

Obituary

Margitti (Gitti) Agnes Elfriede Kiefer Bell

September 26, 1926 – March 29, 2017

Gitti died at home with her spouse, Sandra Rosencrantz, at her side.

Gitti was born in Wiesbaden, Germany to Karl and Josepha (Egenolf) Kiefer. She married George Junior Bell, an American, in 1947. In late 1948 she, George, and newborn son moved to America. Gitti entered America legally, and she and her son became legal American citizens. They made their home in Merced, California, where Gitti was a dental hygienist for more than 40 years. After George died in 2004, she moved to Sisters in June of 2006.

On March 10, 2014 she married Sandra Rosencrantz. Her wedding vows were "Dubist mein und ich bin dein" (you are mine and I am yours).

She was preceded in death by her husband George, a brother and a cousin, Karl Kiefer and Kurt Kiefer, of Wiesbaden.

She is survived by her spouse Sandra Rosencrantz, son Jim Bell (Tammy) of Sisters, daughter Marlia



Bell-Wilson (Don) of Merced, CA. She has four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"Knowing the end is not far away does not make the end any easier to bear when it comes. The greatest comfort is to have had the privilege and honor to love and be loved by such a wonderful person, however short that time allowed. Even with Alzheimer's, she remembered me to the very end, even when she was mad at me. I am so grateful for that. There are no words to express the enormous gratitude I have for the support of Hospice of Redmond-Sisters." — Sandra Rosencrantz

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Sisters fire district improves rating

Residents of the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District may see reduced fire insurance rates as a result of a recently completed survey by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators and others by providing information about risk. ISO has evaluated and classified over 46,000 fire protection areas across the United States utilizing a standardized fire suppression rating schedule.

ISO assigns a public protection classification rating to fire departments on a scale from 1 to 10. A one is the best rating possible, with only 241 departments in the country achieving this rating. A rating of 10 indicates the department does not meet the minimum criteria for recognition or may have areas of the fire district where homes are located more than five miles from a fire station.

The District received a Class 3 rating, which places it in the top 10 percent of all departments in the United States. The Class 3 rating applies to properties within five miles of a recognized fire station which includes the stations located on Elm Street in Sisters, Buffalo Drive in Squaw Creek Canyon Estates and the Camp Sherman Fire Station. The District's previous rating was a split rating of 4/8b with properties having a higher rating if they were located more than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. The new rating provides a flat rate for all properties within five miles of a fire station.

The District also received a new rating for some property owners whose homes are located between five and seven miles from a fire station. Owners of these properties would have been rated as a class 10 in the past. The new rating is a 10W which recognizes the District's ability to reduce property loss during a fire utilizing water tenders to bring water to the

fire.

The District was last evaluated in 2013 and has made significant improvements since then. The District expanded automatic and mutual aid agreements with Cloverdale and Black Butte Ranch Fire Districts, improved training programs and staffing. The District also received nearly maximum points for its community risk reduction programs.

Fire Chief Roger Johnson said, "We are very excited about our new rating and how it may help the residents of the District." Johnson also credited the partnerships that were critical in receiving the improved rating, "We have worked very closely with our neighboring agencies to improve services and to integrate our emergency response system."

The City of Sisters and other community water associations were also a critical factor in the rating. Forty percent of the overall score is based on the water supply in the community. The new rating becomes effective July 1.

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