

# Palisades

Continued from Page 1B

a leaf between my fingers releases a pungent perfume of pine oil, lemon and musk. The aromatic oils in sagebrush leaves render them unpalatable to many animals during the growing season. When winter arrives the chemical content decreases, making them a protein-rich food source for mule deer during the most stressful time of year.

Surprisingly, winter browsing also benefits the sagebrush plants themselves. As the deer prune the branches, the aboveground portion of the bush becomes smaller. The roots below remain undisturbed and continue to take up enough moisture and nutrients from the soil to nourish a full-sized bush. The result is a springtime burst of expanded growth as newly formed shoots and buds receive extra water. Plant and animal benefit each other so both can survive.

I pass the gnarled, twisty trunk of an older sagebrush next to the trail. A contorted trunk and spreading branches will hold snow like a living snow fence,

releasing the meltwater slowly as temperatures rise in spring. This natural drip system irrigates grasses and forbs that sprout on the wind-protected side of the sagebrush.

Continuing down the trail, I hike under a lone juniper tree and count four American Robins gorging themselves on juniper berries. I watch the nearest robin deftly pluck a silver-blue berry (actually a modified cone) with its beak, toss back its head and swallow the pulpy orb whole.

Soon, I retrace my steps through the fossiliferous rubble at the base of the palisades. Above me, an unseen Canyon Wren delivers a repeated one-note buzzy call from one of the elevated clefts. As it hides between the striated towers formed from an ancient tropical past, it teases me with a winter call that drifts above the sagebrush-covered hillside. The sound seems to reverberate from the primordial rocks themselves, as if to remind me that nothing in nature lasts forever.

*Bobbie Snead is a local naturalist and nature educator. She can be reached at [naturalist.column@gmail.com](mailto:naturalist.column@gmail.com)*



Juniper berries seen in the Clarno Palisades in eastern Oregon.

BOBBIE SNEAD / SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

# Miller

Continued from Page 1B

demic, hopefully not too-distant future: Lots of meet-and-greets with friends and strangers on long walks, probably masked; less at first, then no crossing the street to avoid human interactions.

But unlike Harry, appreciating just how special normal feels. Because that qualifier still hangs over everything. “If I’m still around.”

## I can dig it

After the past week’s column about 2021 clam tides, I got an email from a reader in Northern California who’s planning a visit to the Beaver State in April.

“I’ve never been clamming and would like to know if I could hire a Charter or Guide service...”

I’ll write back to you personally with more information.

Nobody I’ve talked to knows about any clam guides or clamming charters, although I have participated in free

classes and clinics in the past, and hope to do so in the future..

But for the shovel-ready wannabes and never-beens, it’s easy-peasy to be a self-starter.

And once you get to your destination, anyone with a shovel or rake in-hand usually is more than willing to show you the ropes.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is an excellent online information source, its Crabbing & Clamming pages at Crabbing & Clamming | Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife ([myodfw.com](http://myodfw.com))

The home page has links to tide tables and purchasing shellfish permits (good for both clams and crabs), and there also is a link to “Where to bay clam in Oregon” features maps of bays with hot spots as well as which clams you will find there.

**Quote of the week:** Another corona casualty: My just-expired 2020 salmon/steelhead/halibut/sturgeon tag. Spotless as a toddler’s heart.

Contact *Henry Miller at [HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com](mailto:HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com)*

# Obituaries

## Jamea B. French

**SILVERTON** - Jamea B. French, age 77, died on Dec 2 at her home in Silverton. Jamea died peacefully with her loving husband of 55 years by her side. She lost her 5 year battle with dementia.

Jamea was born June 3, 1943 in Portland Oregon to James F. and Harriet B. Turner. She grew up in Corvallis where she was part of an experimental group of gifted and talented students. After high school, she entered Oregon State University and obtained a bachelors degree in General Science. In 1965 she married Larry R. French and then worked at the university for several years before moving to Madison, Wisconsin where her husband entered a Doctoral program. Jamea again worked at the University, starting at the bottom and rising quickly to the position of Departmental Secretary, a position she also held at OSU. Jamea’s husband completed his degree and was offered a position at the University of Wisconsin. The couple bought a house, and had a son, Bryson James French. In addition to the rigors of motherhood, Jamea continued her interest in the natural world by taking classes to become a guide at a local natural area. Jamea and her husband began to miss the natural beauty and geographic diversity of their native state. Finally after more than a ten year absence, the couple returned to Oregon to raise their son and pursue new careers.

Jamea had strong ties to the Silverton area. She was the granddaughter of Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge who started in a horse and buggy and practiced in Silverton for 60 years. Jamea had been visiting Silverton and the Kleinsorge house for most of her life, but in 1981 her family moved into the house and began to build a new life.

Jamea was quick to smile at strangers and made friends easily. She expanded her circle with people from all walks of life. All were of equal importance. Jamea loved to walk outdoors and was frequently observed on city streets



and nearby country roads walking briskly and chatting to walking partners. Dogs along her walk routes anticipated her visits.

Jamea loved to travel to places of great natural beauty and visited most of the national parks on the west coast. Jamea and her husband were avid birdwatchers and annual spring visits to birding hotspots all over the USA and Canada yielded a lifetime North American bird list of over 500 species.

Jamea had strong interest in the art and history of Native American populations. She visited cultural and historic sites as well as museums all over the West. She visited and studied most of the ancient ruins and cliff dwellings of the Desert Southwest.

