

# Regifting Christmas joy



MARC MULLINS

## MARC'S REMARKS

Growing up in northern Idaho during the 1960s was a thrilling adventure. There never was a lack of things for a kid to do on our small family farm outside of Post Falls. Winters were especially fun.

I have vivid memories of the gift Santa brought me on Christmas Day 1964. What 7-year-old boy hadn't asked for a Sno Wing sled that year? Among my school friends, I was much envied that winter. They all pleaded for the opportunity to take my space-age sled for a ride.

Manufactured by Blazon Toys, the sled's black-and-white television ad captured the attention of many boys in my class. I recall the spiel of that ad: "Made by Blazon to coast like the wind, Sno Wing actually steers! Sno Wing's

patented delta wing shape flies along in any kind of snow, and special fins and runner make it go where you steer it simply by leaning to right or left... Sno Wing, the new way to fly on snow."

And fly, I did. Many were the days that my brothers, sisters, and I would go to a nearby sledding hill to join other girls and boys for day-long runs down the slope. I made sure the bottom of my red-enameled steel sled was well prepped with candle wax, to ensure it would glide swiftly down the snow.

Those early sled runs with my shiny Sno Wing flyer first took place 58 years ago. And for another seven years afterward, I enjoyed many more trips on that sled, soaring down slopes covered with icy snow.

Not many years ago my mother died. Shortly thereafter, while cleaning out my parents' home, I rediscovered that favored sled where it hung near a corner from a basement wall. With great excitement and anticipation, I brought my treasured find back home with

me to Pendleton.

I spent numerous hours in the weeks that followed restoring my sled to its original condition. Then, a little more than a month thereafter, I was able to experience renewed joy when I gave it as a Christmas gift to my then 7-year-old grandson. Not long after he opened his gift, we went outside in the Alaskan winter to enjoy his first exuberant rides on the Anchorage snow.

It's wonderful to recall with fondness days gone by. It's even more delightful to relive such times through the experiences of a child. Of the many joyful encounters I've had in life, the thrill of sharing something of my past with my grandson is a much treasured gift. I wish for you, my readers, similar opportunities to enjoy. Give a gift of yourself to another, for thereby your life will be enhanced.

Marc Mullins is co-pastor of the First Christian Church of Pendleton.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### Red Cross, NFL to tackle blood shortage

UMATILLA COUNTY — The American Red Cross is partnering with the National Football League to help alleviate the worst blood shortage in more than a decade. People are urged to join the lifesaving team and score big for patients in need.

Everyone who donates blood in January will be entered in a drawing for a trip for two to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. In addition to game tickets, the winner will receive airfare, hotel accommodations for three nights and a \$500 gift card. An additional drawing will be held for Big Game at Home, a home theater package for the winner to host a Super Bowl viewing party.

Upcoming area blood drives include:

- Friday, Jan. 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Roundup Athletic Club, Pendleton.
- Monday, Jan. 17, 12:45-

5:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

For other dates and sites, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). To schedule a donation appointment, visit the website or call 800-733-2767.

### Firefighters host family festival

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock Fire District Members Association is looking to put the "F" in fun.

The group is organizing the Fun Fire Festival — F-F-F. In addition to learning about volunteer opportunities with the fire district, the event will feature a silent auction, family activities, food and prizes.

The F-F-F is Saturday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 415 N.E. Elm St., Pilot Rock. The event also serves as a membership fundraiser.

Those interested in donating a basket or other

items for the silent auction are encouraged to call Derek Watson at 503-999-2976 or Reilly Miller at 541-975-4845. For more information, search [www.facebook.com/PRFDMembers](http://www.facebook.com/PRFDMembers).

### Tigers roaring for all-class reunion

STANFIELD — Organizers for the Stanfield High Alumni Reunion are reaching out to all former Tigers. The event, which is open to all Stanfield graduates, is planned for Saturday, July 2, at Nathan Bard Memorial Community Park, Stanfield.

Norma Kightlinger is looking to keep the event low-cost to make it affordable for all. For more information, text 541-786-3077 or search Facebook pages, including "You Know You're from Stanfield, Oregon" and "Stanfield High School Alumni."

—EO Media Group

### Kenneth Charles Giger Sr. July 23, 1933 - December 30, 2021

Ken went to be with The Lord on December 30, 2021. He was 88 years old.

