

Truck overturns on Interstate 84



Tow truck workers collaborate to remove an overturned semi along the median of Interstate 84 near milepost 269 and Ladd Canyon in Union County on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022. High winds and icy roads likely contributed to the accident, according to La Grande Fire Department Capt. Merle Laci. The driver was uninjured in the crash.

Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

HALLGARTH

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Stampeders, said Hallgarth gave his heart and soul to the Stampede because he knew how much it meant to the community.

“He saw how really great it was for the community, how many visitors it drew in and the economic stimulus it provided,” Moore said. “He was very, very proud of it.”

Moore credits Hallgarth with having an incomparable work ethic, one always on display in the weeks before the rodeo, held annually in July.

“He worked harder than anyone. He would be there from five in the morning and he would still be there at midnight,” she said.

Hallgarth’s work ethic coupled with his mechanical skills helped make him indispensable to the rodeo.

“He was extremely talented,” Moore said. “He could weld things together, build things and operate equipment. He could kind of do it all.”

Wayne Herron, also a member of the Elgin Stampeders, said Hallgarth was the go-to person when advice on repair work was needed.

“Whenever anything needed to be fixed we all looked to him for his ideas,” Herron said.

Moore said Hallgarth always approached things, regardless of the difficulty level, with a “we can do this attitude.”

Hallgarth, who was employed by Union County’s public works department, was frequently busy but he was always willing to talk with anyone who had a question or concern.

“No matter what he had going, he was sincerely there for people,” Moore said. “He would stop and listen even if he had 100 things going on.”

Hallgarth was someone who was always easy to converse with, according to fellow Stampeder Kyle Evans.

“He had a real personable way of talking to



Jada Follett/Contributed Photo

Elgin Stampede president Ty Hallgarth, 53, rides his horse through Elgin during the Elgin Stampede Grand Parade on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

“He saw how really great it was for the community, how many visitors it drew in and the economic stimulus it provided. He was very, very proud of it.”

— Lara Moore, the secretary for the Elgin Stampeders

people,” Evans said. “He was a real joy to be around. He was upbeat.”

Evans said Hallgarth was known by many for his ability to fix things. He said people were often phoning Hallgarth for advice on

making home repairs and he was always generous with his time when providing assistance.

“He was always willing to do whatever it took to help people,” Evans said.

Herron said it was unusual for someone to serve as long as Hallgarth did as president of the Elgin Stampede. He said this is a credit to the excellent work he did and reflects how people encouraged him to stay on so the rodeo could keep moving forward.

“He was a fine person who will be greatly missed for sure,” Herron said.

A statement on the Elgin Stampeders website paints a picture of the void Hallgarth, who grew up in

Elgin, leaves.

“We lost our organization’s president, but more importantly, we lost a Stampede family member and an incredible friend. A big smile. A contagious laugh. A work ethic and talent that put all of us to shame. A love for rodeo and for our community. Our world is different without him, and his absence will be felt for years to come,” the statement read.

Funeral service information will be announced later. Loveland Funeral Chapel of La Grande is in charge of the arrangements.

SCHOOLS

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masks in school settings, replacing a temporary rule that was set to expire. Oregon health and education officials have required masks all school year as one mitigation strategy aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19, so that students can stay in school full time.

And while recent policies around contact tracing and COVID-19 exposures have changed, masks will remain required in school settings until the rules are repealed.

As for when that might be, Oregon education officials say it depends on the course of COVID-19.

“The virus sets the timeline,” wrote the Oregon Department of Education’s Ready Schools, Safe Learners resilience manager Kati Moseley in a message to superintendents and school leaders on Jan. 28.

“OHA can rescind the masking requirements if it believes the rule or parts of the rule are no longer necessary to control COVID-19,” wrote OHA officials in response to concerns about what might trigger the repeal of the rules.

Meanwhile, Mulvihill is encouraging people to remain calm.

“Do not overreact,” he said. “By no means will students still be wearing masks when the

pandemic is over. Children will not be wearing masks during cold season three years from now.”

Mulvihill said Gov. Kate Brown’s executive order calling for the masking mandate, which went into effect before the school year started, has a sunset date and cannot be renewed. He said the OHA had only two options, to let the executive order expire or to give its rule permanent status. The mask mandate was set to expire Feb. 8.

La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza said factors that could lead to the mask mandate being rescinded will involve not only falling infection rates but also stronger systems of support for COVID-19 issues and improving health care systems for the virus.

OHA officials have said COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths, transmission data, vaccination rates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will all play a role in decision-making when it comes to mask requirements.

Dixon believes that as the COVID-19 front improves, the pressure to let school districts decide on mask mandates will increase.

“At some point they are going to be getting a lot of pressure to return to local control,” he said.

— Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter Elizabeth Miller contributed to this report.



