

## OBITUARIES

## June (McNair) Miller

Pilot Rock  
May 23, 1933 — January 7, 2019

June (McNair) Miller, age 85, of Pilot Rock, died on January 7, 2019, at Suttle Care & Retirement Home in Pendleton, Oregon.

June was born on May 23, 1933, in Pendleton, and was adopted by James McNair and Lela Roach McNair. They owned and operated a plumbing business in Pendleton for many years. June attended the schools in Pendleton and graduated with the class of 1951.

As a young teenager she was hired to work at the Rivoli Theater, being promoted to candy counter girl within a year. It was while working there that she met a young farmer named James Miller. He became a very good customer of the candy counter from the day he sighted June, eventually working up the courage to ask her for a date. They were married March 8, 1952, and "city girl" June went to live on the "ranch."

Moving to the country was completely novel! She was scared of the cows and worried that she would not be a good "farm wife." She didn't know the first thing about canning, planting and harvesting! Neighbors listened, encouraged and helped June with this transition and they would become her lifelong friends.

In April 1960 her son, Glen, was born. In September 1962 her daughter, Krista, joined the family. In 1963, June was able to locate her birth parents and there was an excited reunion. The Millers expanded the family circle to include the Hyer branch, now living in Spokane, Washington.

June had always loved horses and longed to ride them, but the ranch only had heavy draft work horses. Jim bought her several riding horses, including a well-trained Arabian stallion named Zadee. June became a regular in Pendleton parades, cattle drives and trail rides for pleasure in the Blue Mountains. She served as a pennant bearer for the Round-Up parade and raised gentle and well-trained Arabians to sell.

June was a member and chairman of the Pilot Rock Home Extension Group and served as a member of the Advisory Committee for Extension. She carried petitions for various causes, and served the Red Cross on the telephone committee to stir people to donate to the

blood drives. She and Jim volunteered time, talent and antiques for the new Pendleton Underground. They specifically enjoyed the roles



Miller

of Jim being a "wayward" husband and June irritably tracking him down near the brothe!

Jim and June were able to travel after their children married and settled.

They visited Germany, where Glen was stationed in the Air Force. Next came Turkey, then a second trip to Turkey and eventually a third trip! Imagine these two friendly country farmers engaging with locals, visiting mosques, castles and markets. They brought gifts, pictures and lots of memories back. They joined a travel group to speak of their adventures and the welcoming people they met. Traveling then took a back seat to the arrival of grandkids and the ranch bustled once more with youngsters.

June continued to contribute her time and energy. She volunteered at the St. Anthony gift shop and was secretary of the Pendleton Prostate Cancer support group for nearly nine years. She was a fixture on Main Street, soliciting donations to support veterans, the Red Cross, Shriners Hospital and the construction of the Pendleton Skate Park. She had a booth at the Friday Farmer's Market to raise donations and to speak to people candidly about the signs of cancer to watch for. She loved life and people; this showed in her causes and where she spent her time.

June was recognized everywhere for her colorful homemade hats and has over 35 of them in her summer collection. She was fondly known as "the hat lady" wherever she went, even at the mall in the Tri-Cities, where she loved to shop.

Survivors include her son, Glen (Sherry) Miller; daughter Krista (Joseph) Hunter; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

A memorial service shall be held for June Miller on the 16th of February, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. at the Berean Baptist Church, 8 N.W. Ninth Street, Pendleton, OR 97801.

## DEATH NOTICES

## Joan Arlene Nelson

Pendleton  
July 4, 1936 — Jan. 15, 2019

Joan Arlene Nelson, 82, of Pendleton, died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019, in Pendleton. She was born July 4, 1936. Visitation will be held Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements. Leave online condolences for family at burnsmortuary.com

## Nita C. Mills

Stanfield  
April 8, 1929 — Jan. 13, 2019

Nita C. Mills, 89, of Stanfield, died Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Yuma, Ariz. She was born April 8, 1929, in Portland. A funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. at Burns Mortuary chapel in Hermiston. Burial will follow at the Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Leave online condolences for the family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**BAUM, PERCY** — Services at 11 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1821 S. Second Ave., Walla Walla. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. at Skyview Memorial Park, 70116 S. Highway 395, Pendleton.

