

**OBITUARIES**

**Elizabeth "Bessie" Turner**



Jan. 21, 1929—Aug. 15, 2017  
Bessie Turner — wife, mother, grandmother, friend — went home to be with her savior Jesus on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017. She was 88.

Bessie is survived by her sister Yvonne; brother-in-law Charlie; her children: Tracy, Vern (Dawn), Steel (Shirley), Robin, Jill (Owen Von Flue) and 17 grandchildren.

Bessie was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; siblings Audrey and Albert; and sons-in-law Steve Teeney and Scott Fix.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, at Sil-

ver Creek Fellowship in Silverton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bessie's name at Mercy Ships at [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org).

**James M. Cullen**



Nov. 3, 1958 — Aug. 20, 2017

James M. "Jimmy" Cullen, 58, passed away at Salem Health hospital on Aug. 20, 2017.

He was born Nov. 3, 1958, to Jim and Betty (Ulven) Cullen in Portland. Jimmy grew up in the Silverton area. He attended Bethany, Central Howell and Silverton High School. His favorite things to do were fishing, taking country drives and being with his family.

Jimmy is preceded in

death by his father, Jim Cullen. He is survived by his mother, Betty (Cullen) Roemer, of Mt. Angel; step-father Christian Roemer of Mt. Angel; and siblings Betty Rae Wilton of Salem, Kathy M. (Bill) Bledsoe of Silverton, John R. (Terrie) Cullen of Yuma, Arizona, Debbie (Dewey) Lenaburg of Salem, David (Sue) Cullen of Kent, Washington, and Jennifer (Jeff) Kuschnick of Mt. Angel.

His greatest joy was helping his mother and any family members at any time. He was always there to give a hand and talk while doing it. Anyone who knew Jimmy knew he loved to talk. He was loved by many relatives and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the

Willamette Valley Humane Society. Jimmy loved animals and was a very softhearted guy.

A celebration of Jimmy's life was held Aug. 26 at Betty's home in Mt. Angel.

Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel of Silverton.

**Elsie Adrienne Hegerberg**



June 4, 1940 — Aug. 18, 2017

Elsie Adrienne Hegerberg, 77, passed away in Silverton on Aug. 18, 2017.

She was born on June 4, 1940, to Henry and Elsie (Bels) Enders in Saginaw, Michigan. She married Edwin "Ed" Hegerberg on Feb. 24, 1958, in Berkley,

Michigan. They had 4 children. Elsie graduated from college in dentistry after her children were in school. She enjoyed painting, listening to 50s music and was a huge movie buff. She traveled around the world — some of her favorite places were Hawaii, Luxembourg, Bangkok and Singapore. Elsie was a loving wife and mother.

Elsie is survived by her husband, Ed; children Ingrid Hegerberg of Half Moon Bay, California, Shawn (Helen) Hegerberg of Sherwood, Grant (Lisa) Hegerberg of Seattle, Washington, and Guy (Judi) Hegerberg of Anchorage, Alaska. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Memorial services were held Aug. 26 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Angel.

Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel, Silverton.

**Elijah Stephen Luevanos**

Aug. 8, 2017 — Aug. 15, 2017

Elijah Stephen Luevanos, 8 days old, passed away at OHSU in Portland.

Baby Elijah is survived by his parents, Joel and Alyssa Luevanos; his brother Aiden; grandparents Steve and Christy Knox of Silverton and Lisa Menzie and Faustino Luevanos of Salem; as well as his great grandparents, Gilbert Knox of Eugene and Cheryl Knox of Springfield.

Graveside services were held Aug. 19 at Bethany Pioneer Cemetery.

**Balloon**

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there were concerns as the clock ticked and problems arose.

Belle Doan, an incoming senior at Silverton High, was part of the journalism team which documented the project each step of the way. She spoke of the anxiety the team felt, but said the successful launch eased any concerns.

"We were a little nervous about the launch,

(but) the wind speed wasn't as bad as we expected, so that was phenomenal," Doan said. "It couldn't have gone better."

The balloon, which was attached to payload boxes containing data collectors, GPS units and cameras, ascended through clear skies and topped out at 105,000 feet before the balloon burst.

This is the point where concern came back into play.

At around the 100,000-foot mark, the atmosphere is very thin — a layer Helms referred to as

"near space." The balloon began to fall slowly, but eventually gained speed. Helms suspects that the force from the sped-up ascent is what caused the parachute line to break.

This meant that a pair of payload boxes plummeted back to earth from a height of around 90,000 to 95,000 feet. To make matters worse, GPS tracking was disabled, so tracking of the boxes vanished.

"We were in the blind," Helms said.

That's where observant south Salem residents come in.

The team had labeled the payload boxes with Helms' contact information, and a pair of calls alerted him to the location of their boxes. Both boxes were eventually retrieved in separate backyards of south Salem residences.

