

Boating accident at McKay Reservoir claims life of Milton-Freewater man

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A Milton-Freewater man died Friday, July 29, from a boating accident at McKay Reservoir near Pendleton.

According to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, a 911 caller at 6:13 p.m. July 29 reported the accident, and sheriff's office marine deputies responded to the scene.

An investigation revealed eight occupants in a boat had been tubing on the reservoir. One in the group, Benjamin Ryan Camden, 41, of Milton-Freewater, was in the water. He attempted to get back into the boat when the transom ladder broke.

"Camden was unable to pull himself into the

boat, and it was decided he would hold onto the starboard handrail while the boat operator headed toward a boat ramp," the sheriff's office reported.

While slowing motoring toward the boat ramp, Camden lost his grip and slid under the boat. He suffered serious injuries to his lower left leg from propeller cuts.

Nearby boaters assisted Camden to shore and then into a private vehicle that met with medics near the reservoir entrance.

The ambulance rushed Camden to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Republicans

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PCPs also appointed a temporary executive committee to serve during the suspension, and to schedule a meeting to consider recalling from office the entire executive committee.

But Jones and Day say that because just two executive committee members, including Jones, attended the July 28 meeting, there was not a quorum, which requires a minimum of three members of the executive committee.

Article 4, Section B of the Baker County Republican Central Committee bylaws states: "No business shall be conducted at any meeting of the Central Committee until a quorum is present. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee must be present to be a quorum."

As a result, Day said, the PCPs could only have a discussion but could not conduct official business, such as voting to temporarily suspend the executive committee.

Day, who led the first part of the July 28 meeting at the behest of the executive committee, said the same thing during the meeting, telling PCPs that the lack of a quorum of the executive committee negated any votes or other official decisions.

But PCP Dan Johnson suggested during the July 28 meeting that because the meeting was called by the central committee, not the executive committee, the PCPs attending could decide, by a two-thirds vote, to suspend the bylaw requiring a quorum.

Section 16 of the Baker County GOP bylaws states: "These bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds majority of the certified precinct committee persons present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Central Committee provided that notice of the proposed amendments, alterations or repeal shall be given with the official notice of the meeting. The Secretary must include a copy of the proposed amendment with the meeting notice."

Johnson prepared a proposed agenda for the July 28 meeting that included amending the bylaws to override the requirement for a quorum of the executive committee.

He also wrote in a memo that Jones also prepared an agenda for the meeting.

"Before the meeting convenes, it must be determined by the Central Committee which agenda they wish to support," Johnson wrote.

Day, however, contends that the bylaw requiring a quorum of the executive committee takes precedent over the bylaw that Johnson cited at the meeting, allowing a vote to amend the bylaws.

"The quorum requirement stretches throughout the entire bylaws, meaning, to have a meeting that has official business to be conducted, you must have a quorum," Day said.

During the July 28 meeting, more than two-thirds of PCPs present voted to drop the quorum requirement, per Article 16. Jones and a handful of others voted against that motion. Jones then left the meeting along with Day.

Following their departure, PCPs voted to temporarily suspend the executive committee, appoint a temporary committee, and call for the investigation of Jones.

But Day said on Monday that even though the votes took place, they don't count. "They had the capacity, because we had a meeting, to decide to go ahead and have a vote, so they had a vote," Day said. "But they had no authority to do it so it has no effect."

"That meeting essentially accomplished nothing of lasting value, essentially," he said.

Johnson disagrees. He contends that the July 28 decisions are valid and that the temporary executive committee, with himself as chair, is in office.

The executive board of which Jones is a member was up for reelection in November. PCPs, who are elected by voters in their geographic districts, choose executive committee members.

Day said his goal is to help the GOP get through the November election.

Republicans hope to regain control of the U.S. House of Representatives and, in Oregon, to elect the state's first Republican governor in 40 years.

"Whatever they (the Baker County PCPs) decide in November is what they decide

in November, but don't blow up the party prematurely," Day said on Monday. "Why do this now? Let's just get together, we'll see you in November, let's move forward

with our plans. But evidently there was a group of people that just didn't agree with that."

Jones encouraged Republicans to come together.

Cynthia "Cindy" Lee (Messer) Hoskins

April 15, 1954 - July 16, 2022

Cynthia Lee (Messer) Hoskins, 68, was called home on July 16, 2022.

Cindy was born April 15, 1954, in Albany, OR, where she grew up. That is where she met and married John Lamb. They had a daughter: Elizabeth "Liz."

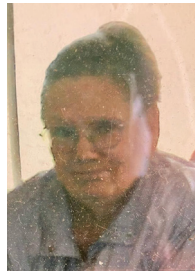
In the summer of 1982 Cindy moved to Baker, OR, to be closer to her sisters. In 1983 she accepted a job at Baker House. She had no idea that she would continue to work there for 28-plus years. Or that she would meet her future husband, John Hoskins, there. They were married in July 1992.

