and settling on the Women's Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee Championship. If it was a sport, it was good enough for Michael.

His soft spot for animals had him surrounded by a menagerie throughout his lifetime, but most recently, he doted on his favorite "daughter," his mini dachshund, Sadie Sue.

Michael was always helping those in need. A friend



of yours was a friend of Michael's. His love of his family was rivaled only by his intense love of Big Red chewing gum and Burt's Bees lip balm. He will be truly missed.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, his father, Wayne A. Graham, his mother, Louise Whitman Graham; and his stepmother, Bobbie Jo Roland Graham.

Michael is survived by his wife, Carolyn; and his children, Colleen McGrew (Dave) and her children Kalie, Connor, and Kelsey of Redmond; Christina Flinn and her son, Liam, of Portland; Maryann Snyder (David) and their dachshunds Cookie and Alfie, of Dallas, TX; and Leanne Weinhold (Steve) and her children Megan and Daniel of Sparks, NV. He is also survived by two sisters, Tommilu Skerl and Kathy Hayes.

A memorial mass will be held at St. Edward the Martyr Catholic Church in Sisters on July 25, at 11 a.m.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held afterward at The Open Door, 303 W. Hood Ave. in Sisters.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Michael's memory to the Make a Wish Foundation, St. Jude's, or the Bend Ronald McDonald House.

### Ron A. Laws

September 2, 1942 – July 2, 2015

Ron A. Laws, 72, of Sisters, passed away Thursday, July 2.

Ron was born September 2, 1942 to Arty and Lauraine Laws and raised in Rogue Valley.

Ron grew up in the beautiful Applegate and Rogue River valleys of Southern Oregon. It was said that in the old-growth forest growing there, if one were to listen to the wind late at night, there were stories to be heard.

In his own words:

"Often I imagined myself to be one of the great trees, standing tall and proud. In their sacred presence I felt the miracle of my heart beating, the gift of pure air filling my lungs, my feet rooted in the earth ... and in the gold light of the sun I would spread my arms as great branches and my thoughts, like birds, would soar. I was Free! Singing with my coyote brothers, my heart flying in great circles with the hawk. And when I danced naked amidst the pines, the wisdom and music of creation flowed through my being as effortlessly as wind moved through the branches above me. Sometimes, from deep in the mystery of this wondrous world, I would hear stories whispered, perhaps by the old-growth, about those who had danced in this meadow before me, and who had, each in their times, been drawn away into this busy world of Men where there were many tasks to accomplish and many lessons to learn."

In 1994 he began handcrafting Native American flutes in a shop near Bend, Oregon and continued this work in Sisters, daily visiting the rivers and mountains of Central Oregon, playing



his flutes. Ron was one of the finest craftsmen in the business and a member of the International Native American Flute Association (INAF). He was a performing musician and a founding member of the music group "COYO." He taught flute classes, played for local hospice, and held workshops with at-risk youth. He facilitated Lakota hand drum workshops and was held in deep love and regard as an elder and wisdom-keeper in his vast community bringing his teaching of love, peace, compassion and the Sacred Hoop.

Ron is survived by his son, Sean Laws; his sister Elizabeth Laws Bestul; and two grandchildren, Nicole Laws Grantham and Kyle McCreery. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held at the HarmonyHouse, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. [www.skywayflutes.com](http://www.skywayflutes.com) or 541-280-1821.

## Oregon ice-cream-truck operator arrested for drunk driving

CORNELIUS (AP) — Sheriff's Deputies in Cornelius arrested an ice-cream-truck operator on drunk-driving charges while he was selling ice cream to children.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office says a resident on Friday evening reported that an ice-cream truck was driving erratically. The caller said the ice-cream truck drove into oncoming traffic and twice hit a curb.

Deputies arrested the driver, 38-year-old Noe Andrade Silva, as he was selling ice cream to kids out of his music-playing van. Deputies say Silva had been driving around and selling ice cream under the influence of alcohol.

Silva was lodged in the Washington County Jail on \$2,500 bail. A court date has not yet been set.

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