**PULLEN, GAIL** — Celebration of life at 1 p.m. at Life Tributes (Mueller's), 314 W. First Ave., Kennewick, Wash. A luncheon will be served.

**SCHRODER, KATY** — Celebration service at 2 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, 110 S. Church St., Condon. SUNDAY, JAN. 20

**STURZA, PETE** — Viewing from 10 a.m. to noon in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

## MONDAY, JAN. 21

**NORTON, BEVERLY** — Funeral service at 11 a.m. at Community Bible Church, 150 A St., Lexington.

**STURZA, PETE** — Viewing from noon to 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 150 E. First St., Prineville. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by a funeral mass at 1 p.m. at the church.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 22

**NELSON, JOAN** — Visitation at 10 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 336 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

**STURZA, PETE** — Interment at 10 a.m. at Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville.

## MEETINGS

## MONDAY, JAN. 21

**ECHO SCHOOL DISTRICT**, 6 p.m., Echo Community School, 600 Gerone St., Echo. Budget meeting will be followed by the regular meeting. (541-376-8436)

**HELIX CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Helix City Hall, 119 Columbia St., Helix. (541-457-2521)

**PENDLETON YOUTH COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Intermountain ESD office, 2001 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)

## TUESDAY, JAN. 22

**EAST IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**, 8 a.m., IRZ conference room, 500 N. First St., Hermiston. (Matthew Vickery 509-820-3234)

**IONE SCHOOL DISTRICT**, 3:30 p.m., Ione Community School, 445 Spring St., Ione. Work session at 3:30 p.m., regular board meeting at 4:30 p.m. (Kim Thul 541-422-7131)

**MORROW COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (541-922-4624)

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23

**BUTTER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT**, 8 a.m., River Point Farms conference room, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. (Bonnie Kyger 509-820-3202)

**ECHO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**, 8:30 a.m., River Point Farms conference room, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. (Bonnie Kyger 509-820-3202)

**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Lutcher 541-676-9061)

**HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD**, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

## THURSDAY, JAN. 24

**WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT**, 9 a.m., Irrigon Fire Department, 705 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. Annual organizational meeting and regular monthly meeting includes a discussion of the 2019 budget. (Lisa Baum 541-922-3814)

**SALVATION ARMY ADVISORY BOARD**, 12 p.m., Salvation Army, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-3369)

**MILTON-FREEWATER LIBRARY BOARD**, 4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

**UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**, 6:30 p.m., Umatilla County Justice Center, 4700 N.W. Pioneer Place, Pendleton. (541-278-6252)

**PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Jutta Haliewicz 541-966-0240)

## FRIDAY, JAN. 25

**UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT**, 2 p.m., Umatilla Fire Department Station 2, 305 Willamette St., Umatilla. (Shawn Halsey 541-966-3774)

## 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 EastOregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com.

## LOTTERY

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019

Lucky Lines

02-07-10-15-FREE-17-21-

25-29

Estimated jackpot: \$19,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 0-6-4-8

4 p.m.: 2-0-4-6

7 p.m.: 2-4-6-3

10 p.m.: 2-2-8-7

Friday, Jan. 18, 2019

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-9-7-7



Juan Oliphant via AP

**Ocean Ramsey, a shark researcher and advocate, swims Tuesday with a large great white shark off the shore of Oahu.**

## Researchers come face to face with great white shark

Using encounter to push for legislation that would protect sharks in Hawaii

By CALEB JONES  
Associated Press

HALEIWA, Hawaii — Two shark researchers who came face to face with what could be one of the largest great whites ever recorded are using their encounter as an opportunity to push for legislation that would protect sharks in Hawaii.

Ocean Ramsey, a shark researcher and conservationist, told The Associated Press that she encountered the 20-foot shark Tuesday near a dead sperm whale off Oahu.

The event was documented and shared on social media by her fiancé and business partner Juan Oliphant.

The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources said it was aware of photos of the great white and that tiger sharks also have been feeding on the whale.

