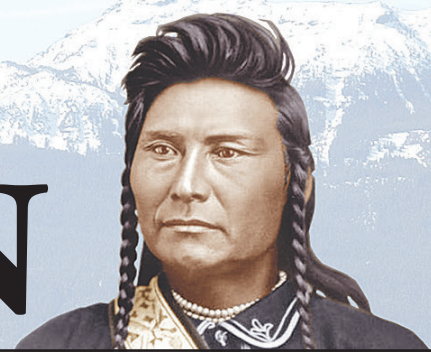




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



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Wallowa County Voices



Kathryn Kemp
Enterprise

Big city life isn't her 'jam'

ENTERPRISE — Kathryn Kemp has lived in Wallowa County most of her life, growing up in Joseph and after she went away for college, returned to Enterprise 2½ years ago.

A 2011 graduate of Joseph High School, she first did her undergraduate work at Davis College in North Carolina and then attended graduate school for social work in New York City. She has since put that degree to work at the Wallowa County Center for Wellness as a child and family therapist and a mental health coordinator for the schools in the county.

Still single, she's hesitant about saying whether marriage is on the horizon.

"You'll have to ask my boyfriend," she giggled.

She recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

I like how people look out for each other here. In my work, it's much easier to coordinate support for people because I know the people who work at the other organizations. We're all community partners and we all collaborate to help people around here. That and I love being in nature. I spent two years in Manhattan and that was not my jam.

What are you looking forward to in 2022?

Doing yoga on my deck in the summertime, and I just got a pair of ice skates and I live near the skating rink, so I'm excited to ice skate.

Do you have plans for Valentine's Day? What?

My boyfriend and I are going to go to a cabin in Baker and hang out in the snow and by the fireplace.

Are you getting cabin fever yet?

Oh, yes. That is why I got ice skates and cross-country skis because I hate the winter and I hate the cold and I really don't like snow. Last year, I spent way too much time indoors, so now I'm trying out winter sports to get myself outside during the winter.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

For people in my age group — I'm 28 — take advantage of all the opportunities we have here and if something doesn't exist here, you can create it ... you can always find people who will help you create something new with you.

— Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain



Bob and Shirley Crawford look over an antique wood-fired cook stove in the kitchen of their Alder Slope home Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022. The Crawfords have been married since Jan. 25, 1951. Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Friendship is key

Couple of 71 years recalls decades together

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Friendship is the key to a long, successful marriage, say Bob and Shirley Crawford.

And they would know, having recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary, they said during a Wednesday, Feb. 2 interview at their Alder Slope home.

"She's been my best friend since we first met," Bob said. "The definition of a friend is someone who knows you and still likes you."

Shirley had another key to success. "I agree it's about being best friends, but also keep your sense of humor," she said. "It'll take you through a lot of things."

They both agree that having much in common also helps. They both enjoy the outdoors, reading, camping, hiking and having hobbies. Shirley quilts and used to draw and paint. Bob likes woodworking, fishing and golf.

"We still do most of the things we've always done, but much more slowly," Shirley said.

First meeting

The pair met while attending Wallowa High School in the 1940s.

"I have to say that when I first noticed you early in the school year, you were wearing lipstick, a dress and high heels," Shirley said to her husband. "But all the other boys were, too."

"That was for our freshman initiation," Bob quickly clarified.

But his first conversation with her in 1946 didn't quite go as he'd hoped. It resulted in him getting kicked and receiving the silent treatment.

"We didn't have any further conversation for about another year and a half," she said. "(The comment) was about my figure, so he deserved the kick in the shins."

But eventually — with a little help from a friend — they became a couple. Bob didn't drive so he got a ride from a neighbor who was a friend and fellow student to school from his home more than 4 miles out of town.

"My friend had a crush on Shirley's best friend and he wanted to ask her best friend out, but he was pretty sure that he wouldn't get anywhere if

Shirley wasn't included, too, so he asked me if I would ask her out and I did," Bob said. "I was surprised because she was one of the 'in' people and I was on the outside looking in all the time."

The minute she said that she would go was the point where Bob said he fell in love with Shirley. Shirley didn't exactly agree, but did go out with Bob.

"There was no way I would've asked her out if it hadn't been for him," Bob said of his friend.

The date was in early spring 1948 after practice for the junior class play. Bob's friend had a Jeep and the date consisted of riding the icy roads where, as Bob tells it, "My friend would put on the brakes at the intersection, he'd turn his wheel and we'd go spinning around. ... So, she went — I think her girlfriend went once — but basically, we've been together ever since, and that was the nearly 74 years ago."

