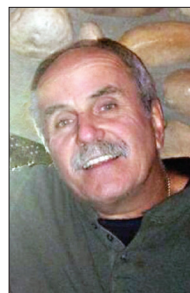


## OBITUARIES

**Nick Vidan**  
May 23, 2019

Nick Vidan passed away on May 23, 2019 due to complications from a fall. He was surrounded by family and friends.



Nick Vidan

Because he built many fond memories with his father in the Imnaha River canyon on hunting trips, it was Nick's dream to become a resident of the area. In 1997 Nick and his wife, Sandy, decided to move to the Imnaha Canyon. After three years of building the Imnaha River Inn Bed &

Breakfast, they were ready to open on June 1, 2000. They spent the next 19 years welcoming people from all over the world into their home.

Ready for life's next big adventures, Nick and Sandy were looking forward to retiring, selling the Imnaha River Inn, and then traveling and moving closer to family & friends.

Sandy & Family would like to welcome you to a potluck celebration of Nick's life at the Imnaha River Inn June 8th 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Richard Henry Hamilton**  
November 23, 1929–December 8, 2018

Richard Henry Hamilton, formerly of La Grande and Wallowa, died December 8, 2018, at a private care facility in Caldwell, ID, just two weeks after his 89th birthday. Born in La Grande on November 23, 1929, he was the second of two children born to Charles Hamilton, and Edna J. (Loock) Hamilton. He attended school in La Grande, where he was a four-year letterman, and president of the Lettermen's Club, graduating from La Grande High in 1947.

Richard enlisted in the US Marine Corps Reserve in April, 1948, and served as a Marine Corps sergeant in Korea from 1950 to 1952. During that time, he endured starvation and torture as a POW in North Korea, a subject about which he never spoke. Rice was never served in his home.

Upon his discharge from active duty in 1952, Richard returned home to marry Shirley (Frizzell) Cleaver, and adopt her two children, Rick and Lee. At the same time, he began an impressive career with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Starting as a basic firefighter-trainee, he advanced steadily to become the resident ranger stationed in Wallowa. After several years of overseeing the district, despite having no post-high-school degree, he was transferred to the Medford district, where he specialized in arson investigation, and prevention. Eventually, he earned promotion to the position of Prevention Director at the state offices in Salem. After his 'official' retirement, he served for many years as a contract consultant in Prevention and Arson Investigation for several agencies in the western states. He was always extremely modest about his many accomplishments. Few people ever realized that it was his voice

narrating the Tillamook Burn video in the State Forestry building at OMSI.

Richard was a quiet man of unflinching integrity, who cared deeply about two things: family, and the land and its proper stewardship. A young nephew once asked him, "Uncle Richard, whose trees are those?" He said, "Those are your trees, John. They belong to you, your Dad and Mom, and your brother and sister; and it's up to you to take care of them." He held himself to standards learned from his stepfather, Ernie Milbert, and he expected, and received, the best from others. No one ever wanted to disappoint him. While he was firm in his expectations, he was also a man of deep compassion, with a gentle sense of humor, who knew how to forgive. Throughout his later years, he took responsibility for the health and welfare of his sister, his wife, and his daughter, among others. He joked that he couldn't decide whether he had three wives, or three daughters.

A quiet hero who spent his life in service to his country, other people, and the land, Richard will be deeply missed by those privileged to know him well. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Ernie Milbert, mother, Edna Milbert, wife, Shirley, stepbrother, Roy Milbert, sister, Bette Hardin, and daughter, Leitha. Richard is survived by his son, Rick Hamilton, of Riggins, ID, granddaughter, Stacy Hardy, of Caldwell, ID, grandson, Cory Hamilton, of Eugene, OR, two nephews, a niece, and several great-grandchildren. At his request, there will be no services. His ashes were spread at the same site as those of his late wife, Shirley. His family suggests that those who wish to honor his memory plant a tree in his name.

**Kenneth Lee Witty**  
May 27, 2019

Kenneth Lee Witty peacefully passed away Monday, May 27, in his home. Ken lived with his wife, Carolyn Ann (Wise) Witty of 57 years in Enterprise, Oregon where they raised their daughters, Cynthia Ann (Witty) Risan and Tina Louise (Witty) Grieve.

