

OBITUARIES

Lawanda Rhea Ellis
Jan. 16, 1938 to Feb. 1, 2016

Lawanda Rhea Ellis, 78, of Enterprise passed away peacefully at her home Feb. 18, 2016. he was surrounded by her family who loved and held her until her last breath. Rhea lived a full and joyous life. She was born Jan. 16, 1938 in Childress, Texas to Thomas Malachi and Rena Turntine. She was one of six children.

She attended school at the community center of Childress, Texas, and the Hawthorne High School in Hawthorne, Calif. Rhea fell in love and married John Frederick Ellis on May 30, 1959. Together they had three children: Tom, Danny and Duane. They were happily married for 56 years.



Rhea was president of the PTA for Lincoln Elementary in Rodondo Beach, Calif., in 1969. She was a devoted member of her community, participating in the crime prevention program, and an overall outstanding citizen. Rhea worked as a manager of mail order at Dennis Uniforms for 22 years. Her greatest joys were her family, knitting, sewing and country music. Even up to her last days she enjoyed listening to her favorite singers — Elvis Presley and Alan Jackson.

Rhea took great pride in her three grandchildren Hunter, Kattie and Kodie, and her seven great-grandchildren Dakota, Summer, Ryder, Acaydia, Addisyn, Malachi and Kaemon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Sue Howell and son Danny Lee Ellis. She is survived by her husband John of Enterprise; sons Thomas G. Ellis and wife Cindy of Enterprise, and Duane Ellis and wife Peggie of Lostine; brothers Ronald Turentine and wife Amy of Milwaukie, Ore., and Thomas Turentine and wife Marge of Berryton, Texas; sisters Glenda Bitney and husband Robert of Gresham and Sherry Shaw and husband Clyde of Dallas; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She was an honored and loving woman, and she will be missed severely by all who knew her.

A celebration of life service will take place at 1 p.m. Feb. 29 at Bollman Funeral Home in Enterprise, under the direction of Terry Tollefson. There will be a viewing prior to the service from 11 a.m. to noon, also at the funeral home. Interment at Lostine Cemetery will follow the service.

Robert Smith
Jan. 22, 1928 to Feb. 18, 2016

Robert “Bob” Smith, 87, of Baker City died Feb. 18, 2016 at Settler’s Park Assisted Living Facility in Baker City.

Robert LeRoy was born Jan. 22, 1928 in La Grande to Glenn and Veda (Wicks) Smith. Bob attended high school in La Grande. Just before graduation he joined the Navy. He continued to pursue his high school diploma while being at sea. When Bob’s high school class in La Grande graduated, the Navy flew him home so he could graduate with his class. Unbeknownst to his fellow classmates, he had his navy uniform under his graduation robe. After he had his diploma in hand, it was back onto the ship. After an honorable discharge, he went on to college to pursue a teaching credential using the GI Bill and attended Eastern Oregon University. On Aug. 24, 1961, Bob married Alice Aldeen Poe in Reno, Nevada. They enjoyed a wonderful and busy life with four children.

Bob taught for 10 years in Enterprise, starting in 1951. He taught 7th-grade math and science. He then took a teaching position at Baker in 1961 and taught mostly the 6th grade for 20 years. He retired after 30 years of teaching to take over the family business with Alice at Poe Motor Company after the death of Alice’s parents.

Bob and Alice eventually were able to retire and they enjoyed it. He and Alice would take a trip to Canada every year. He loved to fish, had a great sense of humor and loved to take pictures with his Polaroid camera. “Smile” and you’d get a magical snapshot that appeared before your eyes. He was a prankster and enjoyed each and every minute of it. If Bob was awake, then the whole house was awake. These last many years, Bob enjoyed daily visits to McDonald’s or trips over to WalMart.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Alice in 2009.

Bob is survived by children Karen Sammis and her husband Jim, of Ottawa, Kansas, Russ Smith of Elgin, Terri Hutton and her husband Mike of Baker City, and David Smith and his wife Sue of North Powder; 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; and longtime friend Jewel Boucher.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25 at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bob, please do so to the Ronald McDonald House in Boise through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543 Halfway, OR, 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



Melynie Rochelle Samples
Feb. 5, 1964 to Feb. 12, 2016

Melynie Rochelle Samples, 52, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 12, 2016 at the home of her son Justin and daughter-in-law Cara after a 19-year battle with cancer.

She was born Feb. 5, 1964 to Tom and Nancy Samples in Medford, Ore.

She spent her childhood in Joseph and the wilds of the jungle in Chiapas, Mexico. She learned the value of hard work in Joseph and the importance of family and a relationship with Jesus in Mexico doing missionary work. She would often tell stories of ruining her dad’s hunting trips by practicing cheer-leading deep in the woods of Eastern Oregon or of bringing her best friend Maika to the Mexican jungle, who had to fight off water snakes to swim in the local swimming hole.

Melynie spent her adult life in southern Oregon, where she raised her two sons, Justin and Jonathan.

Her greatest accomplishment, in her eyes, was raising two sons as a single working mother. She was an avid cheerleader at Justin’s Crater football games and wrestling matches and a loyal and loud spectator at his Ironman competitions. She loved spending time with her two granddaughters from her son Jon, Natasha and Nevaeh.