Some of their early romantic encounters were quite tame compared to what today's culture envisions.

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Family disputes OHA COVID-19 death report

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

SALEM — The family of a Wallowa County woman who died in December is disputing an Oregon Health Authority report that COVID-19 had anything to do with her death.

"Definitely not a COVID death," said Josh Barnett, a Salem resident, of his mother, Theresa Malec, a former resident of Wallowa.

Malec died at Barnett's home in Salem on Dec. 15, 2021, about two weeks after being diagnosed with liver cancer, Barnett said.

Barnett said there was a delay in the processing of her death certificate, and when he received it, he had some suspicion that her death might be called a COVID-19-related death.

On Jan. 27, OHA reported the death of a 70-year-old Wallowa County woman in its daily COVID-19 report. It said the woman died on Dec. 15 after a positive test on Aug. 4.

While OHA does not provide names on its report — and declined to confirm to the Chieftain if the death it reported was indeed Malec — Barnett said it's not too difficult to make the assumption that the death in the report was his mother.

COVID-19, though, was not what killed her, he said, and the death certificate, which he provided to the Chieftain, shows that.



Malec

Was case referred to Medical Examiner?	No	Autopsy?	No	Were autopsy findings available to con
CAUSE OF DEATH				
IMMEDIATE CAUSE ↓				
a. cardiac arrest				
Due to (or as a consequence of) ↓				
b. respiratory arrest				
Due to (or as a consequence of) ↓				
c. liver cell carcinoma				
Due to (or as a consequence of) ↓				
d.				
Other significant conditions contributing to death				
anxiety, breast cancer, history of covid 19 (2 negative tests)				
Manner of Death				
Natural				
If Female				
Not Applicable				
Date of Injury	Time of Injury	Place of Injury		
Location of Injury				
Describe how injury occurred				

Josh Barnett/Contributed Photo

Shown are the causes of death for Theresa Malec on a death certificate provided to the Chieftain by her son, Josh Barnett. Barnett gave the Chieftain permission to run the above portion of the document.

Contracted COVID, but defeated it

Barnett said his mother — who earlier in the year had defeated breast cancer before the unexpected liver cancer diagnosis — did indeed have COVID-19 in early August, but healed up only a couple days after receiving treatment.

"She got ivermectin and the (monoclonal antibody) infusion therapy. She was tired for a couple, three days," he said.

Unprompted, Barnett also said Malec had not been vaccinated. "She didn't want to be vaccinated, but she did fight it naturally. She pulled through," he said.

After overcoming COVID, Barnett said his mom had returned to much of her normal activities, and had been driving weekly to Walla Walla for treatment of her breast cancer before defeating it.

"They had given her the all clear

on the breast cancer," he said.

A new diagnosis

He said his mom sounded "really tired, winded," in a phone conversation with her Nov. 29.

The next day, she was in the emergency room in Enterprise, originally given a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, Barnett said. She was Life-Flighted that night to Walla Walla, where it was determined, instead, the diagnosis was liver cancer.

She also initially tested positive for COVID while at Walla Walla, Barnett said, but that positive test was followed by two negative tests for the coronavirus — the second about a week later — which enabled Barnett to get into the hospital to visit her.

Barnett eventually took Malec to his Salem home where she was put on hospice and died about a week later.

The death certificate

The text on the death certificate made Barnett wonder if Malec would be classified as a COVID death.

The certificate — Barnett shared the document with the Chieftain and gave permission to publish the information in it — lists cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest and liver cell carcinoma as the causes of death.

Below that, it lists anxiety and breast cancer as significant conditions contributing to death.

Next to those, it states "history of covid 19 (2 negative tests)."

The funeral home that worked with Barnett said it had "never seen this on a death certificate, ever," he said. "I had that feeling."

His feeling was confirmed on Jan. 27 when OHA reported the 70-year-old Wallowa County woman's death, which the Chieftain reported later that day. Barnett reached out the following day seeking to clarify the details.

Seeking answers

Barnett said OHA was not forthcoming on details in an email response to his brother, Ty, who also had been seeking answers.

The OHA told the Chieftain it could not comment specifically on if Malec was listed as a COVID-19-related death, and that it "cannot provide any specific information related to a person's death or death certificate," according to Tim Heider, OHA public

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