Oliphant, who photographed the now-viral images, said it's unclear if the shark is the famed Deep Blue, believed to be the largest great white ever recorded.

"She looks the part right now," Oliphant said about the shark spotted Tuesday. "Maybe even more exciting that there is another massive, you know, super-size great white shark out there. Because their populations are so dwindling."

Ramsey, who operates Oahu-based One Ocean Diving and Research with Oliphant, said she has been pushing for several years for a bill that would ban the killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii, and hopes this year the measure will become law.

She said the images of her swimming next to a huge great white shark prove the predators should be protected, not feared.

Still, the veteran shark diver doesn't think the general public should recklessly get into the water with the giants, especially around a food source like a rotting whale carcass.

Ramsey said extensive training and time spent studying shark behavior has kept her team and customers safe. She teaches people about how to act and, more importantly, not act when they encounter a shark in the water.

Ramsey and her team observe behavior, identify and tag sharks and share that data with researchers as well as state and federal officials. She said she previously swam with the huge shark on research trips to Guadalupe Island, Mexico.

She also leads cage-free

shark diving tours.

Unlike many marine mammals, sharks are not a federally protected species, though there are laws against the sale of their fins.

"There's not a lot of sympathy for sharks because of the way they're portrayed in media and they don't have the cute cuddly appearance," Ramsey said. "You can't hate them for being predators. We need them for healthy marine ecosystems."

Ramsey and Oliphant want to make sure that people realize that shark bites are uncommon.

"The idea that they see people as a food source, that is rubbish and that needs to go away because really that's ultimately leading to the demise of

*"There's not a lot of sympathy for sharks because of the way they're portrayed in media and they don't have the cute cuddly appearance."*

Ocean Ramsey,  
Shark researcher

these animals," Oliphant said.

State Sen. Mike Gabbard sponsored the shark protection legislation last session and plans to reintroduce it this year. The bill died in the House when it wasn't heard by the House Judiciary Committee.

The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources said the decomposing whale carcass had drifted to about eight miles south of Pearl Harbor after being towed 15 miles offshore days earlier.

Officials say there have been reports that people are climbing onto the carcass to take its teeth as souvenirs, which may be a violation of state and federal laws.

The agency's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement Chief Jason Redull said people should stay out of the water around the dead whale.

"Understandably, some people want to get into the water either out of fascination or to get photographs, but it is truly dangerous to be around this carcass with so much shark activity," he said.

Ramsey said it's impressive that the great white has survived a "gauntlet of human death traps."

"I don't know how old she is," Ramsey said. "But for her to survive through so many longline fisheries and, you know, gill nets and team nets and fishermen who might just kill her because they think that she is a monster ... it's very special."

## Ailing federal worker says she'll get back lapsed insurance

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM — An ailing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worker in Oregon who was running out of a treatment to keep her alive and could not reach her employer during the government shutdown said Friday that she will get back her federally paid insurance coverage that lapsed months ago.

Jasmine Tool said she only had enough of a nutrient formula that she gets through a feeding tube to last through Friday. She said she had been unable to learn why her insurance lapsed or how to get it back because the shutdown meant no one was answering her calls.

Tool, who has a paralyzed stomach and brain tumor, was elated after a regional office of the Fish and Wildlife Service told her she would have coverage again.

"My insurance is set to be reinstated Monday!" the 30-year-old said in an email.

The U.S. government has said employees with active insurance will not lose it

during the shutdown. Tool's situation was unusual but shows the unexpected ways the shutdown can affect people.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon had pointed to Tool's plight to call for an end to the four-week-long shutdown.

"How can it be that a country as rich and powerful as ours fails Jasmine in such a shameful way?" Wyden said on the Senate floor this week. "There is only one immediate solution. The shutdown must end, and it must end now."

Tool can't eat by mouth and said the provider of the nutrients that keep her alive would not send more without a home health care worker. The worker would not come unless Tool was covered by insurance or she paid for it herself, which she said she can't afford.

"If don't get more, I will begin to starve," she said Thursday.

Tool has an inoperable but benign brain tumor that's slowly growing and a paralyzed stomach from a condition called gastroparesis.



Tool