In 1996, Cindy became "Nanny." That's the year her grandson, Max, was born. Nanny liked to camp with her little honey and pick wildflowers. She also enjoyed reading, listening to oldies but goodies, shopping on QVC and the liquidation channel, visiting with family and many other things.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Hoskins; parents, Anderson and Cecile Messer; brother, Oather Messer; and sisters, Betty Proffit and Mable Britton.

She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Lamb, and grandson, Max Sult, of Baker City; sister, Bonnie Arthur of Baker City; brother, Denny Messer of LaComb, OR; roommate/companion, Oral Holt of Baker City; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the GoFund Me Fundraiser organized by Piper Pierce.



Rebecca 'Becky' M. Dougherty Adamson

November 11, 1939 - July 22, 2022

Rebecca M. Dougherty Adamson jumped off our mortal coil to wait at the Rainbow Bridge for her love and her family to soar off to the cosmos with her. Her vitality was essential; her bright love brought light into the soul of more than one reprobate, including the one who is writing this poor attempt to memorialize her noble soul.

Miss Becky was born in East Liverpool, Ohio. Her family moved to Detroit, where her father, Mr. Carl McDevitt, served his country well building tanks for the Detroit Tank Arsenal division of Chrysler. Her mother, the former Grace Heckathorne, worked for department stores and made a wonderful home for Rebecca and her two sisters.

Becky was a great high school honors student; she secured a full scholarship to Eastern Michigan University as a special education teacher. She met her first husband, William Dougherty, after he returned from Army service in Korea. They married and took their futures west to Denver, Colorado. William worked for the state of Colorado until his death in 1980. He was honored for his efforts to reform the state of Colorado personnel system.

Rebecca was left to fend for herself and her two children. Her toughness and profound pragmatism would not let her weaken; she went back to school to learn computer operation and business practice. She successfully entered the work world as the librarian for Petroleum Information of Denver.

Becky met her second husband, Ed Adamson, during this time. Ed was working as an operations manager and purchasing agent for a medical clinic. He was contacted by a friend to assist a woman who was having a tough time finding and buying a car. Ed advised her about her car. Two weeks later, to quote the lyricist, "I was buying her a washing machine."

Ed and Becky simply became too busy to worry about a formal marriage. Ed went to the Flathead Valley in Montana with her son Robert to build a home in the woods, summer of 1982. Robert had done the drafting and design work on the house while still in high school. The home turned out well. Becky, Ed, Dennis, Robert and a zoo of animals moved to the wild woods in a truly wonderful experience. Ed decided he had better marry the girl before she became distracted. Ed and Becky married in Durango, Colorado, in September 1986.

Job issues forced a return to Colorado after Ed was injured working as a "Hot Shot" during the summer of 1984. Ed immediately found work as a facilities manager, bank liquidation specialist and IT manager for the FDIC through 1992. Becky and

Ed again attempted to have a home in the Montana wilds, but conditions necessitated their return to Denver in 1994, where

Ed went to work for FEMA, working in logistics, facilities management, security and public assistance on natural disasters in the U.S. and its territories. Ed left FEMA in 2001 to work in Bozeman, Montana, as a builder; the designs were all done by Robert and his brother, Dennis. Our company had good success building custom, energy-efficient homes.

Becky had numerous health issues from 2003 onward. Ed made the decision that it was untenable to continue in the custom construction business in Bozeman, as the stress of administering the company and doing the necessary trade craft compromised work product and sanity. Ed and Becky moved to Baker City, away from the demands of a high-pressure business, and built a life in this wonderful small town with our son and his family.

Ed secured a great job with the Baker County Public Library District. Solving construction, facilities management and technical issues with the library was and is great work. Ed and Becky had a great four years getting to know Baker City, and finally relaxing to enjoy Dennis and his fine family.

Starting in April 2021, a heart attack and two major brain bleeds drained the life from my wonderful little wife. Her stout spirit would not allow any self-pity. She took to physical therapy as soon as she was able; she would slowly do all of the routines while whistling songs only she could hear. It was a great witness to the human spirit, an example to us all to never give up, always look for another way and love the people around you while you can. She simply resolved to do everything she could to stay with her family and husband.

Becky left us peacefully in the morning hours of July 22, 2022. She left with her boys surrounding her in sorrowful fellowship, including this lost fellow who will never forget. Her legacy for our family is two great hardworking men and two wonderful grandsons, and a lifetime of providing her love and support to all who knew her.

My special thanks to so many in our wonderful nexus here in Baker City. I am sure I would miss a few names, but know that all have my profound appreciation at this sorrowful time.

Contributions can be made in Becky's name to the National Parks Service through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



Aerial attack helps to limit blaze north of Anthony Lakes area

The Observer

Crews contained a small lighting-sparked wildfire in the Elkhorn Mountains north of Anthony Lakes a little after 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, Aug. 2 The Anthony Creek fire, which was reported at 6:17 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, burned about 0.7 of an acre. It didn't threaten any structures. The fire is near Anthony Creek about 2 miles north of An-

thony Lakes.

Planes dropped fire retardant and helicopters dropped water for much of Monday, Aug. 1, preventing the fire from spreading in timber and logging slash, said Hunter Petrucci, who works at the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande.

