

OBITUARIES

Eva Marie Singrey

Portland
March 6, 1929 — January 26, 2021

Eva Singrey, 91, formerly of Pendleton, died Tuesday evening, January 26, 2021, at her home in Portland.

Eva Marie Vuksich was born March 6, 1929, in Portland, the daughter of the late Anthony Vuksich and Mattie Marie (Waddell) Vuksich. She was raised in Portland and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1947.

She married William Jackson Singrey on July 21, 1951, in Portland. They resided in Northeast Portland where all four of their sons were born prior to moving to Pendleton for William's job at Pacific Northwest Bell in 1962.

In Pendleton, Eva was very active in the community, serving on the boards for St. Mary's Catholic Church Altar Society, Allons Dance Club, Petal Pushers Garden Club, Coffeetime Bowling League, and the Sherwood Heights PTA. She was also a Cub Scout den mother, Sherwood Heights room mother, and Order of DeMolay chapter. She worked at Frazier Bookstore, then at the Vintage Shoppe in downtown Pendleton.

In late 1979 she moved back to Portland to be closer to her sons, her mother, and her brothers and their families. Beginning in 1980 until her retirement in 1999, she managed the Import Plaza store in the Galleria while being responsible for adver-

tising at all eight Import Plaza locations.

Eva was preceded in death by her husband, William Singrey, in 1972; her parents; and by her brothers, Rudolph and Stanley. Survivors include her sons and their spouses: Michael and Leslie Singrey of Portland; David Singrey of Portland; Christopher and Michelle Singrey of Wilsonville; and Matthew and Sharon Singrey of Tigard. She loved each of her eight grandchildren and had a special connection with each of them. She loved her three daughters-in-law deeply, reminding them how lucky they were to have such a great mother-in-law.

She was selfless and generous, always remarked on how happy she was and how fortunate she felt to have such a good life. Every place felt warmer and richer when Eva entered the room.

Private cremation rites were held at the Hoyt Crematory in Forest Grove. A graveside services is planned in Pendleton for later this year, where she will be interned next to her husband.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests you sing or hum your favorite tune and enter the room with a smile, happy just to be there, as she always did, in remembrance of her.

Go to www.tualatinvalleyfa.com to share a memory.



Singrey

Rocky Dean Thacker

Milton-Freewater
September 14, 1955 — April 28, 2021

Hello everyone ...

I just wanted to say Hi and tell you that I am doing great now. I love and miss all of you and look forward to the day when I get to visit with you again. For some of you that really don't know me ... I will tell you a little about myself.

My name is Rocky Dean Thacker and I was born on September 14, 1955, to Chet and Beryl Thacker in Walla Walla, Washington. I joined brothers and sisters Jim, Sharon, Duane, Suzy and Alan in a family full of love. Even though I wasn't a girl (I was supposed to be, according to my siblings) they accepted me anyway.

I grew up in Milton-Freewater and graduated from Mac-Hi in 1974. I had so much fun growing up, even those times that I got in trouble messing around at school. It was tough having your dad as the bus driver, if you got in trouble at school ... everyone told Dad and then you were for sure in trouble when you got home. I love my family so very much and so enjoyed each and every time that we all got together ... to camp, hunt, fish, holidays. God was so good to us.

Even though I was married four times, I was not blessed with having my own children. But ... I did get to be that uncle that helped spoil my nieces and nephews.

I worked most of my years in construction, as did two of my brothers.

I participated in a little rodeo time, rode motorcycles, drove fast cars and just enjoyed life. I was a proud member of the Milton-Freewater Elks and a lifetime member of the NRA.

Unfortunately for me, I had some health issues that just wouldn't go away. But not before I accepted

Christ into my life and was baptized. My life on earth ended April 28, 2021,

as I was at home playing my video games. My mom passed away in 1992, my brother Jim in 2003, and my dad in 2006. I am now getting time with them and reminiscing about the times that we got to share with all of you.

Because of current restrictions, there will only be a small family gathering, to celebrate my life.

If I can give a little advice to all of you, this is what I would say ... DANCE like there's nobody watching, LOVE like you'll never get hurt, SING like there's nobody listening, and LIVE like it's heaven on earth.

Until I see you again, Don't Worry and Be Happy!

A private gathering will be held.

To leave a condolence online visit: www.munsellerhodes.com.



Thacker

Viralma Rhoda 'Rusty' Black

Milton-Freewater
December 8, 1941 — May 1, 2021

Viralma (Rusty) Rhoda Black was born on December 8, 1941, in Pendleton, Oregon, to parents Ronald E. Tawes and Helen E. (Walker) Tawes. She passed away on May 1, 2021, in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, at the age of 79.

