

# Obituaries

## Summer Jean Collins

September 16, 1995 – August 5, 2020

*“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.” — Psalm 143:8*

Summer Jean Collins, 24, joined the angels in Heaven to dance eternally on August 5. Though it feels she left earth too soon, the years she lived here left a beautiful impact. Born in Medford, Oregon on September 16, 1995 to Cary and Shannon Collins, Summer was a radiant light in the lives of her family of four siblings from birth.

In school, Summer thrived in education, leadership, and had a heart for activism. Her hard work in athletics earned her a full scholarship to Kansas University where she played on the NCAA Division 1 Women’s Tennis Team. Summer was loved by her coaches and teammates.

Over the past three years Summer has integrated her passion for life into the people and community of Central Oregon. A lust for outdoor adventure, she could always be found exploring her beloved Sisters wilderness and Cascade Lakes with



her dog Banjo, with friends snowboarding Hoodoo and Mt. Bachelor, teaching tennis, and serving drinks, hugs, and smiles in the Bend and Sisters communities.

Summer was a beautiful soul who sowed kindness and love in the lives of everyone she came across. Those seeds she planted will continue to blossom and bless all she touched.

Summer is survived by her beloved Jordan Wellman, her parents Cary and Shannon, and siblings Hillary, Courtney,

and Josiah.

A celebration of life will take place at the Sisters home of her grandparents, Jim and Barbara Hamilton, on Thursday, August 13, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations in Summer’s honor to a Central Oregon animal rights or rescue organization of choice.

*“You are altogether beautiful my love, there is no flaw in you.” — Song of Solomon 4:7*

*Obituaries Policy: The Nugget Newspaper does not charge a fee to publish obituaries. Obituaries may be up to 400 words and include one photo. Obituaries outside these guidelines are handled by The Nugget Newspaper advertising department. Obituary submissions must be received by noon on Monday. Obituaries may be submitted to The Nugget by email or hand delivery to our office located at 442 E. Main Ave., Sisters.*

## Stephen Ponder

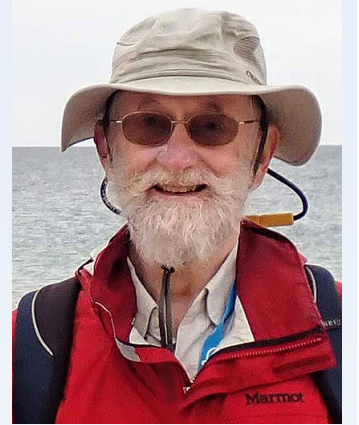
June 30, 1942 – August 8, 2020

Retired journalist, professor, and river rafter Stephen Ponder of Sisters died unexpectedly Saturday, August 8, 2020, following complications from a lung infection and subsequent heart failure. He was 78.

Dr. Ponder was an active volunteer with the Deschutes Land Trust, Discover Your Forest and other environmental groups. An avid outdoorsman, he spent many years conquering mountain trails on foot and wilderness rivers behind the oars.

Dr. Ponder was born in Bakersfield, California, on June 30, 1942. He grew up in Wenatchee, Washington, worked his way through college as a U.S. Forest Service lookout on remote mountaintops in the North Cascades, and hiked nearly every peak within 500 miles.

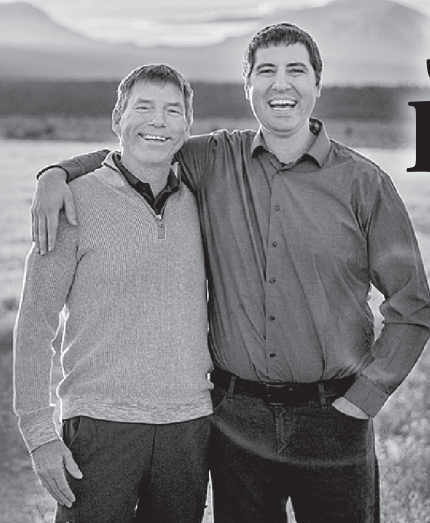
During his journalism career, he reported for The Associated Press and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, among others. A graduate of the University of



Washington with both bachelor’s and doctoral degrees, he taught at the University of Oregon in the School of Journalism and Communication for more than 20 years.

He rowed the Colorado River five times through the Grand Canyon, was a noted scholar of the presidency and the press, and was an award-winning teacher whose unending patience with his students’ research and writing was legendary.

Survivors include his wife of 19 years, Kathryn B. Campbell of Sisters, two sons and four grandchildren. No services are planned at this time, but donations in his honor may be directed to the Deschutes Land Trust.



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