Ken was born in Elgin, Oregon to Mildred (Payne) Witty and Laurel Witty. He was raised in Elgin and graduated from Elgin High School in 1957. Ken attended Oregon State University where he met his wife, Carolyn Wise. He graduated from Oregon State University in Fisheries Management. Ken and Carolyn moved to Wallowa County where he worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as the local and regional Fish Biologist. He retired after 30 years and then worked for S.P. Cramer as a Fisheries Consultant.

Ken was an avid hunter

and fisherman. He enjoyed decades of hunting, fishing, camping, river running and horse pack trips. He was instrumental in efforts to preserve the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Ken was preceded in death by his father, Laurel Edgar Witty, his mother, Mildred LaVoyle (Payne) Witty, and his sister, Linda Laurell (Witty) Hiatt. Ken is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters and sons-in-law, Cynthia (Scott) Risan, and Tina (J.A. Grieve); grandson Austin James Grieve; granddaughter Aubrey Ann Grieve; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express appreciation for the loving care Ken received from friends and the many caregivers who made it possible for Ken to pass away at home. He will be missed by all who loved him.

A celebration of Ken's life will be held at the Witty residence over Labor Day weekend.



Kenneth Lee Witty

**Wanda Oweta Sorweide**  
September 12, 1925–May 19, 2019

Wanda Oweta Sorweide, age 93, of Joseph, passed peacefully Sunday, May 19, 2019, in her home with family beside her. A "Celebration of Life" will be held Saturday, June 29, 2019, at the Joseph Baptist Church, 1 PM with a "desert social" to follow.

Wanda was born on September 12, 1925, the daughter of Clifford R. and Mary Belle (Betz) Denney in Spokane, Washington. She graduated from Sprague High School. On February 18, 1944 she married Robert "Bob" Kenneth Sorweide in Spokane. They lived in Cheney, Washington until 1948 when they moved to Imnaha to help ranch with her father Clifford Denney on the C&D ranch. In 1954, Wanda and Bob moved to the Wallowa Valley where they custom combined grains, custom baled hay, raised swine & managed the Gardner Locke ranch, before buying a home in Joseph, 1957. Wanda cus-

tom processed meat (over 50 years) and managed local grocery stores in Joseph until she retired. She was a member of the Enterprise Nazarene Church, then the Joseph Baptist Church. She enjoyed County Choir, leather crafts, oil painting, gardening, house plants, family gatherings and playing music for many weddings, special events and funerals over her life time.

Survivors include her children, Sharon Wilson (Ray) of Joseph, Ken Sorweide of Elgin, Patti Olson (Art) of Gaston, Oregon, Terri Denton (Dave) of Heppner, Oregon and Renae Schoeninger of Texas; nine grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings Glenise Mullen, Clifford (Bud) and William (Bill) Denney and her husband on November 1, 2012.

Those that wish may make contributions to any Wallowa County charity organization of their choice, in her name.



Wanda Oweta Sorweide

**David Monschke**

July 12, 1940–December 7, 2018

David Fredric Monschke (Bop), age 78, passed away at Shelter Cove CA on December 7, 2018. David, affectionately known by family and friends as Bopa or Bop, had been fighting a combination of Parkinson's disease and melanoma cancer; he was with his wife and family when he passed.

David was born July 12, 1940, in Morton, Washington, the second of five children born to David and Peg Monschke. In 1949, his family who were in the timber industry, moved to Humboldt County California where David spent the remainder of his childhood and graduated from South Fork High School. His family lost their home in Myers Flat during the 1955 flood which was seen with a mix of tragedy and awe through David's eyes.

After graduating from South Fork High in 1958 David attended community college before landing at Humboldt State. An adventurous time in David's life, he enjoyed expanding his intellectual horizons and could often be found surfing and singing at beach parties on the CA coast. It was while at Humboldt that he met his future wife Valerie Van Pelt. David and Valerie were married on April 27th 1968 and shared their 50th wedding anniversary in 2018. David and Valerie moved to Garberville, CA where they had their first son Jonathan.