He was born July 23, 1933 in College Place, Wa. to his parents, Alan and Catherine Giger. His early life was on Weston Mountain in the Reed and Hawley area. He graduated from Weston High School and shortly after married Lois Ellen Exum on May 23, 1953. They lived in the Milton-Freewater area for a while before he moved his family back up on Weston Mountain that he loved so much. He was a "hands on, make it happen" kind of man. He worked construction through his life, working hard to raise their 6 children. He was a very accomplished heavy equipment operator, working road construction. He spent his last working years setting up and operating portable asphalt plants around Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Even after retirement,

companies would seek him out to set up or advise on plant operations. Even on his off time,

he worked with his own equipment for himself and others. He loved to work. After their children gained adulthood, Ken and Lois began spending their winters south in Laughlin, Nevada for the next 15 years. They enjoyed that time of their life very much. They were married 68 1/2 years upon his death.

Ken is survived by his wife Lois at her home in Athena, his children Pam and husband Tim, Ken Jr. and wife Janice, Trish and husband Mitch, LoriAnne and husband Greg, Gordon, Mona and husband Dan, sister Ellen, brother Dave and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Clinton, Bob and Miles.

A family memorial is planned for early summer.



### Doris J. Tsiatsos May 30, 1931 - January 1, 2022

Doris J. Tsiatsos, beloved wife of Greg, of Starkey, died January 1, 2022, at a local care facility. She was 90 years of age. A memorial gathering will be announced in the spring to celebrate her life. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.



She was born, Doris Jean Gray on May 30, 1931 in Wallowa, to Lloyd and Eunice (Scott) Gray. At the age of 7, her father bought her a violin and lessons to play it, to entice her to want to join the rest of the family in moving to La Grande. It was the beginning of a lifelong love of music. Doris was raised and educated in La Grande, first at Greenwood School and later graduated from La Grande High School with the class of 1949. After her graduation, she married Greg Tsiatsos at her parents' home in La Grande. She was not accustomed to the many and varied household duties of a housewife and ranch wife but she embraced the adventure and became a

very proficient cook and homemaker and even helped Greg with the livestock. She was an accomplished seamstress and made her family's clothes. Doris was very active in the Grande Ronde Symphony for most of her life and was the concert master for many years and donated her valued violin to the symphony.

Surviving family members include her husband of 72 years, Greg Tsiatsos of Starkey; daughter, Sharon Crampton of Starkey; brother and sister-in-law, Don and Brenda Gray of Vancouver, Washington; grandchildren, Rhonda Ross, Jason Crampton, and twins, Christopher Tsiatsos and Deena Haun; a great-grandson, Caden Ross, to whom she gave her Cadillac for Christmas. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Deena Hale; her son, Grant Tsiatsos and her sister, Barbara Gray.

Friends who wish may make contributions in memory of Doris Tsiatsos to her beloved, Grande Ronde Symphony.

### Juan "John" Irusta March 27, 1933 - January 8, 2022

Juan "John" Irusta, 88, of Hermiston, Oregon passed away on January 8, 2022. John was born in the Basque region of Spain in the city of Berriatua, province of Bizkaia on March 27, 1933 to Jose Maria and Jacinta Elu Aristondo. John was the fourth of six children.

John married Dominica Laca in Spain on February 11, 1961 and soon thereafter started to build their family. In April 1964, John left Spain to seek work in the United States where he began a career in the sheep industry. From tending bands of sheep in the mountains of Idaho to eventually working for C2L feedlot, John was a dedicated worker who made it his mission to provide for his family. In August 1975, John was able to move Dominica and their four boys from Spain to a brand new home in Hermiston, Oregon.

John very much en-

joyed fishing and hunting. Spending time near the water with bait on a line was definitely his happy-place.



John was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother. He is survived by his wife, Dominica of Hermiston; his sister, Begonia of Spain; brother, Feliz of California; sons, Aitor and Tony of Hermiston, Andres (Trudy) of Scottsdale, AZ, Manuel (Mikka) of Hood River, OR; six grandchildren and five great granddaughters.

A Graveside service will be held at 1:00 P.M. Friday January 14, 2022 at Hermiston Cemetery in Hermiston, OR. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Donations in John's memory can be made to Meals on Wheels in Hermiston.

To leave an online condolence for the family please go to [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

### Laquitta (Kit) Beauton Gladney Hoelt August 1, 1936 - December 20, 2021

Laquitta (Kit) Beauton Gladney Hoelt passed into Heaven December 20, 2021.

Kit was born the oldest of 5 children to Bert and Leona Gladney in Wellington, Texas on August 1, 1936. She traveled with her family to the George Canyon area south of Pendleton where she met and married the love of her life, Charles Elwood Hoelt. Kit and Charles were married July 3, 1954 prior to her final year of high school. Kit graduated from Pendleton High School as Laquitta Hoelt in 1955.

