

OBITUARIES

Patricia J. (Miller) Spivey

1937-2021
La Grande

Patricia “Pat” Spivey, 84, of La Grande and formerly of Baker City, died Aug. 17, 2021, at Wild-flower Lodge. At her request, there will not be a formal funeral service. A private family gathering will be held at an appropriate time following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also known as Pat, she was born March 26, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan, to Charles Dorington Miller and Maude Marie (Cary) Miller. She was a long-time resident of Baker City, after moving from the Ontario-Payette area during the late 1950s.

Pat married Clyde Spivey, of Baker City, in 1960. They raised their family in Baker and remained together until Clyde’s passing in 2011.

When her children were grown, Pat worked at a variety of jobs. Her favorite was being the librarian at South Baker Elementary School, where she worked for many years until she retired. The one job that she bragged about the most, though, was when she worked at the Hotel Baker and served room service to John F. and Jackie Kennedy while they were on a political campaign.

After retirement Pat volunteered for the Red Cross blood drives, at Saint Elizabeth Hospital and at the senior center serving meals.

Pat loved going, even though she was famous for losing her car keys and being late. During the summertime, when it was hot and the kids were young, you could often find the family at the Marble Creek Picnic area, enjoying the cool moun-

tain air and the cold clear water. Pat also loved vacations and built some of the best memories for her children while camping



Spivey

their way around Oregon. In later years Pat and Clyde enjoyed camping in their travel trailer at Phillips Lake Campground.

Pat loved Christmas and was known to keep her Christmas tree on display until late spring, at least once into July. She kept her age a great secret. It wasn’t until dementia set in that she admitted she wasn’t 26 (as she had been for at least 50+ years).

Surviving relatives include her brother and sister-in-law, David and Lynn Oliver of Edmonds, Washington; children and their spouses, Terry Mitchell of Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, Robert “Bob” and Shirley Mitchell of Cheney, Washington, Thomas Supan of Baker City, Jeanne “Tammy” Supan-Curry and husband, Butch Curry, of Portland, and Deb Spivey-Koopman and husband, Rod Koopman, of La Grande; and 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brother, Dr. Charles D. Miller, DDS, of The Dalles.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Best Friends of Baker, your local food bank or a charity of your choice in care of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

Stephen A. Cruikshank

1947-2021
La Grande

Stephen Alan Cruikshank, 73, of La Grande, died Aug. 10, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A service with military honors will be held Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande. Attendees will have their choice of indoor or portable outdoor seating.

Stephen was born Dec. 27, 1947, in La Grande, to Marion Glenn Cruikshank and Hazel LaVelle (Hallgarth) Cruikshank. The family moved to Grants Pass, and after Stephen graduated from high school he entered the U.S. Navy and was trained as a jet engine mechanic.

On July 21, 1972, Stephen married Susana Ser-

volo in the Philippines. He served for 25 years in the Navy before his honorable discharge as a chief petty officer in Jacksonville, Florida. After returning to live in La Grande in 1992, he worked for Walmart in maintenance and later in sporting goods until he retired again.

Stephen enjoyed the outdoors, including hunting and fishing.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Susana of La Grande; sons, Stephen Jr. of Jacksonville, Florida, Daniel of La Grande, and John of La Grande; brother, David of Vancouver, Washington; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother.



DEATH NOTICE

Leland R. Sams

La Grande

Leland R. Sams, 90, of La Grande, died Aug. 21, 2021, at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, AUG. 20

9:39 a.m. — A caller reported an assault on the 2200 block of Cove Avenue, La Grande. Police responded and separated the parties.

12:46 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of indecent exposure on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue. Officers responded but did not find the subject.

1:07 p.m. — A caller reported a suspicious person on the 1100 block of Cedar Street, La Grande. Officers responded and checked the subject’s welfare. The person just needed water.

2:55 p.m. — A caller reported a domestic disturbance at a residence on the 800 block of North 15th Avenue, Elgin. Union County sheriff’s deputies responded and found the situation did not rise to the level of a mandatory arrest.

4:20 p.m. — A caller reported a theft on the 1100 block of Birch Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and took information.

11:39 p.m. — A caller reported a dog at large in the area of Hemlock Street and Jefferson Avenue, La Grande.

SATURDAY, AUG. 21

12:41 a.m. — A La Grande police officer found a female runaway on the 1500 block of Washington Avenue and returned her to her parent.

10:05 a.m. — A caller reported livestock on the loose in the area of 59800 Glass Hill Road, La Grande.

2:11 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue on a report of a juvenile disturbance. Officers separated the parties.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

• LA GRANDE — The La Grande School Board will convene for a work session Wednesday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m. in the library at Central Elementary School, 701 H Ave. During the work session Nancy Golden will talk about equity training and Superintendent George Mendoza will discuss Adams Avenue property. The work session will be followed by an executive session.

The meeting will be accessible to the public in person, online and by phone. Go to <https://www.lagrandesd.org/page/board-meetings> for instructions on how to join.

BRIEFS

No skills necessary for volunteers at Flora School work party Aug. 28

FLORA — The next work party at the Flora School, 80974 College Lane, will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28. Volunteers are sought to work outside on the sign and inside on the library, books copier and more. Bring your skills or willingness to learn, tools, work clothes and a sack lunch. All ages welcome.

