

Delton (Del, Coach) LaRue

Ione
March 26, 1938-July 23, 2016

Delton LaRue, 78, of Ione died Saturday, July 23, 2016, in Idaho Falls. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2016, at 1 p.m. at the Ione School gymnasium.



LaRue

He was born March 26, 1938, in Freewater, Oregon, to parents Ernest and Jennie Modlin LaRue. Del grew up in Freewater, graduating from McLoughlin High School in 1956. Siblings were brother Gilbert LaRue and sisters Irene Freeman and Eeva Hoggatt.

Following graduation from Mac High, Del attended Pacific University in Forest Grove, graduating in 1960. His long teaching career began at Lostine High School where he taught from 1960-1964. In 1961 Del married Linda Winters, and May 25th marked their 55th wedding anniversary. From 1964-1966 Mr. LaRue taught at Wallowa High, and then spent the next four years at Wheeler High in Fossil, from 1966-1970. Moving to Ione in the summer of 1971, Del spent the next 26 years in the classroom, the gym, the football field and the track of Ione High School until retiring in 1997.

Following Del's retirement, Del and Linda stayed in Ione, but headed for the warmer climate of Yuma, Arizona, during the winter for the past eight years. Coach LaRue always returned to Ione in plenty of time for the track season, as he continued to lead the track program until 2009, and earned the award for National Girls Track Coach of the Year in 2003.

Mr. LaRue was dedicated

to his students and athletes, whether in the classroom or on the playing field. He brought out the best in each of them, always encouraging young people to stretch to do their very best, and to always believe in themselves. Lessons taught went far beyond the skills of the game, with Coach always instilling teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work and dedication in each of his athletes. Of course those same attributes were stressed with Del and Linda's own three children, Robin (Melissa) LaRue of Ione, Shawn (Denise) LaRue of Oregon City and Michelle (Jerry) Buczynski of Sheridan. Bringing great joy to the family were grandchildren Jacoby, Cayben, Zach, Kayla, Kevin, Joshua, Katie, Kyle and Gracie, and great-grandchildren Finley, Stella and Quin. Del's family was his pride and joy, and the LaRues spent much time together. It seems only appropriate that at the time of his death Del and Linda were on holiday with Michelle and her family in Yellowstone.

The community of Ione will miss seeing Del waving from his 1934 Ford coupe as he drove the town, stopping to chat with his many friends. The daily ritual of getting the mail often turned into a long visit with whoever he happened to meet. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Coach LaRue Scholarship in care of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch, P.O. Box 106, Ione, OR 97843. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

Darrell W. Bain

Pendleton
May 10, 1939-July 24, 2016

Darrell Bain passed away Sunday, July 24, 2016, in Pendleton at the age of 77 after an extended illness.



Bain

He was born at home in 1939 in Hutchinson, Minnesota, to Walter and Ellen (Mickelson) Bain. He came to Pendleton in 1942 with his sister Donna and his parents. In his younger years he went to the Pendleton Adventist Church School. His high school years were spent at Laurelwood Academy in Gaston, Oregon.

He married Margaret Pulse in 1961 and together they raised four children. After working at Harris Pine Mills for a number of years, he went to work for Whitey Schroth in 1966 in the coin-operated equipment

business until Whitey's death in 1988. In 1989 he started his own coin-op business with Bill Code and retired in 2015 due to health issues.

Darrell was an avid car enthusiast, owning many collectible cars. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Donna Richardson. He is survived by his wife Maggie, his children Marty Grubaugh, Jeff Bain, Karol Thornton and Julie Smith, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. At his request there will be no service. Disposition was by cremation.

Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton handled arrangements.

Gary H. Grogan

Pendleton
April 8, 1950-July 31, 2016

Gary H. Grogan, a 43-year resident of Pendleton, passed away on July 31, 2016, in his home surrounded by his immediate family. He fought a courageous battle with cancer.



Grogan

He was born on April 8, 1950, in Hood River, Ore., and graduated from Sunset High in Beaverton, Ore.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He is preceded in death by his father Harold and is survived by his mother Alberta, brother Tom, and sister Linda; his wife Donna of 43 years; children Vanessa McAlvain (Paul), Tracy Starlip (Dan) and Kyle Grogan.

He worked for 43 years as a professional carpet and vinyl installer.

His hobbies were fishing, mountains and the beach, music, and his newest adventure, riding in his son-in-law's helicopter.

Family and friends were a top priority. He loved to have reunions and everyone was welcome to his home.

We want to thank his doctor and hospice for their care.