Rusty was an only child and grew up and graduated from Pendleton High School. She spent a lot of her childhood traveling around with her father who had polio. She often spoke of the time when they traveled to the Kentucky Derby and the wooden race-horse her father surprised her with on their return home. They also attended several sporting events together. She always said that he was the reason for her love of sports, her favorite being horse racing, and pro football and her beloved Philadelphia Eagles.

She also had a love for horses. Whenever they would travel she would always search out the nearest stables so she could ride. Around the age of 9 she talked her parents into buying her a horse, even though they were not horse people. This started her life of owning and training horses. She loved to spend time at the Bar M Ranch, and this is where she acquired her horse Duke, which she trained to do all kinds of tricks. In August of 1959 she made headlines when she rode him in the Omak Suicide Race. She was the first woman to ride in the race, and several years after that women were not allowed to ride in the race.

She also came across her famous horse Domino when she was running horses from the Round-Up Grounds to the old Happy Canyon; a man was trying to train Domino to do the trail horse part but was too fractious, but she decided she wanted him and could train him to do the part and she did. This started her long journey training horses for the lead part in Happy Canyon. She trained seven horses over the next almost 70 years; five of them she raised herself, one of those being Chinook, whom she said because of him she was able to do things she would of never done, one of those being their trip to Las Vegas to represent the Round-Up and Happy Canyon when Chinook and Bryson Bronson carried the flag at the opening of the National Finals Rodeo. Another horse

she loved dearly was Poco, a mare she barrel raced on and won several buckles.

In August of 1960 she married Charles Black, and they raised two daughters, Lea and Dana, at Gibbon, Oregon. They spent time on their place at Gibbon raising horses and cattle.

She drove a school bus for the Pendleton School District until they moved in the summer of 1973 to Orofino, Idaho. While living in Orofino she drove a school bus for the Orofino School District and in the summers she would drive bus transferring fire crews to different fires until moving back to Oregon. She continued to drive a school bus for the Pilot Rock School District for several years before retiring. She often talked about her trips with the different sporting teams from Pilot Rock and how much she enjoyed taking the kids and how much she missed it. Later she started driving for Kayak; she worked for them until October of 2020 when she was diagnosed with cancer.

Rusty's greatest joy was going and watching her great-grandchildren, Carter, Tucker, Mason and Rietta. She loved going to all their practices and games and watching them work with their 4-H animals. Anything they did, she wanted to be there. She was their biggest fan.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2009, her parents, and a brother. She is survived by her children Lea VanHouten (John) of Pilot Rock and Dana Black (Craig) of New Salem, North Dakota; her grandchildren JaDee VanHouten and Corey VanHouten (Ali) of Pilot Rock; four wonderful great-grandchildren, Carter, Tucker, Mason and Rietta, all of Pilot Rock; and several nieces and nephews.

Please join us for a celebration of life service on Saturday, May 15, at 1 p.m. at the Roy Raley Room at the Round-Up Grounds in Pendleton, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking that those who wish may make memorial donations to either the Pilot Rock Little League or the Black Sox baseball team.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of the arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at www.burnsmortuary.com.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, MAY 8

GERARD, BOB — Celebration of life at 1 p.m. at McNary Dam Spillway Park, Umatilla.

MUNCK, DOREEN — Mass of Christian Burial for family members only at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Fifth and College streets, Athena. Burial will follow at the Athena Cemetery; friends are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

No services scheduled

MONDAY, MAY 10

WOODHALL, DICK — Visitation from 4-6 p.m. at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

WOODHALL, DICK — Graveside service at 1 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Cemetery. Lunch will follow at the family home, 56676 W. 7 Ranch Road, Milton-Freewater.

DEATH NOTICES

Susan Cook

Milton-Freewater
April 9, 1953 — May 7, 2021

Former La Grande resident Susan Cook, 68, of Milton-Freewater, died Friday, May 7, 2021, in Walla Walla, Washington. She was born April 9, 1953. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in care of arrangements.

Ronald C. Esselstyn

Pendleton
Jan. 16, 1943 — May 6, 2021

Ronald C. Esselstyn, 78, of Pendleton, died Thursday, May 6, 2021, at his home. He was born Jan. 16, 1943, in Pendleton. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop.

Walter Vern Ronish Sr.

Pendleton
Sept. 2, 1921 — May 5, 2021

Walter Vern Ronish Sr., 99, of Pendleton, died Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at his home. He was born Sept. 2, 1921. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home is in care of arrangements.

