

## Sharolet Mae Harter

March 1934 - Jan. 2016



Sharolet Harter, 81, died on Jan. 17, 2016 at Settler's Park Assisted Living Facility in Baker City, Oregon. A family gathering and picnic will take place during the summer to Celebrate Shar's life.

Sharolet Mae was born on March 12, 1934 to Cecil and Cordie (Gorden) Harter in Chouteau, Oklahoma. Just about three weeks after her birth, the family moved to Stockton, California where Shar (as she liked to be called) was raised and educated.

Shar had her first husband Kenneth Eugene "Gene" Harrison and seven children: Connie, Andy, Mike, Rick, Dave, Kimberly and Mark. The family made their home in Amador County. After 25 years of marriage, the two divorced. Shar later married Gerald Harter; they met in Stanwood, Washington and lived in Marysville, Washington. Gerald died in 1995. She then moved to Baker City, just off of 17th Street to be closer to her family. In 2009, she moved into Settlers Park Assisted Living Facility.

During her life she worked in the restaurant field. She loved to sew, make quilts, embroider, crochet, knit and do crafts. She was an avid reader of non-fiction crime books, loved the animal planet channel on TV and could do 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle in a day or two. She also loved to get out to fish or travel to the coast to her crabbing.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband Gerald.

Shar is survived by her children: Connie and husband Allen Currie, Andy Harrison, Rick Harrison, Dave and Christine Harrison all of Baker City; Mike, Harrison of North Carolina; Kimberly Harrison of Umatilla, Oregon, Mark and Regina of Vancouver, Washington; 12 Grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Shar, the family suggests the local Veterans Memorial Club in Baker City, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services P.O. Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## Esther Pauline (Paula) Quier Simpson

Aug. 1924 - Jan. 2016

Esther Pauline (Paula) Quier Simpson, 91, long time resident of Baker County, died at her home in Kuna, Idaho on Jan. 18, 2016.

Born to a pioneer family on Aug. 4, 1924, in Princeton, Oregon, she went on to live a lifetime full of adventures.

Survivors include one brother, Glen Edwin Quier of Brookings, Oregon; her son, Thomas Harlan Simpson Neal (Gary) of Kuna, Idaho; their two sons, Aaron (Joni) Neal (children Kali Natasha, and Tyler Maxwell Neal) of Meridian, Idaho, and Jess (Nicole) Neal, (son Hayden Gary Neal) of Kuna, Idaho. Paula was preceded in death by her husband, Max Simpson, and three of her siblings.

## Robert "Bob" Trump

1942 - 2016

Robert "Bob" Trump, 74, former Baker County resident, probation and parole officer in Umatilla and Baker Counties, Deputy Sheriff in Union County Ore., died at his home in Elgin, Ore. on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016. A Celebration of Bob's life with Military Honors will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Elgin Stampede Hall in Elgin. For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bob, the family suggests the Elgin Stampede through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services PO Box 543 Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## William "Bill" Nill

Oct. 1934 - Jan. 2016

William "Bill" Nill, 81, former Halfway resident, died on Jan. 11, 2016 in Powers, Ore. There will not be a service.

William "Bill" Herman Nill III was born on Oct. 29, 1934 in North Hollywood, California to William and June (Schultz) Nill Jr. Bill attended schools in San Fernando Valley, Redding and graduating from high school at Shasta Union High School in 1953.

Bill was married in 1953 in Round Mountain, California and they had four children. During Bill's life he worked heavy construction and was for quite some time an Oregon Contractor. He also worked in Law Enforcement in Yreka, California.

Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, bike riding and backpacking. He was always looking forward to seeing what was over the next mountain. He loved aviation; he was a pilot and owned his own plane. Memorabilia in Bill's life included taking a six point bull elk with his own home made archery equipment, obtaining his private pilot license and building a cabin on the Kenai in Alaska.

One of his favorite thoughts was, "What goes around, comes around." Bill will be most remembered for being the most sincere, genuine, caring man you'd ever meet. He will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his longtime four legged lab "Babe." Babe died just a few days prior to Bill's death.

Bill is survived by his children Debbie of Turlock, Cal. and Cindy of Houston, Texas; sons Bryan and Kurtis of Soldotna, Alaska; brother Robert Nill; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bill, may do so to the charity of their choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services PO Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com)

## Death and Service Notices

**Jack Schoening**, 88, of Baker City passed away in his home Jan. 24, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Gray's West & Co. You may go to [www.grayswest.com](http://www.grayswest.com) to light a candle in memory of Jack.

**Jessie Irene Schuh**, 86, of Baker City passed away in her home Jan. 22, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Gray's West & Co. You may go to [www.grayswest.com](http://www.grayswest.com) to light a candle in memory of Jessie.

**Bernell Howland**, 67, of Baker City passed away in her home Jan. 23, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Gray's West & Co. You may go to [www.grayswest.com](http://www.grayswest.com) to light a candle in memory of Bernell.