Memorial service will be on August 12th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eagles, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Milford Clay (Mel, Buddy, Pete) Peterson

Pendleton
March 8, 1923-July 29, 2016

Milford Clay (Mel, Buddy, Pete) Peterson, 93, of Pendleton, Ore., passed away on Friday, July 29, 2016, at home of natural causes.



Peterson

The Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 6, 2016, at the Episcopal Church in Pendleton, Oregon. Rev. Charlotte Wells of the Episcopal Church will be officiating. Inurnment will be held on August 8, 2016, at Olney Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Burns Mortuary of Pendleton.

Mel was born in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, on March 8, 1923. He graduated from Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, California, in 1941. In high school he excelled at pole vaulting, track and basketball. Two days after graduation he enlisted with the Army Air Corps. He graduated from flight school at Luke Air Field in Arizona in 1942. Mel flew the P47 Thunderbolt in WWII. He was stationed in the European Theater and flew 102 missions over France and Germany. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mel was married to Vera Lee Fortier on January 16, 1943; they were married 68 years when she passed away in 2011.

Mel worked as and became a skillful brick-mason from just after his return from WWII until he

retired in 1985. Many of the brick buildings and fireplaces in Pendleton are the result of his craftsmanship. He loved hunting and fishing and all sports. He was active with the VFW providing door security for basketball tournaments and for more than 40 years supported the Happy Canyon during the Pendleton Round-Up by running a lot and parking cars.

Mel is survived by his children, Stephen Peterson (with Gloria Flint) and Tiah Peterson (with Jeff Engelman); his siblings, Beverly Cameron and James Peterson; grandchildren Jody Reedy, Seth Peterson, Amanda Peterson, Desirae Peterson-Raffety, Kenton Peterson and Dylan Clemons; eight great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter; and caregivers Traci Hallos and Robin Lehnes, without whom Mel could not have stayed at home.

Mel is preceded in death by his parents, Harry Peterson and Hazel Peterson-Berg; his wife, Vera Lee Peterson; sisters Thelma Robinson and Dolores Bellas; brothers Clinton (Dick) Peterson and Ronald Peterson; and children Milford Clay (Pete or Chief) Peterson Jr. and Sandra Dee (Sandy) Peterson.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to The VFW Cowboy Breakfast. The family of Milford Clay Peterson wishes to thank St. Anthony Hospice Program, Department of Human Services Senior Services Program, Dr. Harrison and his entire office.

Patricia 'Pat' Smith

Hermiston
July 29, 2016

Patricia "Pat" Smith passed away on Friday, July 29, 2016, at age 83, in Hermiston, Ore. She passed away with her family by her side.



Smith

Pat was born in Portland, Ore., to Stella Coffman and Wayne Arnold. She graduated from Franklin High School in Portland, Ore. She married her husband, Charles Smith, in 1956. Pat and Chuck raised their six daughters and one son in Imbler, Ore.

They moved to Hermiston in 1983 where they managed the Butter Creek Apartments. In 1986 they moved to Umatilla to manage the Juniper Apartments. In 1990 they purchased their final home in Umatilla, where she lived until January 2016, before moving into an assisted living home.

Pat was a member of the Emblem Club in Hermiston, Ore., where she served many offices. In 1989 she was elected into the presidency for the Emblem Club where she served for three years. She enjoyed many picnics, bingo, and conventions. She won several awards for the newsletter she published. She loved belonging to the Emblem Club, and her family joined her many times for events, where she loved to show us off. She was part of the Grandparent Program in

2000 at Sunset Elementary, where she loved helping the teachers and the kids.

Pat always said her family was her life. She was an amazing daughter, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and she always put her family first. It didn't take much to make Grandma's day, whether it be a phone call, a letter, a card or a visit. She enjoyed many road trips, camping trips, looking at Christmas lights and just visiting.

She taught us that family meant everything. She had an undeniable love for all who entered her life; everyone she met would end up calling her Mom, sister, or Grandma Pat, whether she was related to them or not.

She is predeceased by both her parents, her husband, her son Mark, her grandson Chris, and great-grandson Leo. She is survived by her six daughters, Bonnie Fraunfelder, Donna Townsend, Vickie Black, Jewell Robertson, Myrleen Storms and Barbara Green, as well as 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Her family invites you to a "Celebration of Life for Pat Smith" at the Best Western in Hermiston, Ore., on Wednesday, August 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Welcome to bring a dish, and of course stories, photos, etc.

DEATH NOTICES

Bonnie Brannan

Milton-Freewater
Aug. 2, 2016

Bonnie Brannan, 69, of Milton-Freewater died Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2016, at her home. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home in Milton-Freewater is in charge of arrangements.

