



Harry E. Kennison
Feb. 12, 1926 — Feb. 23, 2019

Harry E. Kennison died peacefully on February 23, 2019, at the age of 93. He was born and raised in Wallowa, Ore., where his ancestors homesteaded in 1872 after traveling on the Oregon Trail.

A child of the Great Depression, he joined the Marines as soon as he turned 18 and participated in battles at Okinawa and Iwo Jima, where he was one of the last lines of defense against kamikaze pilots. After the war, he returned to the Wallowa Valley, where he became a saw filer at the local lumber mill, and, in 1949, married another Wallowa resident, Mary Elizabeth Jackson Kennison. They were happily married for 68 years until her death in 2017.

At the mill, Harry steadily worked his way up to a management role, eventually becoming general manager of the Kinzua Corporation and holding patents on hydraulic lumber mill machinery. He was so recognized in his field that the Oregon Board of Education consulted with him regarding vocational training. After many job-related moves to small towns across Oregon and Washington (including Pilot Rock, Baker City, Heppner and Omak), Harry and Mary settled down in Salem, Ore., for their retirement. Many happy hours were spent golfing at the Santiam golf course, visiting grandchildren, and exploring exotic locales such as Fiji and Tahiti.

Harry was always passionate about sports, whether it was receiving a football scholarship to Linfield College (which he turned down in favor of serving our country), coaching Little League and Babe Ruth baseball in adulthood, or ardently following Oregon State University football, baseball and women's basketball until his last few days. He was preceded in death by Mary, their daughter Janine Kennison, and son Kyle Kennison. He is survived and greatly missed by his daughter Kara Kennison (and husband James Baumberger), son Gary Miller (and wife Jolene), six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as countless other family members and friends.

He is remembered for his intelligence, good advice, sense of humor, always doing the right thing, and for being one of the best men we ever met. A memorial service will be held in celebration of his life on Saturday, June 8, at 3 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 800 Ellsworth Rd., Vancouver, Wash. Memorial donations in memory of Harry can be made to the Kyle Kennison Scholarship c/o The University of Idaho Foundation, 875 Perimeter Dr., MS 3143, Moscow, ID, 83844.



Harry E. Kennison

ABOUT OBITUARIES

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. Obituaries are accepted from family members or a funeral home. No handwritten obituaries will be accepted. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries that exceed 400 words will be referred to the advertising department for paid memorials. Send obituaries by email to editor@wallowa.com; fax to 541-426-3921 or mail to P.O. Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. Deadline to submit an obituary is 10 a.m. Monday for publication the same week. Obituaries submitted after deadline will be queued for publication in the next edition. Info: 541-426-4567.

OBITUARIES

Ruth M. Tuski
Nov. 18, 1931 — Dec. 17, 2018

Ruth Margaret Tuski passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2018, in Enterprise, Ore. Ruth was born on Nov. 18, 1931, in Baker City, Ore., to George Peter Murphy and Lenis Ruth (Wolfe) Murphy. Sadly, Ruth's mother died shortly after giving birth to Ruth and, as a result, Ruth's early years were spent with her paternal grandmother, Mary Murphy of Wallowa, Ore. Her older sister, Pat, in turn lived with her maternal grandmother, Cora Wolfe of Wallowa. Eventually, the two young girls joined their father who had moved to Portland, Ore.

Upon graduation from high school, Ruth returned to Wallowa, marrying Buddy Dale Thomason in 1952. Ruth and Buddy had two children, Dovey Jo (1953) and Mark Kelly (1956). A tragic logging accident out of Wallowa took Buddy's life in 1957 at the age of 26. In 1959 Ruth married Robert (Bob) Nystrom and the couple moved to Milton-Freewater. Their son Robert Eric was born in 1961. After their divorce, Ruth again returned to Wallowa County where she purchased Stockman's Bar in Enterprise, owning it from 1969-1973. Ruth always remembered her Stockman's days with fondness and enjoyed telling stories to friends and family about that time.

In 1972 Ruth married Tom Long from Wallowa and Tom became her sidekick at Stockman's. They divorced in 1977, and then in 1979, Ruth moved to Bend, Ore. where she enjoyed working as a caregiver for the elderly. In 1986 she married Jon Tuski and continued to reside in Bend until retiring in 1999 and moving to La Grande, Ore. She enjoyed her time in La Grande with many friends and was actively involved in the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. She especially appreciated the priests of Our Lady of the Valley. All during her life she remained close to her aunt, Margaret McClain, and cherished the time she could spend with Margaret until Margaret's death.

As Ruth's health declined, and she sensed the end of her life drawing near, her wish was to spend her final days back in Wallowa County, the home she loved so much. Her family made this move possible, and she spent her remaining days content and receiving exemplary care at the Wallowa County Senior Living Center in Enterprise.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, Buddy Thomason and Bob Nystrom and her son, Kelly Thomason. She is survived by her daughter, Dovey Jo Collins and son, Rob Nystrom, five grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and numerous great great grandchildren.

Ruth loved to be around people and had many friends of all ages. She enjoyed telling and hearing a saucy joke, was a mean poker player, an excellent home decorator and a sharp dresser. Her lively, fun and funny personality will be dearly missed by those who were fortunate to know her.

Funeral services will be held at St. Katherine's Catholic Church in Enterprise, beginning at 10 a.m. on March 23. A graveside service will follow at the Wallowa Cemetery. At 2 p.m. friends and family are invited to gather for a celebration of life and dinner at the VFW Hall in Enterprise. Those wishing to make a donation in honor of Ruth can do so to the Wallowa Valley Senior Living Center.



