# Local & Entertainment - Obituaries —

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

### **Connie Youngblood**

On the acreage she and Charles shared near Crane, Connie blossomed into a sheepherder - she knew "nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies", but she immersed herself in learning about breeding ewes, pulling lambs, bottle-feeding orphans, and she was known to haul a sheep in the back of her car, when it was necessary. At the same time, she developed her talents in crocheting and often made gifts for friends or the new babies of friends. She expanded her big heart to include babysitting for friends and neighbors, and that took her into a career of serving as a statecertified foster parent for DHS. The kids she cared for in the Crane-Buchanan neighborhood were always in her heart, and all these years later, she knew exactly what the Kovach and Bentz kids were doing and where they were. Throughout the years, even separated by time and space, she could tell you all about the status of her friend Becky Hite, and Becky's kids, and their kids, and their kids. The offspring of her three brothers and her sister were also part of her repertoire, and she could tell you all about their specialties, from sports to rodeo to dog breeding.

After her children were grown, and Connie and Charles divorced, Connie started a successful adult foster home in Burns, called Tundra Place, where she cared for five mental health clients. She was delighted last year to run into one of her former clients, who remembered her immediately. From Tundra Place, she moved to a coastal home in Lincoln City, but felt too far away from her kids. She chose to move to Redding CA, where Cassity and her husband Ty were living. Connie found employment in a mental health facility for adults, and with hard work and learning, was promoted to a counselor there. She made friends with a co-worker Louise, and the relationship lasted beyond

## the workplace, adding joy to Connie's life.

Once again, Connie decided to serve her community as a state-certified foster parent for children and took in multiple siblings from one family, in particular. With her own health failing, and approaching 60, Connie had to give up that service, but cared enough to adopt one of her foster kids, a preteen girl she nicknamed Chey, whom she delighted in helping develop. When Connie had to have hip surgery, her good friend Louise drove her back and forth; her faithful companion Harvey took time off from work to stay with her; and they took turns providing for her needs until her strength returned. Unfortunately, her overall health was declining, and she felt no longer able to provide for Chey, so she was grateful when Cassity and her husband Ty were able to fold Chey in as Trigg's new sister.

At that point, Connie decided to come home to Oregon. She spent a couple of months in Burns with her old friend Joanie, then three or four months in Oregon City with Christi and her daughter Justis, enabling Connie to be a part of Justis's high school graduation. Soon, she circled back around to northeastern Oregon and found a home near her son Craig and his wife, Elisha, joining in the fun of sharing time with their kids. Raised in the team roping and rodeo community of Harney County, Connie always identified with the country lifestyle, regardless of where she lived, and she was proud of her son and grandkids, brothers and their kids, who pursued those horse-oriented activities. Becoming a Facebook fanatic in the past few years helped her maintain her encyclopedic knowledge of whose kids were doing what. Connie had battled breast cancer and won, back in her days on the little ranch at Crane, and remarked on Charles's attentiveness to her during that medical scare. A doctor had told her

friend Joanie that after the extensive chemo and radiation she endured, Connie wouldn't last another 10 years, but Joanie never told her that, and she sailed past that prediction. But in this past year, two more kinds of cancer invaded her body and she was just not at a level of health to be able to beat them off. She took daily bus trips from Baker City to Fruitland for treatment, without complaint, and her last trip there, she still had the rosy cheeks of her youth, but she was so tired. She was glad to have her son's family around her at that time and although she no longer had her trusty steed Patches, she took great joy in her tiny canine companion London, who traveled in her purse, and was with her at the end, on August 14, 2016.

Connie is survived by her father Louis Armstrong of Elko NV; son Craig and wife Elisha, children Reata, Riley and Tyler, of North Powder OR; daughter Christi of Redding CA, and her daughter Justis of King City OR; daughter Cassity and her husband Ty, children Trigg and Chey, of Redding CA; sister Renae Yelton and husband Steve of Steamboat Springs CO, children Mandy, Wade and Bodie; brother Steve and wife Marion of Spring Creek NV; brother Darwin and wife Amy of Carlin NV, and children Clay, Chance, Whitney and Kade; and brother Mike and wife Dixie, of Caldwell ID and children Melissa and Dixon; numerous foster children and neighborhood kids; her good friends Joanie of Yachats OR; Louise of Redding CA; and Harvey of Las Vegas NV, and so many others

# **Bebe's word search**

### Movie Actresses 2

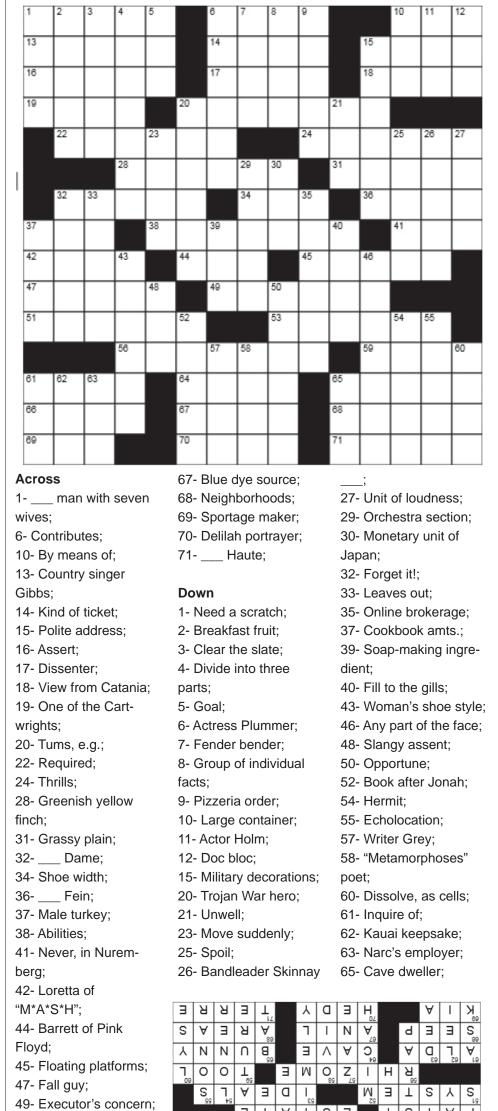
Find and circle all of the Movie Actresses that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Louise Fletcher won an Oscar.

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WALTERS, Julie WATTS, Naomi WEAVER, Sigourney WEISZ, Rachel WINSLET, Kate WITHERSPOON, Reese ZELLWEGER, Renee

# The Littles' crossword puzzle



that her big heart touched. She was preceded in death by her mother, Becky.

There will not be a service but for those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Connie, the family suggests Heart n Home Hospice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834.

51- Method;

59- Implement;

tion;

star;

53- Standards of perfec-

56- Underground stem;

61- "Betsy's Wedding"

64- Spelunking site; 65- Young rabbit; 66- Leak slowly;

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