Masks, gloves and sanitizer will be provided for those working inside. For more information Dan or Vanessa at

541-828-7010 or email floraschool@tds.net.

Wallowa Lake Lodge cancels indoor lecture series

WALLOWA LAKE LODGE — The indoor Thursday night lecture series at the Wallowa Lake Lodge has been canceled for the rest of the season. The lodge’s announcement stated, “Wallowa Lake Lodge feels responsible for protecting our community and visitors by canceling our indoor speaker series.” The outdoor music events will continue at the lodge. Masks are required indoors. — *The Observer*

The rest of the story about the bank robbery

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — One of the more unique events during Chief Joseph Days was the reenactment of the infamous 1896 robbery of the First Bank of Joseph, performed during the CJD parade on Saturday, July 21.

And, one of the more unique aspects of that was that one of the robbers was Dave Tucker, father of Harley Tucker, the man credited with starting the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo. To continue with the uniqueness, Tucker was caught, did his time and returned to Joseph to eventually serve as a vice president of the bank he once robbed.

The old bank building now houses the Wallowa County Museum, was built in 1887 and is believed to be the oldest building in Joseph, according to the county website. After serving as a bank until 1917, it became a doctor’s office, a city events center, library and city hall. Vacated in 1973, it was renovated and, in 1978, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and became the Wallowa County Museum.

Darlene Turner, daughter of Harley Tucker and granddaughter of Dave, said her granddad never discussed his wilder days.

“He lived with us for four or five years,” she said Monday, Aug. 2. “I didn’t know about it until I was in high school. That was never

talked about at our house.”

She said that given the robbery is both local and family history, she’s researched it a lot.

“I’ve read lots of stories about it,” she said.

Robbery

Dave Tucker was about 25 when he got caught up in the robbery plot. He’d been working in the county herding sheep and two men who were experienced stickup “artists” — James Brown and Cyrus Fitzhugh — came to work with Tucker shearing sheep, according to the recollections of J. D. McCully, who worked as a cashier at the bank, on www.oregonpioneers.com. They got Tucker involved, as well as at least one more local, outside man Ben Ownby. Ironically, the locals were the only ones to do time for the crime.

The robbers were expecting to find about \$8,000 in the bank, but came away with only about \$2,000, according to www.oregonpioneers.com.

The website also said Tucker wanted the money so he could afford to marry his sweetheart, Minnie Proebstel. As it turned out, she came to visit him in jail after the robbery and told him if he’d man up and do his time, she’d wait for him. She did, and they did.

After the plan went sideways, McCully recalled, Brown lay dead in the street of gunshots, Tucker and Ownby were captured and

Fitzhugh got away with the loot.

As McCully recalled, “As (the) robbers (were) attempting escape, some one called out ‘Look,’ and pointed toward the brow of the hill which makes the west embankment of Wallowa Lake, a mile away, and there silhouetted against the blue sky line sped a lone horseman. He was observed until he disappeared into the timbered fastness of the Wallowa mountains, and the last time to ever knowingly seen by a Wallowa County citizen.”

‘Redeemed’

Turner said she has a letter from the state prison in Salem to show her grandfather was received there May 1, 1897, and discharged Sept. 28, 1901. She said he was released a year and a half early for good behavior.

After being released, Tucker decided to go straight, Turner said. He first tried unsuccessfully to get work in Lewiston, Idaho, but then decided to come home.

“He thought, ‘I lost my reputation in Joseph and I want to go back there and redeem myself,’” Turner said.

So Tucker went to work “redeeming” himself, Turner said. He spent much of his time tending sheep. Turner said Jay Dobbin was one of the first to hire him. Later, while working for Peter Beaudoin, he and a French sheepherder together

rescued about 25,000 sheep during a massive early winter snowstorm.

Turner said she’s not sure how her granddad transitioned to banking, but she knows he managed to buy and build his own sheep ranch, was a director of the local ditch company to help farmers with irrigation, became a school board member, took out stock in the bank and was generally active in the Joseph community.

“He was a pretty big businessman by that time,” she said. “He owned quite a few acres.”

Tucker lived until January 1953, having helped — at least financially — his son start the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

Reenactment

Turner said it’s been a few years since the last reenactment of the robbery, and previous incarnations did a better job of telling the story her grandfather was involved in.

“In the beginning it was done very well,” she said, adding that they used to have a narrator on the street and music to accompany it. “They told the whole story of how it happened.”

She’s hoping that now that the reenactment has returned, its presentation will improve, such as by adding a narrator.

“The moral of the story was he made good and did lot for the community while he was here,” she said.



Aug. 27 — **HER-SHELL PARKER:** 10 a.m. graveside service, Cove Cemetery (casual dress preferred).
Aug. 28 — **RODNEY**

PAYANT: noon to 3 p.m. celebration of life, Pendleton Eagles Lodge.
Aug. 28 — **SHIRLEY KUNKEL:** 1:30 p.m. celebration of life, La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Aug. 28 — **STEPHEN**

CRUIKSHANK: 2 p.m. service with military honors, Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.
Sept. 18 — **DEBRA DAVIS:** 2 p.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park

Pavilion, La Grande.
Sept. 18 — **JAMES YOST:** 2 p.m. celebration of life, Cloverleaf Hall, Enerprise.
— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

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