

'Dr. John,' New Orleans musician, dies

The celebrated Louisiana-born singer and piano player known as Dr. John has died at age 77

By KEVIN MCGILL
AND CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Dr. John, the New Orleans singer and piano player who blended black and white musical styles with a hoodoo-infused stage persona and gravelly bayou drawl, died Thursday, his family said. He was 77.

In a statement released through his publicist, the family said Dr. John, who was born Mac Rebennack, died "toward the break of day" of a heart attack. They did not say where he died or give other details. He had not been seen in public much since late 2017, when he canceled several gigs. He had been resting at his New Orleans area home, publicist Karen Beninato said last year in an interview.

Memorial arrangements were being planned. "The family thanks all whom have shared his unique musical journey, and requests privacy at this time," the statement said.

"Dr. John was a true Louisiana legend," Louisi-

ana Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a statement. "He showed the world Louisiana's rich musical heritage, and his passion for music has left a mark on the industry unlike any other."

Drummer Ringo Starr was among the first musicians to weigh in on Twitter. "God bless Dr. John peace and love to all his family I love the doctor peace and love," the Beatles legend tweeted.

Fellow New Orleans singer Irma Thomas said he was loved around the world. "He was just a mystical person," Thomas told WVUE television when asked what made his music special. "He did what he liked best and was very unique with his style."

His spooky 1968 debut "Gris-Gris" combined rhythm 'n blues with psychedelic rock and startled listeners with its sinister implications of other-worldly magic, employing a piano style both rollicking and haunting. He later had a Top 10 hit with "Right Place, Wrong Time," collaborated with numerous top-tier rockers, won multiple Grammy awards and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

A white man who found a home among black New Orleans musicians, he first entered the music scene when he accompanied his



AP Photo/Evan Agostini, File

In this March 14, 2011, file photo, Dr. John, right, is presented his trophy by John Legend at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in New York.

father, who ran a record shop and also fixed the P.A. systems at New Orleans bars.

As a teenager in the 1950s, he played guitar and keyboards in a string of bands and made the legendary studio of Cosimo Matassa his second home, Rebennack said in his 1994 memoir, "Under a Hoodoo Moon." He got into music full time after dropping out of high school, became acquainted with drugs and petty crime and lived a fast-

paced life. His gigs ranged from strip clubs to auditoriums, roadhouses and chicken shacks. The ring finger of Rebennack's left hand was blown off in a shooting incident in 1961 in Jacksonville, Florida.

He blamed Jim Garrison, the JFK conspiracy theorist and a tough-on-crime New Orleans district attorney, for driving him out of his beloved city in the early 1960s. Garrison went after prostitutes, bars and all-night music venues.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, JUNE 10

IRRIGON FIRE DISTRICT, 7 a.m., Irrigon Fire Department, 705 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. (541-922-3133)

PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6 p.m., Pendleton School District office, 107 N.W. 10th St., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)

MILTON-FREEWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6:30 p.m., Central Middle School, 306 S.W. Second St., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-3551)

ADAMS CITY COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Adams City Hall, 190 N. Main St., Adams. (541-566-9380)

HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6:30 p.m., district office, 305 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. (Briana Cortaberra 541-667-6000)

ATHENA-WESTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 6:30 p.m., Athena Elementary School library, 375 S. Fifth St., Athena. Budget committee meeting at 5:30 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Paula Warner 541-566-3551)

HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Heppner. (541-676-9618)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

PILOT ROCK FIRE DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock Fire Department, 415 N.E. Elm St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-4522)

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PENDLETON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, 12 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

PORT OF UMATILLA COMMISSION, 1 p.m., Port of Umatilla offices, 505 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. (541-922-3224)

PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET BOARD, 5:30 p.m., Pendleton Early Learning Center, 455 S.W. 13th St., Pendleton. (541-969-9466)

WESTON CEMETERY BOARD, 6 p.m., Memorial Hall, 210 E. Main St., Weston. (541-566-3313)

PENDLETON LIBRARY BOARD, 6 p.m., Pendleton Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0380)

LEXINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Lexington Town Hall, 425 F St., Lexington. (541-989-8515)

PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (Donna Biggerstaff 541-966-0209)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

UKIAH SCHOOL DISTRICT, 8 a.m., Ukiah Community School, 201 Hill St., Ukiah. (541-427-3731)

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Irrigon Public Library, 200 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. (541-676-9061)

MILTON-FREEWATER CEMETERY MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 3, 12 p.m., Milton-Freewater Golf Course restaurant, 301 Catherine St., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

STANFIELD IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 12 p.m., district office, 100 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. (Tiffany Harrell 541-449-3272)