Access to the fire was poor, and Petrucci said workers had to reopen some old roads to

make it easier for firefighters to reach the site. Also on Tuesday, a small fire in the Jubilee Lake area, 18 miles north of Elgin, was quickly extinguished by a fire crew sent by Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. The fire, one-tenth of an acre and human caused, was reported at 5:20 p.m. and was contained by 5:59 p.m. Nobody was injured and no structures were threatened.

Rex Kirkwood

June 12, 1957 - July 27, 2022

Rex Kirkwood, 65, of Baker City, passed away with his family by his side July 27, 2022. A celebration of life and potluck will be held at the VFW in Baker City, OR, Saturday, August 6 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please join us as we share stories and laughter.

Rex was born on June 12, 1957, in Baker City, Oregon, where he was raised and educated.

Rex married Linda Pringle in 1974. Together they had two children, Travis and Melissa. They later divorced. In 2002, Rex married Karen Anderson and gained stepchildren Justin Cole, Adam Mastin and Taylor Anderson.

During his life Rex held many jobs including working for the Baker School District, the Geiser Grand Hotel and St. Alphonsus Hospital. He also spent time working for Bob Kirkwood and Sons working in the woods and as a wildland firefighter. A treasured memory his children recall was the combined smell of sweat, chain saw gas and sawdust when their dad arrived home after a hard day's work in the outdoors.

Rex enjoyed hunting, fishing and sharing a cold beer with family and friends. He will be remembered as a fun-loving, adventurous, kind-hearted, strong man.

Rex was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Wanda Kirkwood.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Karen Kirkwood; children, Travis (Darcie) Kirkwood, Melissa (Rob) Nipper, Justin Cole, Adam Mastin, Taylor Anderson (Mike Kaup); brothers, Robert (Sue) Kirkwood Jr., Vena (Pat) Callow, Roger Kirkwood; grandchildren, Rex Rood, Trinita Kirkwood, Jake Hall, Josalyn Boesch, Ashley, Vivian and Keegan Nipper, Grayson, Mckane and Trace Cole, Gabrielle, Walker and Harley Mastin and Aubrey Henshaw, and a great-granddaughter, Demitra Henshaw.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Rex the family suggests either the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation or Hunt of a Lifetime through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon, 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



Naomi Jane Beckettold

April 30, 2020 - July 15, 2022

Naomi Jane Beckettold was born amid much celebration and after much prayer on April 30, 2020 in Boise, Idaho, and taken home to Baker City shortly thereafter.

She was aptly named "Naomi," which means "pleasantness"; being such a delightful baby and toddler, she was nicknamed "sunshine girl." Generally happy, quick to play and listen, quick to forgive, giving and kind, outgoing and serious, thoughtful and observant, intuitive and smart - she quickly stole the hearts of all who knew her. She bloomed and grew in Baker for the first year of her life, and loved being outside, playing in water, collecting rocks, following the cats around, eating everything in sight, and playing peek-a-boo endlessly.

Her energy, appetite, and walking waned however, and on July 19, 2021 she was diagnosed with acute undifferentiated leukemia, an extremely rare, little-known disease. She immediately began treatment in Boise, Idaho, but was quickly flown to Seattle, Washington, after a hole was discovered in her heart.

Naomi spent the next nine months in Seattle, where she underwent three very intensive rounds of chemo, followed by radiation and a bone marrow transplant. She briefly went into remission for the first time after transplant, but relapsed soon after and began more chemo, which failed to slow the cancer growth. As a last resort she was flown to Houston, Texas, for three months to participate in an experimental drug trial, which delayed but did not reverse the cancer's progression.

On July 4, 2022, she was flown back to Boise, Idaho, and died there 11 days later in her mother's arms.

Though she spent half her life in treatment and underwent unspeakable pain and suffering, Naomi's spirit was irrepressible. She spent her many months in the hospital wandering the halls of the cancer ward, befriending nurses, doctors, janitors, and fellow cancer patients alike.

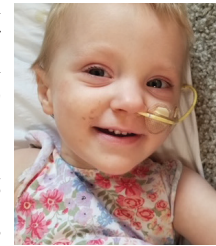
She brought a smile to the face of all who were privileged to know her. Whenever possible, she was active, playful, independent, and happy. Detailed and observant, she watched the nurses closely and soon helped tell them how to do their jobs.

Her favorite things in the world were simple, honest things: food, rocks, water, cats, walks, coloring, dancing, music, books, Oswald her favorite stuffed kitty, her favorite blanket, and Jesse, her younger brother.

Slowly and successively, cancer stole each of these things from her, but on July 15, 2022 she went to be with Jesus and her older sister, Nadia. All she lost was fully restored and the pain she endured was forever wiped away.

While her family misses her immensely, we celebrate the privilege of knowing her, each "bonus" day we spent with her since her diagnosis, and the complete end of her suffering. We look forward to the day we will be reunited.

A public service will be held for Naomi at Baker City Christian Church, on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at 2 p.m.



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