Mendoza

William Boyd Harmon

July 21 1936 - January 27, 2022

William Boyd Harmon, 85, of La Grande, passed away on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at a local care facility. At his request, there will be no service.

William was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 21, 1936, to Theo “Ted” Vivian and Alice Riley Harmon. Alice, convinced her new baby would be a girl, didn’t pick out any boy names. Her favorite actor played Hop-Along Cassidy, she dubbed her son, William Boyd. Boyd’s family left Utah when he was 9 months old. They made Boise, Idaho their new home.

Boyd skipped school because kids teased him for stuttering. He came and went with the other children but would hide in a culvert and eat his lunch. Alice and Ted made sacrifices so Boyd could go to St Joseph’s, Catholic boys’ school. Boyd excelled under the watchful eye of the nuns, became an altar boy, and member of the choir.

During World War II, Ted was a plane mechanic, this brought Boyd opportunities for new experiences. Boyd got to visit the base on weekends, guards teased him about being a little saboteur since he went inside planes and did bombing runs. He saw the unveiling of the B-29 Superfortress and was an American Crusader, sitting atop of a ladder, he logged the call signs of planes. On VJ-Day, Boyd and Alice walked downtown where they collected a cigar box full of military insignias and medals.

Boyd was introduced to Harley-Davidson motorcycles when his brother Ray came home from the Navy. Boyd’s first was a 1949 ‘125’, he would own a total of 28. Boyd was a member of and started various motorcycle groups. He was involved in everything from trick riding and racing to showing.

Boyd didn’t just play hard, he worked hard too. He did deliveries on his motorcycle year round while still in school. Soon he worked at Ramble with Gamble Harley and was offered purchase of the dealership. He worked at Boise-Payette Lumber Company, Stinker Stations, Camfield Tires, Boise Cascade Tire Division and Trucking Division.

Boyd broke his right forearm when he was struck by a car. He took his bike out, despite the cast. Wanting to impress some girls, he grabbed a handful of throttle and dropped the clutch but instead of roaring off impressively it bucked and skid into a tree, rebreaking his arm.

Boyd learned to drive when he was 19, his biggest problem was he tried to lean to turn the pickup. Later that year Boyd married Denise Busch in Boise, Idaho and they moved to Emmett, Idaho. Boyd and Denise had a daughter, Christie, and shortly after divorced.

Boyd married Mary Kirk in Elko, Nevada. They had two daughters, Vallarie and Jade before they divorced.

Boyd married Grace Sheffield in

Winnemucca, Nevada. They had a daughter Annie and two sons Bill and Wes. They moved to La Grande, Oregon in 1974 and divorced a few years later.

Boyd married Lyle Kem at Dave and Judy Shepard’s house in Elgin, Oregon. Together they raised Bill, Wes and Teri, Lyle’s daughter, from a previous marriage.

Boyd and Lyle traveled the Northwest doing gun shows for years. They put together bigger and bigger set-ups. At their pinnacle, they outfitted six tables at once and attended 48 shows in a year. Boyd became a regional representative for Ruger Collectors Association and he and Lyle were known as “the Ruger people”.

Boyd missed having Harleys since the sale of his in the late 1970’s. With Lyle’s encouragement, he purchased a new motorcycle. Again, Boyd and Lyle traveled, this time on motorcycles, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin for Harley-Davidson’s 90th, 95th and 100th anniversaries, to Texas and the Four Corners region for state rallies and joy.

During one of these many trips, when following a canyon road in a desolate part of Nevada, Lyle was riding behind Boyd. They were struck by an out of control car. Boyd had a broken collarbone and broken ribs on one side, which left him in the hospital for a week. Lyle lost her left leg and was hospitalized for 41 days.

Boyd and Lyle started driving for the Ford and Dodge dealerships in La Grande, Oregon in 1997 until 2016. Boyd became lead driver and they drove new and used vehicles all over the western United States.

Whatever Boyd did and wherever he went, he made an impression. He was known as the Pope of the church of Harley-Davidson, the General, the Grand Puba, and the Potentate. He was meticulous, and opinionated, sometimes to a fault. He put on a gruff exterior, but was soft on the inside.

Boyd is survived by his seven children; daughters, Christie Lynn Irving of St. George, Utah, Vallarie Jo Harmon of McCall, Idaho, Jade Alice Harmon of Weiser, Idaho, Gladys Ann Harmon of Donnelly, Idaho, and Teri Ann Stearns and husband Pete of Elgin, Oregon; sons, William Brad Harmon and wife Denise of Baker City, Oregon and Westly Teo Harmon and wife Claudine of Elgin, Oregon. Along with 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, brother, Raymond Harmon and wife Lyle Harmon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Union County Sheriff’s Department for Gun Safety Training, 1109 K Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

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