Her favorite times were large family gatherings and trips with her sister Jennine and brother Stephen (TJ); whether it was in a cramped car through Yellowstone or a comfortable hammock in Mexico.

She was fiercely loyal and worked for the same company (SOS Alarm) in Medford for 23 years. She viewed co-workers as extended family and deeply cherished her relationships with Ray, Debbie, Scott, Aaron and Angelo, among others.

She had a warm and giving heart and an infectious laugh that could take over a room. Her strength and stubborn determination allowed her to bravely fight cancer, beating the odds for 19 years.

Her paternal grandparents, Hugh and Fern Samples, maternal grandfather C. Earl Beacham, preceded her in death. She is survived by her parents, Tom and Nancy Samples; grandmother Evelyn Beacham; siblings Jennine and Stephen Samples; sons Justin (and wife Cara) and Jonathan Samples; grandchildren Natasha and Nevaeh; numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and her Chihuahua, Precious.

Please join us to celebrate her life at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Friendly House, 1737 NW 26th Ave., in Portland. Reception to follow at the home of Justin and Cara Samples.

She would prefer donations to her favorite charity, in lieu of flowers, to: Hebron USA 6091 Mountain Brook Rd., Greensboro, NC, 27455 or go to www.hebronusa.org (donate tab) and mention in memory of Melynie Samples.



Dallas Gene Williamson
Jan. 30, 1929 to Feb. 13, 2016

Dallas Gene Williamson, 87, of La Grande passed away Feb. 13, 2016 at a local care facility. A funeral service will be held at the Wallowa Senior Center at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20.

Dallas was born Jan. 30, 1929 in Lostine to Eugene V. and Agnes (Allen) Williamson. He resided in Lostine, Joseph and La Grande. He attended grade school in Lostine until the 10th grade and graduated from Joseph High School. He served our county during the Korean War. On Jan. 5, 1950 he married Charlene Jensen in Lewiston.

Dallas owned the Wallowa/Union Dairy with Cecil DeLong. He enjoyed leatherwork, horses, anything related to cowboying and was a great dad. He also enjoyed skiing and packing into the Eagle Cap Wilderness, but lived for team roping. He was a member of the American Legion, Joseph Chamber of Commerce, Joseph Volunteer Fire Department and the Mavericks. He was the Arena Director for Chief Joseph Days for many years, and the Grand Marshal of the Chief Joseph Days Parade.

Dallas is survived by his children, Laurel Estes (Larry) of Enterprise, Carma Sarrett (Charles) of La Grande and Gene Williamson (Tami) of Arlington, Oew.; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Agnes, step-father Robert Wright and brother Wayne Williamson.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.



Thank You

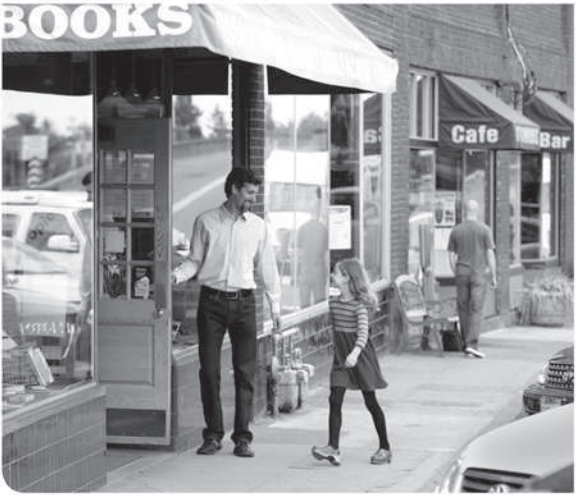
We want to offer special thanks to the ambulance crew, Dr. Grandi, Dr. Caine, Dr. Powers and all the staff at Wallowa Memorial Hospital for all the help, care, support and comforting after Alex’s accident. We also want to thank the crew of Main Street Motors for their help at the scene. Many thanks to all who have brought food, called, sent cards and who have contributed in so many ways. Last, but certainly not least, thank you for all the prayers.

Kody and Alex Johnson
Jim and Carolyn Maasdam

Ed Wallace

July 3,1936 - Nov 5, 2015

We would like to invite family and friends for a celebration of life at 1pm, Saturday March 19 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.
Dinner to follow - we ask those attending to please bring a salad.



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Weather Forecast

Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
Feb. 25		51 27	Clear
Feb. 26		52 29	Clear
Feb. 27		45 33	Chance of rain
Feb. 28		49 29	Clear
Feb. 29		45 33	Partly cloudy
March 1		48 32	Chance of rain

Phases of the moon

March 1	March 9	March 15	March 23
Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET FEB. 24-MARCH 1

(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	Feb. 29	March 1
Rise: 6:29	Rise: 6:30	Rise: 6:31	Rise: 6:33	Rise: 6:34	Rise: 6:36	Rise: 6:26
Set: 5:19	Set: 5:20	Set: 5:22	Set: 5:23	Set: 5:24	Set: 5:26	Set: 5:37