Ruth M. Tuski



Daniel McGourty
Sept. 5, 1983 — Feb. 12, 2019

Lieutenant Daniel "FEY" McGourty, 35, died peacefully, after a three-year battle with Ewing's Sarcoma, surrounded by family and friends in his Atlantic Beach home on February 12, 2019.

Daniel was born on September 5, 1983, in Nampa, Idaho. He is the beloved son to Ron and Celene Gay of Wallowa, Oregon where Dan later grew up and graduated high school. Daniel enlisted in the United States Navy in 2003 and became an Aircrewman, Rescue Swimmer. After being accepted to an Officer Commissioning program, he graduated from Old Dominion University in 2010 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Additionally, Dan received his Wings of Gold in 2012 after completing Flight School and became an E2 Hawkeye Pilot. He married Alexandra Ulrich McGourty, the love of his life, who he met while deployed in Camp Buehring, Kuwait in 2007.

The Navy took the couple all over the world, from Guam, to the East Coast and to the West Coast, until they settled back in Atlantic Beach, Florida. Along the way, they added three beautiful children, Randall Emma McGourty (9), Mollie Brown McGourty (7), and Gage Martell McGourty (1). Dan was a cherished son, hell of a friend, the greatest father, finest husband, and one damn good golfer and pilot!

A Military Memorial Service is scheduled for 11 a.m. at Atlantic Beach Country Club, Atlantic Beach, Florida, with a Celebration of Life to follow later in the evening at Atlantic Beach Brewing Company at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Dan's life. In lieu of flowers, Dan has requested that people donate on his behalf to find a cure for Ewing's Sarcoma, the devastating disease that took his life. Donations can be made at the following link: <https://www.curesarcoma.org/daniel-mcgourty/>.



Daniel McGourty

DEATH NOTICES

Nicholi Fisher
May 16, 1963 — Feb. 26, 2019

Nicholi Fisher, born May 16, 1963, passed away on Feb. 26, 2019. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 16, at the Nazarene Church on Grant street in Enterprise at 1:30 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Gayle Schmeck
Aug. 28, 1950 — Oct. 25, 2018

A memorial service will be held for Gayle Schmeck on Sat. Mar. 23, at 11 a.m. at the Enterprise Christian Church. Schmeck passed away last fall on Oct. 25, 2018. A memorial service was postponed until Schmeck's family could attend.

IN BRIEF

Wild-land fire refresher class

The Eastern Oregon Training Group will hold the RT-130 Wild-land Fire Refresher on April 13, 2019. It will be at the 5J School District Building, 2090 4th St., Baker City.

This is a required class for all federal and state contractors.

Class will begin at 8 a.m. and the cost is \$100 in advanced or \$120 at the door.

Registration can be done at oregonfiretraining.com. Pre-registration is requested.

All participants should bring gloves for the practice shelter deployment.

Call Laurel Goodrich with any questions at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213.

Shed antler fundraiser

The Nature Conservancy is now taking applications from Wallowa County organizations for the opportunity to participate in the 2019 shed antler collection fundraiser.

Please email Chad Dotson at chad.dotson@tnc.org for an application or for more general information.

Deadline to apply is March 8, 2019.

Joseph FCCLA drama camp

Joseph students had a chance to get on stage Feb. 8-9 at a drama camp sponsored by Joseph FCCLA. Eleven 4th-6th graders participated in a two day camp put on by Renee Seal, Layla Snyder, Elena Collier and Emily Vargas and gave a performance at the culmination, loosely based on a scene from "Beauty and the Beast." During the camp, students took part in acting lessons, set design and costume making workshops.

Seal and Snyder wrote the script for the play and headed up the acting portion of the camp. Collier and Vargas were in charge of making sets and costumes along with assistance from the camp participants. The four FCCLA members were motivated to give children a chance to experience what it's like to be a thespian since Joseph no longer has a formal drama program.

Jaidyn Zollman, who played Gaston, said "It was fun to learn about acting." Townsperson, Gwen Bostedt was surprised that when on stage "all directions are backwards."



FRONT ROW : Kylie Moore (Townsperson), Andy Nichols (Townsperson), Bobby Nichols (Mr. Potts), Bella Herb (Chip)
MIDDLE ROW: Jaidyn Zollman (Gaston), Sarah Musia (Fork), Addie Moore (Narrator and Townsperson, Livia De Melo (Belle), Hayden Kissinger (Lumiere), Gwen Bostedt (Townsperson), Eva Moore (Cogsworth)
BACK ROW: FCCLA Members Layla Snyder, Elena Collier, Renee Seal

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	High	Low	Conditions
March 14	35	18	Mostly sunny
March 15	39	20	Partly Cloudy
March 16	42	26	Cloudy
March 17	48	28	Mostly sunny
March 18	50	30	Sunny
March 19	53	32	Mostly sunny
March 20	50	31	Showers

Phases of the moon

Mar. 14	Mar. 20	Mar. 27	Apr. 5
1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE & SUNSET MAR. 14-20
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
7:04 6:54	7:02 6:55	7:00 6:56	6:58 6:58	6:56 6:59	6:54 7:00	6:52 7:01

Christopher Nobles
This week's athlete of the week honor goes to Wallowa High School basketball standout, Christopher Nobles. The WHS senior filled both the post and wing roles for the Cougars but with his exceptional skill can fit in any position on the court. The Old Oregon League coaches recognized Nobles' talent by voting him as the league player of the year.

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STUDENT of the WEEK
Emma joined the Alternative Education Classroom this fall and has shown tremendous growth in academics, self-confidence, leadership and her willingness to try new things! She is a strong writer, amazing game player and positive role model. Emma's smile is not only infectious, but is a constant encouragement to students, staff and the entire Building Healthy Families community!

EMMA SALMON
Alternative Ed

The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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