**Donald David Ross**, 72, of Unity passed away in his home Jan. 24, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Gray's West & Co. You may go to [www.grayswest.com](http://www.grayswest.com) to light a candle in memory of David.

**Eugene De Shaw**, 95, of Baker City passed away at his residence Jan. 26, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Coles Tribute Cen-

ter. You may go to [www.colestributecenter.com](http://www.colestributecenter.com) to light a candle in memory of Eugene.

**Lavesta Swinyer**, 78, of Baker City passed away at Meadowbrook Place in Baker City Jan. 25, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Coles Tribute Center. You may go to [www.colestributecenter.com](http://www.colestributecenter.com) to light a candle in memory of Lavesta.

**Bernell Marie Howland**, 67, of Baker City passed away at her home Jan. 22, 2016. Her funeral will be at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 at 1 p.m. with Bishop Tim Taylor officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery and friends are invited to join the family at a reception at the church after the interment. Memorial contributions may be made to the LDS Missionary Fund through Gray's West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. You may visit the website at [www.gwestco](http://www.gwestco) to light a candle in memory of Bernell.

## The Arts Mean Business in Eastern Oregon

The Arts Mean Business. That is the message being featured today by three regional arts organizations in Northeast Oregon – Art Center East, Crossroads Carnegie Center for the Arts, and Joseph Center for Arts & Culture – who announced they have joined the Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5, a national study measuring the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences. The research study is being conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education. It is the fifth study over the past 20 years to measure the impact of arts spending on local jobs, income paid to local residents, and revenue generated to local and state governments. While part of a national study, it will provide very specific data for the Northwest Corner, including spending and employment numbers for cultural businesses and nonprofits and well as spending information from audiences. Wage, labor and commerce data will also be incorporated.

As one of nearly 300 study partners across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Art Center East, Crossroads Carnegie Center for the Arts, and Joseph Center for Arts & Culture will collect detailed financial data about our local nonprofit arts and culture organizations such as our theater and dance companies, museums, festivals, and arts education organizations.

"Many people don't think of nonprofit arts organizations as businesses," said Mika Morton, Executive Director for Art Center East in La Grande, "but this study will make clear that the arts are a formidable industry in our community—employing people locally, purchasing goods and services from local merchants, and helping to drive tourism and economic development."

Art Center East, Crossroads Carnegie Center for the Arts, and Joseph Center for Arts & Culture will also collect surveys from attendees at arts events using a short, anonymous questionnaire that asks how much money they spent on items such as meals, parking and transportation, and retail shopping specifically as a result of attending the event. Previous studies have shown that the average attendee spends \$24.60 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission. Those studies have also shown that, on average, 32 percent of arts attendees travel from outside the county in which the arts event took place, and that those cultural tourists typically spend nearly \$40 per person—generating important revenue for local businesses and demonstrating how the arts drive revenue for other businesses in the community.

Surveys will be collected throughout calendar year 2016. The results of the study will be released in June of 2017.

"Northeast Oregon is unique in many ways from the rest of the state. This study will allow us to gain a better

understanding of the current and potential economic impact the arts as a whole – culture, heritage, and humanities – has on our region," says Mika Morton, executive director of Art Center East in Union County. "As a nonprofit arts organization, it is our mission to continue investing our resources in an industry, one that supports jobs in our own communities and generates government revenue."

According to Americans for the Arts' most recent national study, the nonprofit arts industry generated \$135.2 billion in total economic activity and supported 4.1 million full-time equivalent jobs during 2010, resulting in \$22.3 billion in federal, state and local government revenues. The \$135.2 billion total included \$61.1 billion in spending by arts organizations and \$74.1 billion in event-related spending by their audiences on items such as meals, local transportation and overnight lodging. Complete details about the fiscal year 2010 study are available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact).

"Our Arts & Economic Prosperity series demonstrates that the arts are an economic and employment powerhouse both locally and across the nation," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts. Nationally as well as locally, the arts mean business."

Locally, study efforts are supported by the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District based in Walla Walla County. Additional support is provided by the Oregon Arts Commission. For more information about the study and how you can help, please contact Art Center East in La Grande at 541-962-3629 or [mika@artseast.org](mailto:mika@artseast.org).

Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study is supported by The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts. In addition, Americans for the Arts' local and statewide study partners are contributing both time and a cost-sharing fee support to the study. For a full list of the nearly 300 Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study partners, visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners).

"Crossroads is excited to participate in this critical data gathering process throughout all arts, culture, heritage and humanities programs in Baker County. This type of data is critical for all arts and culture organization in getting grants from foundations, state and national government agencies. It is also critical for our city and county governments to have this type of detailed data on how the arts impact a community or region's economy," said Ginger Savage, Executive Director Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. "We are actively looking for volunteers to help with the survey process so contact Crossroads at 541-523-5369."

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Thursday, January 28, 2016

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