PORT OF MORROW COMMISSION, 1:30 p.m., Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. (Dori Drago 541-481-7678)

PENDLETON FAÇADE COMMITTEE, 3:30 p.m.,

Come Check Out Our New **Daily Specials!**

SUNDAY: **PRIME RIB SUNDAY**

MONDAY: **BABY BACK RIB NIGHT**

TUESDAY: **SALMON TACOS**

WEDNESDAY: **WEDNESDAYBURGERS**

THURSDAY: **THIRSTY THURSDAY**

HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE, SALOON

8 SE COURT, PENDLETON • 541.278.1100

The firm of **Grable Hantke Law Group, LLC**, offers a wealth of experience in a variety of specialties, as well as knowledgeable and dedicated staff. Our firm is committed to providing personal attention to each client.

We specialize in all aspects of family law.
Our areas of practice include:

dissolutions, legal separation, modifications, custody, parenting time, adoption, paternity, restraining orders, stalking orders, spousal support and child support. We also specialize in probate, estates, wills, guardianships and conservatorships.

<http://www.grablelaw.com>
tel: 541.276.1851 • fax: 541.276.3146

334 Southeast Second Street • P.O. Box 1760
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Knight

Portland
January 30, 1955 — May 22, 2019

Mary Lou Knight's death was announced Wednesday, May 22. She was the beloved "baby sister" in a family of seven children — that was mainly raised in Pendleton, Oregon.

The Knight family story hit the local Pendleton newspaper in January 1955, during Mary's extremely difficult birth, which nearly killed her mother. The frightening story had a happy ending, as "Molly" was born exactly on her father's birthday, January 30. A sad irony is that Mary is survived by her mother, Sara Lou Knight, 97, who lives in a retirement home in Portland, near Mary's second-eldest brother Tom, cousin Susan, and nephew Tim — all Knights. Mary's niece, Julie Knight Iwayama, a registered nurse in Seattle, and Sue Knight-Allen, a retired social worker in Portland, are managing funeral arrangements.

Other survivors include brothers Bill Knight of Yakima, Tom Knight of Portland, Joel Knight of Union, Dee Knight of New York, David Knight of Trento, Italy, and Jim Knight of Grants Pass. Cousins, nieces and nephews abound, scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest as well as Alaska, California and Utah.

Mary worked in her first career as a registered nurse

for 30 years, after earning a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Hawaii in the 1970s. During her time in Hawaii, she was both a student and a singer.

She also met friends in Hawaii who introduced her to the Unitarian Universalist church, which became her spiritual home for the rest of her life. From then on, no matter where her nursing career took

her — in multiple states — she was always a member of a UU congregation. She acted as a lay minister and sang in the choirs.

In the 1990s she moved back to Portland to be near her aging parents and help them transition to retirement living. During this time she chose to study for the UU ministry. She earned a Master of Divinity degree at Marylhurst University in Portland, and was ordained as a UU minister in 2007. She received Final Fellowship in 2012. In those years she was a regular preacher at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hood River, Oregon.

There will be a memorial service July 14 at 2 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Portland, 1211 S.W. Main St., Portland, OR 97205.

For a full obituary with more pictures, go to www.asacredmoment.com/obituaries-archive/maryknight.



Knight

DEATH NOTICES

Lelan O'Harra

Weston

Feb. 21, 1935 — May 7, 2019

Lelan O'Harra, 84, of Weston, died Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Walla Walla. He was born Feb. 21, 1935, in Weston. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 15 from 2-4 p.m. at Pioneer Park in Weston.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

BAILEY, RYAN — Memorial service at 2 p.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

BLEVINS, MICHAEL — Celebration of life service with military honors at 1 p.m. at the Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St.

BROWN, TONI — Celebration of life at 11 a.m. at the Life Church, 222 S.W. Third St., Pilot Rock, with a potluck to follow.

CARRICK, LARRY — Celebration of life at 4 p.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. A reception will follow at the Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St.

LOWE, FRANK — Celebration of life at 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

MCATEE, JESSIE — Graveside service at 11 a.m. at the Echo Cemetery.

SPRATLING, CARLA — Funeral services at 9 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 609 N.W. 12th St., Pendleton.

WOOD, DOROTHY — Celebration of life memorial service at 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 336 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 — TUESDAY, JUNE 11

No services scheduled

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, 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.

Harrison Family Medicine Welcomes Andrea Carrasco, M.D.

- Accepting patients
- Accepting all insurances
- Schedule an appointment today!

Starting
July 1, 2019

HARRISON FAMILY MEDICINE

Harrison Family Medicine
1100 Southgate, Suite 2
Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone: 541-215-1564
Fax: 541-215-1567
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM