

OBITUARIES



Betty Olvey

Betty Jane Olvey
Astoria
Oct. 27, 1928 —
June 30, 2022

Betty Jane Olvey was born in Astoria to Richard and Elsie (Strom) Olson on Oct. 27, 1928. She spent her life as a native of Astoria until her passing on June 30 at the age of 93.

Betty's school years were spent in Clatsop County, where she attended Chadwell School from first-through-sixth grade, while the remainder of her school years were spent in Astoria.

Betty worked many different jobs in her life. As a young woman, she worked at Fort Stevens during World War II, later followed by the flour mill, two local laundries and various canneries. She then went to work as a filleter at Astoria Seafood in 1958, and retired after 35 years.

During her working years, Betty was a senior regent for the Moose Lodge, and member of the cannery union. However, her favorite title was "Cookie Grandma," given to her by her grandchildren for the delicious cookies she always had on hand.

In Betty's free time, she enjoyed dancing, especially to live music, spending time with friends and family and working in her garden. Betty enjoyed talking to people from all walks of life, and was well known for speaking her mind.

Many family meals and holidays were spent in the Olvey home, which she cooked herself until she was 91 years old. The most famous of all these meals was her prime rib Christmas dinner.

On Aug. 1, 1947, Betty was married to Gordon Olvey, and together they had five children. Betty is survived by her children, Leroy Olvey, of Astoria, Sonja Fleming (Gerald), of Ohio, and Terri Cagwin (Mike), of Astoria; brothers, Larry Telen, of Astoria, and Vern Telen (Diane), of Hillsboro; nephews, Jeff Telen (Tracy) and Steve Telen, both of Astoria; nieces, Barbara Hall (Mike), of Beaverton, and Marian Bragdon (Bob), of Hillsboro; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Betty was widowed in 1992, and also preceded in death by her daughters, Cindy Smith and Lynn Hayner; her parents; and sister-in-law, Shirley Telen.

Betty will be laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery with her family.

Her beautiful smile and feisty personality will be remembered by her loved ones.

The family would like to thank the staff and residents of Astor Place for their care over the last year.



Photos by Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle
A forklift motors around the Prairie Wood Products yard.

Closed for more than a decade, an Oregon sawmill is running again

New life for mill in Prairie City

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

Local residents woke up last week to a sound they had not heard in years.

A working sawmill. The Prairie Wood Products sawmill officially reopened on July 11 for its first full day of operations.

The D.R. Johnson Lumber Co. announced last month that it intended to reopen the mill, which was shuttered 14 years ago. To staff the operation, the company hosted a two-day job fair at Chester's Thriftway in John Day.

Plant manager Tom Moore said the mill hired roughly 25 people. He said once the planer is up and running, he would be looking to hire between 15 and 20 more employees.

Prairie Wood Products President Jodi Westbrook said the company was happy to be able to hire the staff needed to get the mill running again.

"They are working hard," she said. "I've been in the mill watching them go as hard as they can."

Westbrook said there are some kinks the sawmill has to work out with the old equipment. But all in all, she said, things are running smoothly at the mill.

"It is going," she said, "and we are thrilled."

Moore, who used to work for the D.R. Johnson-owned Grant Western sawmill in John Day, told the Blue Mountain Eagle that the mill's moth-balled cogeneration plant has some issues that must be worked through before it can be fired up again.

Craig Trulock, Malheur



Dustin Wright, of John Day, is part of the crew at Prairie Wood Products.

National Forest supervisor, told the newspaper last month that the cogeneration plant could provide a way to remove biomass from the forest. Currently, he said, there is no market for that material.

The biomass, which consists of small logs, branches and bushes that would otherwise get burned up in the forest or left on the ground, could be ground and burned in the cogeneration plant to generate heat and electricity, Trulock said.

Westbrook said the company plans to get its timber supply from a combination of public and private lands and will purchase logs from independent loggers and landowners.

Brett Morris, the owner of Morris Forestry, said that he had already delivered nine loads of logs to the sawmill.

