



Long-time Dufur teacher LaVerna Bolton Harmier celebrated her 100th birthday Aug. 21. Contributed photo

Former teacher celebrates 100 years

Former Dufur resident LaVerna Bolton Harmier, a long-time teacher in Dufur, hit the century mark with her 100th birthday on Aug. 21.

Family members Randy and Laurel (Harmier) Slatt provided the following:

LaVerna was born in Wrentham, located about half way between The Dalles and Dufur, where 15-mile Creek crosses Wrentham Market Road, in 1920 to Guy and Violet (Benedict) Bolton. LaVerna grew up on land homesteaded by her great-grandparents, Absalom and Oliva Bolton, who came west from Iowa in 1852, spending six months on the Oregon Trail. Absalom and his friend, Horace Rice, became leaders of a group to be called the Bolton-Rice Wagon Train. Upon settling in the Dufur Valley, Absalom decided to raise wheat, although his neighbors scoffed at this idea because they thought wheat would not do well in the dry hills. Absalom proved them wrong, and soon everyone was raising wheat.

Dufur has been home to LaVerna her entire life until 2013, when she moved to the Portland area. Her brother, Hollis Bolton, a World War II veteran and wheat rancher, was also a lifelong resident of Dufur.

After graduation from Dufur High School in 1938, and college in 1940, LaVerna's teaching career began in January 1941, in Culver, followed by Sutherlin and Mosier. A chance encounter with the Greyhound bus driver one morning on her way to teach in Mosier was how she met her future husband, Ron. They were married just seven months later on June 7, 1945.

After 27 years teaching in Dufur, she retired in 1982. LaVerna has been working on writing the story of her life, including her early years on the farm, her father never having motorized farm equipment. She was born the year women won the right to vote. A time before electricity, television, computers or cell phones.

If asked her secret to her longevity, she would tell you good genes and "moderation" in everything.

Those wishing to send her birthday greetings may mail them to 27487 S.E. Haley Road, Boring, OR 97009; emails to ljlslatt@comcast.net. She would enjoy reading your memories of her and how you knew her.

An open-invitation party had been planned for her birthday, but the pandemic has put that on hold. Anyone who would like to be updated on the party plans can contact the family at the above address or email and they will let you know when the party will be.

Did you know...

THE AXIS OR CREST OF THE CASCADE RANGE along the Columbia River is between Bonneville and Eagle Creek. This summit of the divide is over 4,000' high.

From "The Columbia River Gorge" by Ira Williams (Oregon Bureau of Minerals and Geology), 1923.

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Supporting essential workers



A collaborative partnership among several Gorge organizations, including The Next Door, One Community Health, and local health departments, has sparked #Eseñcial. The campaign is meant to remind us how important migrant and seasonal farmworkers are to our food industry and community and to keep them from being stigmatized during the COVID-19 pandemic, said a Next Door, Inc., press release. "Stand in solidarity with Gorge farmworkers — an essential part of our community," continued the press release. "Look for banners (like that above) with art by Edith Belman, throughout the Gorge." One such banner is currently displayed in front of the offices of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. To see more, like and follow Eseñcial Gorge on Facebook and Instagram. Photo courtesy of Next Door, Inc

CORRECTION

Regarding the Aug. 12 article COVID relief funding sources, the City of Hood River has not received any unspent funds; Assistant City Manager Will Norris clarified that "All CARES Act Funds are held at the state level are released on a cost reimbursement basis." Norris also said that the one-time property tax monies from pausing Urban Renewal Agency collections will be received in November and not on a cost

reimbursement basis. Local property taxes are certain and can be used for general city purposes if not for COVID response." Norris also clarified that discussions of possible funding for Hood River Shelter Services happened between City Manager Rachael Fuller and Sarah Kellems of Shelter Services.

NORCOR Ice resistance formed in 2017

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with Gorge ICE Resistance. "We must reverse the militarization of our borders and dismantle ICE altogether in defense of human rights. We will continue opposing ICE until all immigrants, asylum

seekers, refugees and migrant workers are welcomed with open arms."

Gorge ICE Resistance formed back in May 2017 to support a group of immigration detainees who organized a hunger strike to protest poor living conditions. The group has been picketing the regional jail since, in addition to organizing marches, rallies and vigils calling for the jail to terminate its ICE contracts.

Additionally, local clergy and immigration attorneys have provided support for immigrant detainees through regular visits and fundraisers.

"I'm so grateful to our NORCOR Board for taking the high road," said Red Stevens, a volunteer clergy member who visits with people detained at NORCOR, including ICE detainees. "Hopefully, this signals a return to the rehabilitation and

rebuilding of our close community, without the need to profit from the humanitarian nightmares of outcasts and refugees."

NORCOR was the last regional jail in the State of Oregon to house federal immigration detainees. ICE does still operate a field office and detention center out of Sheridan, but the nearest ICE detention centers to the Gorge are in Tacoma.

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