Michele D. Lowary

Pendleton
July 31, 1956-July 31, 2016

Michele D. Lowary, 60, of Pendleton died Sunday, July 31, 2016, in Portland. She was born July 31, 1956, in Pendleton. A full obituary and a celebration of life will follow.

UPCOMING SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

BURNS, RITA — Funeral service at 10 a.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 336 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Interment will follow at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton.

SMITH, PAT — Celebration of life at 2 p.m. at Best Western Hermiston Inn, 2255 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Bring a dish to share.

THURSDAY, AUG. 4

BADE, DOROTHY — Visitation from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Mountain View-Colonial DeWitt, 1551 Dalles Military Road, Walla Walla.

MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3
MORROW COUNTY COURT, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner.

UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Umatilla County Courthouse room 130, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

HERMISTON AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 4 p.m., Hermiston Airport lounge, 1600 Airport Way.

BLUE MOUNTAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION, 6:30 p.m., TBA
PENDLETON FACADE COMMITTEE, 3:30 p.m., Pendleton City Hall administrative council room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave.

CONDON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Condon City Hall, 128 S. Main St.

UMATILLA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., 305 Willamette Ave., Umatilla (Mc-

Nary).
HELIX SCHOOL BOARD, 7:30, Helix School library, 120 Main St.

THURSDAY, AUG. 4
PENDLETON DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION, 7 a.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

ADAMS PLANNING COMMISSION, 6:30 p.m., Adams City Hall, 190 N. Main St.

PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall council chambers, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

Deborah RaNae Lankford Billings

Pendleton
December 11, 1954-July 29, 2016

Saturday, July 29th, 2016, Deborah RaNae Lankford Billings got her wings and joined our Lord in heaven. She passed away at her home in Pendleton surrounded by loving family and friends. Her valiant battle with liver cancer is done.



Billings

Deborah was born in Pendleton, Oregon, on December 11, 1954, to Dutch and Lavon Lankford. She was the little sister to six big brothers. Deborah attended school in Pilot Rock, graduating in 1974.

She is survived by her husband Tom Billings, stepsons Kelly and wife Shawna and Kevin and wife Janell, and three granddaughters, Karsyn, Emerson and Preslee Billings. She is also survived by her brothers Jim and wife Pat, Bill and wife Celia, Morris and wife Gloria, Mike and wife Nancy Lankford and sister-in-law Betty Lankford. Also nine nephews, four nieces and numerous great-nephews and -nieces who held a special place in her heart. It would be impossible to name all the others who knew her as "Aunt Deb." She was preceded in death by her parents Dutch and Lavon, brothers Bob and Jack, and sister-in-law Janet Lankford.

On November 27, 1999, she married Tom Billings in Pilot Rock. They lived in Pendleton and spent some time traveling to faraway places such as Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. Their trip last year was to Dubai. Crafts were a specialty. She could make amazing floral arrangements. Debbie did flowers and organized many weddings for family and friends. Many have one of her quilts made with loving hands. All her Christmas baskets had some of her wonderful tasty homemade jams, salsa and other delectable delights. She had a wonderful voice and loved to sing hymns.

Deborah had a heart of gold and was known for her generosity. She never knew a stranger. A big smile and warm hug was her standard greeting for all. Christmas

was her favorite holiday. She spent 11 months shopping for everyone. There were gifts for all and baskets full of goodies for special friends.

The mountains were always calling her name. She was an avid hunter and loved spending time at their cabin with family and friends. Trap shooting was one of her favorite sports. She was the secretary/treasurer of the Pilot Rock Gun Club in the '90s. While keeping books and fixing meals for the members she also managed to earn quite a few champion's belt buckles.

Throughout her years she had jobs in several fields. One of her favorites was driving for Mid-Columbia Bus. Each child was special to her and she did many things to help those who were in need. These last years she found a new passion: SCENTSY! Deborah started just like everyone else, but soon she was one of the top sellers. Many awards and trips were earned. She never missed a summer convention or the annual Spring Event. Debbie was eager to share her love of the Scentsy family and their products. It brought her great joy to bring in a new consultant and she did all she could to help them build their business. She was a great example of what hard work and dedication could do for an ambitious woman.

"Aunt Deb" will be missed by many. Hearts are heavy but also glad she is free from pain and suffering.

Services are at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Saturday, August 6th at 11 a.m. There will be a viewing Saturday morning prior to the service. She will be laid to rest in the family plot at the Pilot Rock Cemetery. There will be a luncheon at the Pilot Rock Community Center following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory to the local Pendleton Cancer Clinic, St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.pioneerchapel.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office.

For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

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