"(Prairie Wood) is really cranking up production," he said.

Morris said he works as an independent logger in the spring, but during fire season

he works as a wildland firefighter with his logging equipment, which makes him good money. With Prairie Wood open, he said he would be running his logging company during fire season.

In the long term, he said running his business would be better for him and his family.

"My family will appreciate that I won't be gone for two to three months in the summertime," Morris said.

Morris said his company had been about a month behind schedule with the late spring rain, but things are going well now.

He said if the mill had not been open in Prairie City, he would have had to haul logs to Elgin or Pilot Rock for milling. With rising fuel costs, there would have been a good chance he would not have been able to operate.

"My little company couldn't afford to haul (logs) that far with the way fuel is right now."

Having the mill open benefits local private landowners

with respect to fuel reduction and removing wildfire risks, Morris added.

While Prairie Wood hopes to collaborate with the Malheur National Forest and other public agencies on forest restoration projects, Moore said the mill has primarily been working with private landowners so far.

He said the company hopes to build other relationships going forward.

Moore said he could not say how many board feet of timber the mill plans to process because it is in its "infancy stages."

Nonetheless, Moore — who worked for Malheur Lumber before coming to Prairie Wood Products — said that reopening the mill has been a great feeling.

"It is not every day," he said, "that you get to bring something back from the dead."

The Prairie City mill was purchased by the D.R. Johnson Lumber Co. in 1976. Two years later, the family-owned company added a stud mill and planer. Then, in the late 1980s, the company installed a cogeneration power plant.

The sawmill, which operated successfully in Prairie City for more than 30 years and employed upward of 100 people who worked two different shifts, shuttered in 2008 amid a housing market crash that led to a lack of available sawlogs.

D.R. Johnson restarted the mill in early 2009 but shut it down permanently by the end of the year. The cleanup of the mill, which sits at the west end of Prairie City, concluded in 2019.

Since then, much of the mill equipment has remained on-site, along with the cogeneration plant.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
68 55 Morning drizzle	71 56 Breezy in the p.m.	73 56 Mostly sunny and nice	71 59 Areas of low clouds	70 58 Low clouds	73 59 Low clouds breaking	71 58 Rather cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 67/58
Normal high/low 68/54
Record high 88 in 1928
Record low 44 in 1966

Precipitation

Thursday Trace
Month to date 0.30"
Normal month to date 0.62"
Year to date 42.87"
Normal year to date 37.79"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Waning crescent near Uranus.

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:47 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:56 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:32 a.m.
Moonset today 5:27 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
July 28	Aug 5	Aug 11	Aug 18

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
10:54 a.m.	5.4	4:44 a.m.	0.3	
10:11 p.m.	7.5	4:06 p.m.	3.0	
Cape Disappointment	11:00 a.m.	5.1	4:07 a.m.	0.5
9:55 p.m.	7.4	3:30 p.m.	3.4	
Hammond	11:31 a.m.	5.4	4:22 a.m.	0.4
10:01 p.m.	7.6	3:45 p.m.	3.3	
Warrenton	10:49 a.m.	5.8	4:28 a.m.	0.4
10:06 p.m.	7.9	3:50 p.m.	3.1	
Knappa	11:31 a.m.	5.7	5:45 a.m.	0.3
10:48 p.m.	7.8	5:07 p.m.	2.6	
Depoe Bay	10:19 a.m.	5.3	3:39 a.m.	0.5
9:08 p.m.	7.7	2:55 p.m.	3.7	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	93/75/t	94/74/c
Boston	96/76/s	96/77/pc
Chicago	92/76/t	84/68/t
Dallas	102/81/s	103/82/s
Denver	97/64/pc	85/63/t
Honolulu	87/75/pc	87/76/s
Houston	97/79/s	98/78/s
Los Angeles	82/63/pc	80/63/s
Miami	91/81/t	90/80/t
New York City	96/79/s	98/80/s
Phoenix	109/87/pc	101/81/t
San Francisco	67/54/pc	69/57/pc
Wash., DC	97/76/s	97/80/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