Byron Glenn Wendler

Pendleton
May 16, 1932 — Nov. 12, 2020

Byron Glenn Wendler, 88, of Pendleton, died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, in Walla Walla, Washington. He was born May 16, 1932. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Community Center; all who knew him are welcome to attend. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneerchapel.com.

Richard Grant 'Dick' Woodhall

Milton-Freewater
October 23, 1946 — May 5, 2021

Words associated with Richard Grant Woodhall, who passed away at home on May 5, 2021, from heart and kidney disease: husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, storyteller, hunter, a man not afraid to tackle a project from broken car to busted plumbing; he gave it his all.

Richard (Dick) Grant Woodhall was born October 23, 1946, to Berniece (Hurst) and Jack A. Woodhall in Vancouver, Washington. He is the youngest brother of John, Jayne, Janice and Mark.

Dick attended several schools in M-F. He graduated from McLoughlin Union HS in 1965. He completed a year of auto mechanics at WWCC and also spent a half year at BMCC in mechanics.

Dick had many jobs over

his life: an attendant at the Rainbow Gas Station; he was a fence builder and sprinkler changer for Bob Frasier Cattle Co., he worked as a hyster driver at Umatilla Cannery; and was a parts runner for Tex Brotherton Dodge Dealer. At the Athena mill he worked on the log pond. At Key Technology he began as an assembler, advanced to floor lead, and retired as assembly production supervisor in 1998.

Besides having a full-time job he maintained a small family farm raising cattle, grew alfalfa and beardless barley, and owned Woodhall Used Auto. Dick, Kevin, and

Dick's father also built a frame house. A family tradition consisted of providing Christmas trees to Milton-Freewater schools and selling them at the lot at 139 S. Main St.

Dick met Carol (Boyer) while working at the cannery in 1965. He asked her out on a "dare" from his friends. They were married on August 11, 1966, and have two children: son Kevin of Milton-Freewater and daughter Tami VanBuren of Othello, Washington.

Dick is grandfather to six wonderful young men and women: Sarah (Efrain) Villanueva, Kateland and Wyatt Woodhall of

Milton-Freewater; Lane, Logan and Emilee Van Buren of Kahlotus, Washington, all who filled his heart with pride and love.

Dick is survived by his wife of 54 years; Kevin and Tami and their children; his brother John (Judy) and sister Janyce (Myron); and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, brother and sister-in-law.

Visitation will be Monday, May 10, 2021, from 4-6 p.m. at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home. A graveside service is to be led by Rev. Duane Geyer on Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Cemetery. Lunch will follow at the family home, 56676 W. 7 Ranch Lane.

To leave online condolence, visit www.munsellerhodes.com.



Woodhall

Doreen Arlay Munck

Athena
August 18, 1931 — May 2, 2021

Doreen Bates was born August 18, 1931, to Lourine Schumacher Bates and Ralph Bates near Scio, Oregon, and died in Pendleton on May 2, 2021.

Her father died when Doreen was six months old. Doreen moved from Oregon to California with her mother during WWII. Lourine met Walter Squires in Napa; they married and after the war moved to Orofino, Idaho.

Doreen met Tom Munck in high school and married September 4, 1950, in Orofino. They lived for two years in Culesdas, Idaho, then moved to Athena, Oregon, where Tom taught high school English and Doreen provided a loving home. Tom died in 2012.

Doreen and Tom raised their four children in Athena. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and helped with 4-H sewing groups. If there was an activity at Weston-McEwen High School, Doreen was likely in attendance. During her career Doreen worked at the bank, the *Athena Press*, sold Avon, and had an in-home fabric shop. Her favorite occupation was as a cook for the school district. She enjoyed her coworkers and the students she served.

Doreen was very involved

with her children and grandchildren. She was always ready to help and traveled many miles on educational trips and to sporting events. The grandchildren have many memories of camping trips with Pop and Grandma.

Doreen and Tom enjoyed many years traveling and socializing with Paradise Good Sam's Club. Doreen was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Athena.

Survivors include Gordon (Miriam) Munck of Pendleton, son-in-law Gary Munkers of Lexington, Gayle (Cliff) Hoelt of Pilot Rock, Gary Munck of Pendleton, and daughter-in-law Debi Munck of Athena. Grandchildren are Dean, Shane and Ryan Munkers, Heather Munck Baune, Tom Munck, Steven Munck, Alison Hoelt Garcia, and Aaron Hoelt. Preceding Doreen was husband Thomas, daughter Martha Munkers, and grandson Christopher Munck.

Mass of Christian Burial for family members only will be held Saturday, May 8, at 2:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Athena. Burial will be at the Athena Cemetery following mass. Friends are welcome to attend at the cemetery.



Munck