Kit and Charles enjoyed 64 years together where they raised 4 children. Kit was a farm wife who worked at "off-the-farm" jobs as a receptionist, realtor and for the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service, however her biggest job evolved around their kid's activities and volunteerism as a 4-H leader, fair barn superintendent, assisting school teachers in the classroom and for the Pendleton Round-up. Kit enjoyed being a part of the Umatilla County Home-

makers Group, playing Bridge and traveling with Charles "to see the country" for years prior to settling in the Whetstone area of southern Arizona. Kit was preceded in

Death by her loving husband Charles, daughter Charlotte, parents, and brother Michael Gladney.

She is survived by daughter Debra Nordheim (John), sons Mike Hoelt (Karen), Aaron Hoelt (Jaci) and son-in-law Larry Portouw (Charlotte); 8 Grandchildren Carla Thorson (John), Jeffery Portouw (Yeen Kie), Mindy Puller (Sam), Laura Rowan (Kyle), Cody Nordheim (Ingrid), Logan Hoelt (Christal), Michaela Nordheim and Connor Hoelt ;7 Greatgrandchildren Charles and Garrett Thorson, Andrenna and Tell Puller, Hanna Nordheim, Olivia Portouw and Savannah Hoelt and brothers John and Sam Gladney and sister Charlene Foster.

Funeral Service will be held Saturday, January 15, 2022 - 10:00 am at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Followed by Burial at Skyview Memorial Park. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at [www.burnsmortuary.com](http://www.burnsmortuary.com)

The family ask that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to The Good Samaritan Quiburi Mission, 850 S. State Highway 80, Benson AZ 85602.



### Charlotte Marie Johnson October 11, 1952 - December 13, 2021

Charlotte Marie Johnson of Hermiston, Oregon, was born on October 11, 1952 in Newport, Washington to parents, Frank Carl Johnson and Alma Lee Harroun (Bramblee). She died on December 13, 2021 in Portland, Oregon at the age of 69 years. She was the first of 5 children, followed by her brothers, Michael Carl Johnson, Gerald DeWayne Johnson, David Lewis Johnson and Raymond Eugene Harroun.



Charlotte was a truck driver for 25 years, loved horses and horseback riding and was a member of a couple local riding groups. She loved camping and riding 4-wheelers. Her favorite place to ride and camp was the Morrow County OHV park outside of Heppner, OR. She loved to create, whether it was a DIY building project or crocheting or making hats for her grandchildren. She blazed many trails in her life, both literal and figurative. She broke gender standards in the trucking industry, was one of the few women to race cars at the Hermiston Oval track in the early 80's. She was always leading

when riding the trails on a 4-wheeler. She loved traveling and going for drives, always taking the road that she'd never been down before, just to see where it went. She was fearless.

She was preceded in death by her Father and Mother as well as her brothers, David Lewis and Michael Carl.

She is survived by: her companion, Lyle Potter of Hermiston, OR, her children; daughter Tracy Lee Enders-Crum, son-in-law Jarrod Crum of Pasco, WA and son Anthony James Enders, daughter-in-law Rhianna Enders, of Mitchel, IN, 3 grandchildren, Taylor Marie Enders, Ethan Samuel Caballero and Graig Michael James Enders; brothers, Gerald DeWayne and Raymond Eugene Harroun

A memorial service will be held at 2pm, Friday, January 14th at Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please share memories of Charlotte with her family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon is in care of arrangements

### Nancy Jane Lingle August 1, 1933 - January 4, 2022

Nancy Jane Lingle of Hermiston was born August 1, 1933 in Well-



ington, Colorado the daughter of John and Alice (Johnson) Pickett. She passed away in Hermiston on Tuesday January 4, 2022 at the age of 88 years.

Nancy has very fond memories of her childhood while living in Nunn, Colorado. At the age of 14, she moved to Damascus, Oregon where she graduated from high school. She then attended Oregon State University where she studied Home Economics and received her bachelor's degree.

Nancy had a strong faith in God, enjoyed being involved in church activities and hosted bible studies for many years. She was an excellent cook, baker and seamstress, and was always willing to help

those who were in need. She loved playing tennis with her friends and family, and she loved the pets she had throughout her life.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-six years, Dale; four daughters, Lorie and husband Gary Swearingen, Diane Lingle and husband David Rappoport, Devota Robins, and Eva and husband Patrick Temple; five grandchildren, Brian, Kevin and Nathaniel Swearingen and Harrison and Kylie Temple; a sister, Dixie Floyd of Colorado, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Robert "Bob" Pickett and her sister, Patricia Brown.

A Private family celebration of life will be held. A Private interment will be in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Nancy's memory to: Nations, a ministry Nancy's niece has worked with for 35 years at <https://give.cru.org/0364566>.

To leave an online condolence for the family please go to [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)