

## OBITUARIES

### Ted James 'Teddy' Baker

Sept. 1, 1994 — Dec. 7, 2021

Stanfield

Ted James "Teddy" Baker was born in Pendleton, Oregon, on Sept. 1, 1994, to Richard D. Baker Jr. and Jamie D. (Harvey) Oldenburg. Teddy was full of smiles and laughter. His fun and endearing personality earned him several nicknames throughout his life: Teddy Bear, Tedward, Tedster, Special Ted, Teddles, etc.



Baker

From early on, Teddy loved spending his time with others. He never wanted to be alone, even if that meant grocery shopping with mom every week. Thanks to our beloved family pet, Mitzi Doodle, Teddy always had an available companion. Without question, a dog was never loved more. Mitzi's role was later filled by a dutiful, hyperactive Corgi named Snickers, who had an insatiable need to be with others and was constantly busy. Her and Teddy were a good match.

For his first seven years, Teddy lived in Echo, Oregon, where he met his lifelong friend, Connor Bettencourt, at the age of 2. Connor was exactly three weeks younger than Teddy and much slower at mastering the fine art of potty training. This meant that Teddy received more rewards, which quickly revealed his competitive nature.

Everything became a competition from then on. His older brothers, CJ and Dannon, were his idols and his main reason to compete. He would do anything to keep up, including learning to rollerblade at the age of 3. There was never a dull moment at our house. Teddy and his brothers were either playing sports or competing at sports video games. His first game controller wasn't ever plugged in, since there were only two ports, but you can bet that didn't keep Teddy from winning!

The family moved to Pendleton in 2001, where Teddy met his first love, Mrs. Liz Nirschl. First grade was a breeze, thanks to her! After much reassurance that she would still be nearby, Teddy eventually gave in and agreed to move on to second grade.

This was the year that he found out his middle name was not Bear. It was devastating. Once he recovered from the shock and contemplated his options, he announced that he would "keep it anyways."

Thanks to youth sports, awesome coaches (you rocked his world, LeRoy VanCleave), and new friendships, Teddy found his stride in Pendleton. Every year he played baseball, basketball and football. He was fortunate to play on many all-star teams and traveling teams. When his 10-year-old All-Star team won the state championship, you'd never seen a happier kid, EVER!! He loved sports! Once he discovered college football, Teddy became a huge Oregon Ducks fan. To his great dismay, brother Dannon is a Beaver fan. Ted's room was green and gold. Dannon's was orange and black (thank God they no longer had to share). As expected, there were many Civil Wars in our household, along with a half Ducks/half Beavers bath mat that stood the test of time, and two opposing stocking caps that were proudly worn during several cold winters.

As Teddy and Dannon got older, they both found a love for music. They spent years sharing their favorite songs and bands with each other. When they were younger, you could find them sequestered in a bedroom or bathroom singing along to entire albums. Good memories are made and remembered with music.

Teddy loved anything physically challenging, including skateboarding. Unfortunately, this sport caused a serious elbow injury and two surgeries his freshman year. It was devastating. Ironically, skateboarding was the only sport exciting enough for him that he was able to continue after the injury. Later, after high school, Teddy took up golf, which he enjoyed immensely. He shot a hole-in-one in 2017! Again, happiest big kid, EVER!! Surprisingly, Teddy found an appreciation for professional soccer. Man, did he get into those games! But over the years, one of his favorite things was watch-

ing ball games with his dad, especially football. Those two spent countless hours together on a comfy couch, cheering on their teams.

Teddy never had any fear from the time he was small. Well, except for the dentist. His lack of fear explains how he ended up working in the wind energy industry with his oldest brother, CJ. CJ stays on the ground, but not Teddy. His job required climbing up to 400 feet inside of the turbines (windmills) to finish the interior assembly. He would send us pictures of him standing on top of the windmills. He loved the feeling of freedom! Working on the road gave Teddy many opportunities for adventure, which he was eager to take advantage of.

He and CJ would attend games and events, wherever they were working. But most of their down time was spent watching movies, working out, playing catch and cooking together. When Ted was on a job without CJ, he would convince work buddies to join in his next adventure. He was so excited when he and his friends were able to attend both a Ducks vs. Auburn game and a Dallas Cowboys playoff game, while on a job in Texas. Traveling together provided good times and good memories for both Teddy and CJ. For that, we are forever grateful.

Everyone knew that Teddy was fiercely competitive, but those who knew him well also knew that he had a very soft and caring side. He was generous beyond belief. He would often donate to local causes, while working on the road. He helped his friends, whenever they needed him. He found joy in buying gifts for others, which, to be completely honest, occasionally included some unique items. But that was Ted — unique. He was truly one-of-a-kind. He had a variety of interests and dreamed of one day writing a book of poetry. Surely, there's poetry in heaven.