Data collectors will be sent off to the University of Central Arkansas, which will analyze the data and publish results at a future date. Video is also being analyzed by Silverton High staff and students.

It wasn't easy, but ultimately the balloon

launched and the team retrieved the payload that went up to collect data.

Helms feels that this is a significant reason this project will pay off for the students involved — every step of the way presented obstacles, which forced the students to problem-solve their way to answers.

"In a very real and literal sense they had to

learn how to overcome (problems)," Helms said. "They had to deal with setbacks and defeat. They'll be able to reflect back on this when they're doing bigger and better things in life."

"I think that this was a win on many levels."

[iclarkson@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:iclarkson@statesmanjournal.com) or 503-399-6833.

**View**

Continued from Page 1A

Smith Rock State Park (crazy crowds) and the Ochoco Mountains (naked hippie festival), and stopped instead at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

The place was already overrun. Parks officials had closed numerous trailheads for the eclipse and sharply limited the number of cars that would be allowed in the next morning.

"Please," a park ranger we quizzed about entering said. "If you have another place you can go, go there. We're expecting a madhouse."

Now what? We took out the maps. We poured over the possibilities. It was about 5:30 p.m. Darkness would be coming soon, and we still didn't have a clue where we'd spend the night, much less view the eclipse.

Then it came to me. One of my favorite places in all of Oregon was in the eclipse's path of totality. Even better, it was within striking distance.

That place was the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, one the best under-the-radar backpacking destinations in Oregon.

With light fading, we headed to Prairie City — where streets were filled with dancing eclipse-revelers — and turned south toward a range of 8,000- and 9,000-foot mountains.

On the way in, we were met by U.S. Forest Service rangers warning people about the numbers heading into the wilderness. Keep in mind, this is an area that normally gets few visitors. If you see more than a few groups backpacking there, it's a surprise.

"I've never seen anywhere near this many people in this area," said Robert Bergschneider, a ranger with the Prairie City district of Malheur National Forest.

We drove up the gravel road toward Strawberry Basin Trailhead, parked on the side of the road and ate a quick dinner of freeze-dried food around 9 p.m. We slept in the back of our trucks, thinking about the next morning.

We woke at 4:30 a.m. and hiked up the road to the trailhead, then followed the trail through dark forest and morning's reddish-orange glow to one of Oregon's most beautiful sights.



ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Early eclipse totality at Strawberry Lake in Eastern Oregon's Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

mers wide and blue, surrounded on both sides by rugged mountain peaks and glassy rivers that roll into the 36-acre body of water.

Just as the rangers said, the lake was surrounded by tents, some camped at suspect locations. Overall, though, the scene wasn't awful — it was just a lot more people than normal at a beautiful spot.

We toured the lake, meeting people who'd made the trip. They were mostly from Oregon, California and Washington, but said they'd met backpackers from Sweden, Norway and Germany.

"Happy Eclipse Day," hikers said as we passed.

The scene was joyful, as campers traded plans on where to view and photograph the eclipse. Some had dutifully scouted the sun as it rose each morning and told Jeff and I which ridge it would rise over.

Krista Swan, of Portland, had backpacked to Strawberry Lake with her family a few days earlier.

"We're nature lovers, so for this once-in-a-lifetime experience we wanted to be in a beautiful place like this," she said. "There's a lot of people — at least 100 tents — but everybody is happy and friendly. It's a real excited feeling."

Three generations of the Scovil family from Eugene — grandpa Roger, father Nate and two kids Griffin and Mason, had also backpacked in early.

"We wanted to experience it out in nature," Nate Scovil said. "We figured we'd make it a backpacking trip, and have the eclipse at the end to really seal those memories in."

The eclipse started with little warning, while people were still claiming their spots around the lake. Everyone seemed so focused on the time listed for totality, 10:16 a.m., that it came as almost a surprise when the moon started crashing into the sun.

"Hey, it started," somebody yelled.

The unique quality of watching the eclipse in a place like Strawberry Lake immediately became apparent. The cliffs surrounding the lake began to darken, first into shadow, then an odd shade of purple. As the temperature dropped, clouds appeared in the sky, where none had been previously.

As totality approached, a few stars appeared in the sky.

Howls echoed between canyon walls as the lake dropped into darkness. In a weird way, the sound reminded me of a concert crowd that's just heard the first chords of their fa-

vorite song.

It was, of course, over too quickly. Especially for those of us frantically snapping pictures and fumbling with camera equipment.

Luckily, other people filled in the blanks.

"I gotta tell you, I saw the eclipse in 1979 and the only thing I remember was it getting dark," Roger Scovil said. "This time, seeing corona around the sun was just awesome. I can't think of anything to compare it to."

So did seeing the eclipse in the wilderness really create a better experience?

"I think so," Nate Scovil said. "It's not just the eclipse. It's the entire experience — camping, hiking and then the eclipse — that made it so awesome."

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