

Obituaries

Thomas A. Stoery

February 25, 1932 – August 19, 2021

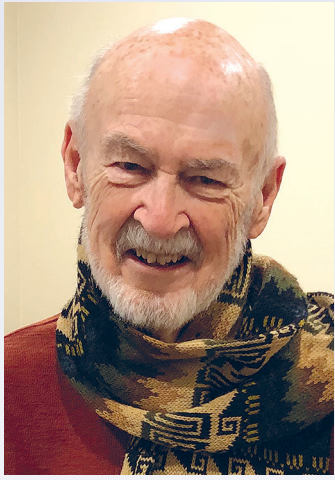
Thomas Anton (Tom) Stoery passed away peacefully on August 19 at the age of 89. Tom was a resident of The Lodge, a residential retirement community in Sisters, where he resided for two years.

Tom is survived by his son, Scott Stoery, and Scott's wife, Emilee, in Sisters; and his grandsons, Christian and Emerson. His daughter Andrea, her husband, Greg, and grandson Elias live in Texas.

Tom was born in Estherville, Iowa on February 25, 1932 — the third child of Anton and Embar Stoery. His parents, as well as his siblings, Elizabeth and Samuel, preceded him in death.

Following graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1956, he joined the Rock Island Railroad in its management training program. He continued in management positions for 25 years. His grandfather Caspar and his father, Anton, were also employed by Rock Island for a total of 117 years of family employment with the company.

He continued in the transportation industry in various capacities in the development and management of short line railroads in California and Nevada, as a broker of small railroads, and numerous



consulting activities.

He was very adventurous and recently went on a private flight with Outlaw Aviation from Sisters to see the Columbia Gorge, Mount Hood, and the Oregon Coast. He also loved the outdoors and picnics on the Metolius.

He was a proud, loving, and happy father and grandfather. He had a vigorous curiosity about the world and an appreciation of peoples' histories and personal stories. His stories and anecdotes will live on for many years.

Jay Edwin Leonhardy

October 30, 1959 – August 9, 2021

Jay Edwin Leonhardy passed away Monday, August 9, 2021 in Santa Isobel, California, at the age of 61.

Jay was born in Burlingame, California, on October 30, 1959 and grew up in Cottage Grove and Sisters, Oregon.

He spent his adult years in the San Francisco Bay Area, and was known for his political activism. He worked with Sane Freeze, an anti-nuclear organization, as a lobbyist and canvasser; he was the chief of staff for Oakland City Councilman Henry Chang; he wrote grants for the Native American Health Center in Oakland; he was the director of youth works for the city of Richmond, finding funding and job training for youth at risk; and he led numerous campaigns for people seeking political positions in the Bay Area. These are just highlights of

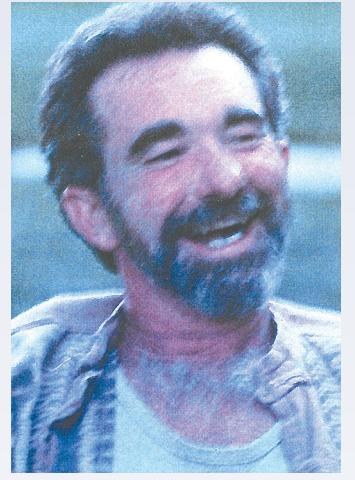
his many accomplishments throughout his work life. The people he helped during this time are innumerable.

His sense of adventure led him to Australia, the Middle East, and Indonesia; and he had friends wherever he traveled.

Jay spent his retirement as a "rock hound," traveling from the sun stone mines in Oregon to the tourmaline mine in Santa Isobel where he lived and worked. He shared his love and knowledge of digging rocks with others who turned the dirt in hopes of finding treasures once the dirt was washed away.

Jay was notorious for his crazy driving habits. He terrified anyone who had to ride with him. His favorite saying was: "Drive fast, take chances, and don't forget to transform."

Jay is predeceased by his brother, Jerry Leonhardy, and his father, Bruce



Leonhardy.

He is survived by his mother, Roberta (Bobbe) Leonhardy; his two sisters, Rachel and Tracy Leonhardy; his aunts, Adele Leonhardy Irvin and Terry Leonhardy; and his cousins, Galen, Robert, and Jonelle Leonhardy, Matthew Irvin, Rhonda Wirth, and Michelle Dellit. He was "Unka Jay" to numerous children of family and friends.

A casual celebration of life will be held for family and friends later this year at his mother's home in Bend, Oregon.

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Portraits OF SISTERS

A fifth-generation rancher and native Texan, *Hobbs Margaret* now describes himself as a first-generation grazier. The 34-year-old grew up in the trade but shifted when he found a passion for music. That musical career moved him around — pursuing a degree in guitar and owning a variety of musical businesses that would eventually flop. He and his wife, along with their 3-month-old daughter, hit rock bottom and jotted out a plan to take up ranching again. With \$15,000 and a broken-down truck, Hobbs started Sisters Cattle Co. The local cattle outfit uses grazing techniques that benefit the land and the animals by implementing high-density grazing patterns that work the soil and vegetation. Hobbs leases land that feeds his cattle, and he rejuvenates the land in ways not seen for centuries, all with the focus on a better ecosystem.

"Ranching cattle is a lot like music for me," he says. "It's an ecological symphony and the cattle are the conductors. This is where I get my creativity now."

THIS MONTH'S "PORTRAITS OF SISTERS" PRESENTED BY:



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PHOTO AND STORY BY *Cody Rheault*