Jamea’s favorite destination was Hawaii. More than a dozen trips were made to observe the rapidly declining populations of native forest birds on all of the islands, volcanic eruptions on the Big Island, rock art of the ancient Hawaiians, reef fish, and just to bask in the natural beauty of the islands. Jamea loved good food and drink. An important part of every trip and adventure was searching for the best restaurant and brewpub in the area. Sharing good food and drink with family and friends was an important part of her life.

For the first 72 years of her life, Jamea lived the American dream. Intelligence hard work, perseverance, and thrift were rewarded with a loving family, a multitude of friends, a comfortable lifestyle and personal fulfillment. However the part where “they lived happily ever after” was cut far, far too short. We will miss her.

Jamea is survived by her husband, Larry French of Silverton, son Bryson J. French (Jamie) of Sisters, Grandchildren Cody James French and Makenzie Marie French of Sisters, sister Elizabeth Parkins (Ron), of Carmel Valley, CA, and brother in law Guy French (Beverly) of Healdsburg, CA. A celebration of Jamea’s life will be held post pandemic. Please RSVP Larry French to insure an invitation. Memorial contributions can be sent to Silverton Area Community Aid (SACA).

## Alice Harriette Sichley

**MT. ANGEL** - Alice Sichley 94, of Mt. Angel, left her family & home on Jan 2, 2021. Into the loving hands of God; His plan for her life eternal is complete. She was born on Oct 6, 1926 to Severin and Nellie Lyonais in Williston, North Dakota. She was the 4th Of 5 children.

Alice grew up on a farm in Williston with a love and appreciation for life & Gods’ creation. There, at age 6 and Annette age 7, they walked with big sister Helen age 14, a half mile to a one room school house.

In the mid 1930’s during the depression, the family lost their farm. Life was hard with winter blizzards, summer droughts and dust storms. Nothing grew and swarms of grass hoppers ate anything that was left. There was no electricity or plumbing and they walked daily to their well to get water. Her family then moved to her uncle’s farm in Fairview, Montana and worked there until her father found other work.

Having little to almost nothing, she never complained and found happiness with her family in the simplest of things. The family moved again leasing a farm near Dor, Montana and going to a 3 room school house there. Again, after several moves in that area, her family moved to Portland, Oregon in the early 1940’s where jobs were plentiful during the war. She & her sister Annette finished school and graduated from Madeline Catholic High in June 1945. As teenage girls they found life in the city fun and exciting with many opportunities. She also worked part time jobs Montgomery Ward’s mail order department and at Fred Meyers as cashier. During the war gas was rationed, She enjoyed having to ride the street cars everywhere instead.

Soon after graduating Alice went to a Convent in Everett, Washington to study to be a nun but then had a different calling and came home a year later. She then got a job working as a file clerk for Dunn & Bradstreet.

Alice met her husband Carl (Dean) Sichley in Dec. 1944, they became friends. Sometime after returning home from Everett Dean came to see her and soon afterwards they began to date. They enjoyed music, dancing and skating. She and her sister Annette both became engaged so both couples



decided on a double wedding and Married on Jan 24, 1948 in Kalispel, Montana. The happy couples returned to Portland and began families.

Alice became a wife, then a full time loving mother with the birth of 9 children. They remained in Portland raising the family, but had been looking to move south and out of the city. She was widowed at (40) In January of 1967, Dean (44) husband of 19 years died in a fatal accident. She moved the family to Mt. Angel later that year with the help of her parents and her strong but simple faith in God, always looking to the example of the Virgin Mary. Her parents soon moved here also and assisted her with raising our family. The youngest child was over a year old.

Later in life when the family was grown, she was a caregiver to families with elderly in need. She worked in the infirmary for the Benedictine Sisters. She also worked as a care aid for the mentally challenged home in Mt. Angel. She volunteered visiting the sick and those with no family at the Benedictine Nursing Center and would bring music to share with them. Also, she was a member of St. Mary’s Parish since 1967.

Alice’s always loved seeing her grandchildren, 76 in all.

She enjoyed gardening, especially her flowers. She loved music and liked to dance. Her sister Annette shared that love and they would go to the Oktoberfest every year for Polka music and dance.

Mom was loved dearly and will be missed by us all until our final days in eternity. She named each one of us after a saint to help us with life’s journey. In her quiet example and simple ways she had great influence in all our lives.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl (Dean) Sichley; son, Vincent Sichley; 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild; parents, Severin & Nellie Lyonais; sisters, Annette Murphy, Helen Barnhart; brothers John Lyonais, Johnny Lyonais. She is survived by daughters: Therese Kalberer (Tony) Molalla; Bernadette Hamberger (Lance) Mt. Angel; Anna McClung (Rick) Yachats; Helen Fetsch (Rick) Scotts Mills; sons: Tony Sichley (Chris) Mt. Angel; Joe Sichley (Debi) Silverton; Mike Sichley (Roxanne) Portland; Pat Sichley Mt. Angel; 25 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Viewing will be from Noon to 6:00 pm Tuesday Jan 12 & Wednesday Jan 13, Unger Chapel: 190 Railroad Ave, Mt. Angel, OR.

A Rosary at 7:00 pm Jan 14, 2021 at St. Mary Church

A Funeral Mass at 11:00am, Jan 15, 2021, St. Mary Church (Fr Ralph Recker, OSB will officiate) Mass livestreamed [www.stmarymtangel.org](http://www.stmarymtangel.org)

Arrangements by: Unger Funeral Chapel-Mt. Angel