In the early 70s the Monschke's could be found traveling the Northwest with friends and family contracting and building trails for the newly formed wilderness areas. David had built a redwood camper on a new Chevy truck that the family lived in while traveling. It was while building a trail that David and Valerie fell in love with the town of Joseph, OR and with Jonathan approaching school age settled there in 1972. They partnered on an old saw mill and formed Joseph Forest Products. Soon after purchasing a home in 1973 Valerie gave birth to their second son Nathan and in 1976, their third son Joshua arrived; and David and Valerie gave up on trying to have daughter. In the late seventies David re-focused the company to concentrate on packaging log homes and Joseph Log Homes was born. Many of the log buildings seen in downtown Joseph today are a product of this endeavor.

During the Joseph years, David balanced a busy work schedule that often found him traveling around the west and to Japan, while being an engaged father to his three boys. The family spent weekends hiking in

the mountains and floating the canyons of Eastern Oregon. David was active in the community and loved bringing a different perspective to local conversations. David was an avid lover of a variety of sports his entire life and could often be found on a tennis or basketball court. As a father, David did his best to teach the boys a strong work ethic and compassion for others while installing a healthy dose of critical thought.

In the early 90s with the slowdown of the log home market David had to seek new ways to support his family and he went back to bidding Forest Service contracts. David taught his sons, who were now spread from junior high to college, the trade and this turned out to be a great bonding time for the family; who spent the summers camping and working together. David and Valerie eventually sold the house in Joseph and moved to western Oregon. At this time David adventured about a bit doing everything from long haul trucking to brokering sail boats but eventually settled on real estate development and moved to Yachats on the Oregon Coast.

In 2009 David and Valerie came full circle and moved back to Humboldt County to be near their sons Nate and Josh as well as David's brother Jack and sister Ruth. They built a small home in the hills amongst the redwoods and spent their time enjoying the majestic forests and beaches of Northern California.

David's health began to seriously decline in 2018 and in December he passed away peacefully at his son Josh's home in Shelter Cove. The Monschke family is grateful to Heart of the Redwoods Hospice, who without their expertise and compassion it would not have been possible for David to have stayed at home with his family. We will all miss David's sense of humor, his unconditional acceptance of others, and ability to see the big picture. Always looking to take on new projects David had an ability to look outside of the box, and usually brought a different approach to any activity. David's love and support of his family and friends was always apparent and he was ever willing to show kindness to others.

On Saturday June 15th 2018, a beach party celebrating David's life will be held at the Shelter Cove south beach. The gathering will begin at 3:00 pm with memorial ceremony at 4:00; burgers, beer and bonfire immediately after. All who knew and miss David are invited to attend.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**Nancy Jean Ormandy**

A celebration of life will be held for Nancy Normandy at 1:30 PM June 8th at the First Community Church in Enterprise, Oregon. Nancy Ormandy passed away on November 16th at Hillside Senior Living in McMinnville, Oregon.

Nancy was born February 12, 1930, to Gladys Coffin and Gwen T Coffin in Webster South Dakota. Nancy lived in Illinois until 1941 when her family moved to Enterprise, Oregon where she graduated

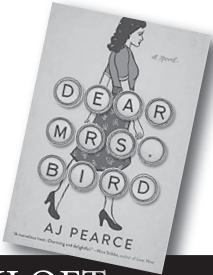
from high school in 1947. She attended University of Washington and Eastern Oregon College.

Survivors include her sister Gail Swart, her brother Bill Coffin, her children Linda Ebbert, Byron Evans, Duane Evans and Vince Evans, grandchildren Jordan Kruger, Nanoka Kruger, Tony Evans, Keith Evans and Shane Evans, great-grandchildren Lisa Kruger, Paul Kruger, Serena Kruger and Bronwyn Brown.

## 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.

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**National Trails Day Volunteers**  
About 30 volunteers, ages 5 to 75, turned out on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1, for the first 2019 Joseph Branch Trail Consortium cleanup day. Volunteers started in Joseph and removing trash, debris, and hazards along the Joseph Branch railroad right-of-way, walked and worked their way to Enterprise.

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**PET OF THE WEEK**  
**Meet Luca**  
This handsome silver tabby was born in June 2018. He was rescued with a broken leg, scared and hungry. After weeks of healing, this strong, healthy boy emerged into a sweet, fun and playful kitty. He's very loving and is making up for everything he missed as a kitten. He loves to be cuddled, and will let you hold and carry him around. This gentle boy has the sweetest spirit and is neutered, litter box trained, and up-to-date on shots and deworming.



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