Teddy loved dogs, he loved kids, he loved people of all shapes and colors, he just loved love. And he wasn't afraid to say it out loud. We will miss that.

Teddy made many friends along his short journey and befriended many of their families, as well. A special

thank you to the Bettencourt's and O'Rourke's. You showed Teddy much love and many happy times. From our hearts to yours, thank you to every single person who loved him, cared about him and contributed to his life in some way. He loved and appreciated you, and so do we.

Teddy was a very special young man who lost his way and was struggling to find his way back. Sadly, he chose to leave this difficult and complicated world on Dec. 7, 2021. We are completely heartbroken, but we are confident that our Teddy is smiling again.

Family members Ted has reunited with: great-grandparents, Wilburn (Bob) Pursel, Alice (Eva) Pursel and Lucille Baker; grandparents, John Dodds, James Harvey and Richard Davie; aunts, Connie Baker, Denene (Baker) Davis and Dawn (Widner) Harvey; and his beloved dogs, Mitzi and Snickers.

Family members who will miss him beyond measure: father, Richard D. Baker Jr.; mother, Jamie D. (Harvey) Oldenburg; stepfather, Derek Oldenburg; brothers, Christopher (CJ) Kunkle and Dannon Baker; stepsisters, Maggie Carter, Sydney and Gracie Oldenburg and their families; nephew, Taigen Kunkle; grandparents, Richard Baker Sr., Suzie Davie, Lana Dodds-Jacobson, Rick Jacobson and Hallie Harvey; and many aunts, uncles and cousins in Oregon and Alberta, Canada. And, of course, his last beloved Corgi, Raley Jane.

A celebration of life will be held at the Roy Raley Room on March 12, 2022, at 4 p.m. We would love for you to join us and share your memories and stories. Photos of you and Teddy would be greatly appreciated. Copies can be mailed to Jamie Oldenburg at 216 N.W. Seventh St., Pendleton, OR 97801, brought to the service or sent on Messenger.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted at the service for local nonprofit organizations in Teddy's memory. He would want us to bless others. We hope to see you all there.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Please share memories of Teddy with his family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).



### Ronald Henry Currin

Aug. 21, 1960 — Dec. 3, 2021

Pendleton & Clements, California

Ronald Henry Currin was born in Heppner, Oregon, on Aug. 21, 1960, to Ronald Currin and Judy Lazinka Currin. Affectionately, he was known to family and friends as Ronnie or RC. He was raised on the family cattle ranch on Buttercreek with his brothers, Tony, Mike and Steve; and sister, Jennifer.

Ron graduated from Heppner High School in 1978, then attended Blue Mountain Community College and Montana State University, on rodeo scholarships, where he was a three-time College National Finals Rodeo qualifier. At Montana State, he discovered his love of the cattle industry. After returning home from Montana State University, Ron pursued the family's passion of rodeo. He traveled for several years, over thousands of miles, with his brothers and friends making a lifetime of memories and friendships. He was an accomplished all-around cowboy, competitive in both calf roping and steer wrestling. Capturing the prestigious Pendleton Round-Up All-Around Champion in 1993 and the Steer Wrestling in 1995 were the major highlights of Ron's rodeo career.

After Ron's rodeo career, he switched gears and began pursuing his passion of trading cattle. He started in the business at the bottom and worked his way up to become a first-class cattle trader. Ellington Peek and Western Video Markets

were instrumental in starting his career and allowed him to broaden his cattle trading network. In 2005, he found his ultimate position as director of procurement with John Wilson and Beef Northwest. He loved what he did and valued the people he worked with in the cattle industry.

Ron married Rayanne Engel in 2005 and they divided their resi-

dency between Clements, California, and Pendleton, Oregon. In 2007, they welcomed twins, son, Riley, and daughter, Rayna, which have been their pride and joy.

On Dec. 3, 2021, after a lengthy battle with metastatic bladder cancer, Ron passed away at his Clements home with his wife by his side.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Mike Currin in 1990. Ron is survived by wife, Rayanne; son, Riley; and daughter, Rayna. In addition, father, Ron Sr.; mother, Judy; brother, Tony (wife Kelli); brother, Steve (wife Lisanne); sister, Jennifer Gutridge (husband Shane); sister-in-law, Judy Pederson (husband Curtis); and nine nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in Pendleton at the convention center on Dec. 31 at 1:15 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Ron Currin Memorial c/o Bank of Eastern Oregon, P.O. Box 39, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Hospice of San Joaquin via [www.hospicesj.org](http://www.hospicesj.org) in Ron's memory.



Currin

### Alice Lavina (Martin) Saunders

April 6, 1928 — Dec. 15, 2021

Hermiston

Alice Lavina (Martin) Saunders of Hermiston, Oregon, passed away on Dec. 15, 2021, in Hermiston, Oregon, at the age of 93 years and 8 months. She was born in Richland, Oregon, on April 6, 1928, to parents, Herman and Laura Annavea (Haskins) Martin.



Saunders

Her parents owned and operated the telephone company. Since their residence was connected to the back of the telephone office, she claimed to be born in a telephone office.

Alice graduated from Richland High School along with her lifelong sweetheart, Raymond Saunders Jr. Because World War II had already begun, Ray was serving in the Navy when he was granted a 10-day leave, to marry Alice Martin on March 10, 1945. She later graduated from Richland High School in May of 1945.

Alice and Ray began their life together in 1946, living in Baker, Oregon, where they resided for most of their married life. They soon completed their family with the addition of two daughters, Terrilyn and Judith. Alice began working outside of the home when the girls were in school. She was the manager of the S&H Green Stamps store until it closed. Then she served in the Baker County Clerk's office for a few years before being elected to three terms as the Baker County treasurer. In 2003, Ray and Alice made the

decision to move to Hermiston, Oregon, to be near their oldest daughter, Terrilyn Piquet.

Flower and vegetable gardening was a hobby and a passion for her entire life. She enjoyed sharing bouquets of flowers with her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Terrilyn Piquet (Allen), Hermiston, Oregon; and Judith Chapman (Charles), Abilene, Texas; granddaughters, Raquel Piquet (Craig), Monique Piquet, Bridget Hinrichs (Jon), Danielle Piquet, Tonya Weatherman (Brendan) and Amy Alice Burson; great-grandchildren, Damian Piquet, Devin Piquet, Brayden Hinrichs, Brooklyn Hinrichs, Jaelyn Hinrichs, Lirian Holden. Annika Holden, Holton Weatherman, Ellie Weatherman and Hudson Weatherman.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Ray, and her parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Vange John Memorial Hospice Education Fund or Eagle Valley Cemetery.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, at noon at the Eagle Valley Cemetery, Richland, Oregon.

Please share memories of Alice with her family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com). Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 18

**Blackburn, Joe** — Celebration of life, 2 p.m. in the Roy Raley Room at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave.

**Burk, Karen** — Celebration of life, 11 a.m. at Milwaukie Elks Lodge No. 142, 13121 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd., Oak Grove.

**Rossi, Frank** — Memorial service, 1 p.m. at the Westside Church of Christ, 2185 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

Sunday, Dec. 19

**Reardon, Ethan** — Funeral service, noon at the Oregon National Guard Armory, 900 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston. Burial with military honors will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Monday, Dec. 20

**Rhinehart, Phil** — Graveside service, 11 a.m. at the Ukiah Cemetery.

**Williams, Teddy** — Memorial service, 1 p.m. at the Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

**Saunders, Alice** — Graveside service, noon at the Eagle Valley Cemetery, Richland, Oregon.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Joseph Lynn Lytle

Aug. 16, 1925 — Dec. 11, 2021

Walla Walla

Joseph Lynn Lytle, 96, of Walla Walla, died Dec. 11, 2021, at Milton-Freewater Health & Rehabilitation Center. He was born Aug. 16, 1925. Arrangements are with Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater.

### Benjamin Michael

Nov. 16, 1954 — Dec. 15, 2021

Pilot Rock

Benjamin Michael, 67, of Pilot Rock, died Dec. 15, 2021, at his home. He was born Nov. 16, 1954, in Pilot Rock. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com).

### Donald Robinson

Jan. 6, 1948 — Dec. 16, 2021

Pendleton

Donald Robinson, 73, of Pendleton, died Dec. 16, 2021, at his home. He was born Jan. 6, 1948. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to [www.pioneerchapel.com](http://www.pioneerchapel.com).

### Philip Richard 'Phil' Rhinehart

June 4, 1947 — Dec. 10, 2021

Las Vegas

Philip Richard "Phil" Rhinehart of Las Vegas, Nevada, was born on June 4, 1947, in Pendleton, Oregon, to parents, Forest and Susan Hensley Rhinehart. He died on Dec. 10, 2021, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the age of 74 years.

Phil was raised on the family ranch and attended school in Ukiah before going to Pendleton High School. After graduation, he served a two year mission in Sweden before attending college in Salt Lake City, Utah. Phil loved to travel and took several trips all around the world. He spent 32 years working for the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Phil always enjoyed an adventure

whether riding his bike or going to the hills.

He is survived by his brothers, Forest Rhinehart, Ukiah, Oregon; and Steven Rhinehart, Pilot Rock, Oregon; sister, Susan Grieb, Hermiston, Oregon; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, William

"Bill" Rhinehart; and a half-sister, Barbara Johnson.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Ukiah Cemetery, Ukiah, Oregon.

Please share memories of Phil with his family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com). Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



Rhinehart

## OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries; death notices and information about services are published at no charge. Obituaries can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries can be submitted via the funeral home, by email to [obits@eastoregonian.com](mailto:obits@eastoregonian.com) or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818.