

Cattle

Continued from A1

"We've had cases like this over the years," Gautney said. "They seem to come in groups and then go away. We are not speculating on how these are happening, as we try to keep an open mind and look at all possibilities."

Mutilated cattle have been reported in the American West since at least the 1960s. There have been multiple recent cases of bull mutilations in Harney, Wheeler and Umatilla counties in Eastern Oregon. But now, beef cattle have turned up dead in the remote ranchlands outside Prineville bearing signs common to the cattle mutilation phenomenon.

The current string of cases began Feb. 27, when Crook County Sheriff's Office deputy Scott Durr was dispatched to suspicious circumstances at the 96 Ranch on SE Van Lake Road. Owner Rickey Shannon said one of his herd had been discovered dead two days earlier with an odd cut down its spine.

Shannon, who lives on the ranch with his two sons, reported no predators or birds had touched the cow. There were no tracks, and no blood surrounding it. The cow's left

cheek, tongue and three of its teats had been cut away cleanly. But the eyes, usually the first body part to be scavenged after death, were untouched. There were no bullet holes and a scan of the cow by a metal detector turned up none.

The cow was about 200 yards from the road, near the edge of a field and some juniper trees. There were no vehicle tracks near the dead animal, no footprints of any kind.

The mystery deepened a few days later. On March 4, Casey Thomas, manager of the GI Ranch on Lister Road in Paulina, reported that one of his herd of around 5,000 appeared to have suffered a strange death.

Crook County detective Javier Sanchez arrived to find a deceased Black Angus cow lying on its side. Hair had been removed near the stomach. All four udders were cut off and its left cheek, tongue and sex organs removed. Between the front legs an uneven patch of hair was missing and in the middle was a prick mark, Sanchez wrote in his report.

The next day, Crook County's Sgt. Timothy Durheim was dispatched to a report of a wolf kill at the McCormack Ranch on SE Bear Creek Road. But it was apparent no wolf took



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123RF

down this cow.

Durheim noted several straight incisions on the animal. One udder had been removed and a circular cut was made around the anus and the reproductive organs removed without puncturing the gut. The left cheek, left eye and tongue had been removed.

"Again, I noted straight, clean incisions where the cheek had been," Durheim wrote in his case report.

Durheim examined the carcass and found a puncture wound between the neck and shoulder. He found no bite marks.

"There were no apparent animal or human tracks immediately surrounding the carcass, and only minimal blood in the area," Durheim wrote. "I know from personal experience that if an animal is killed or scav-

enged by predators, there is typically a large bloody messy area surrounding the carcass."

On March 6, Casey Thomas called police back to report finding another dead cow bearing the same strange injuries. This one was more badly decomposed than the first but its left cheek was also removed and a 2-inch patch had been cut into the hair on its neck.

Detectives took photos of the dead cows to Prineville veterinarian Dr. Taylor Karlin for her perspective. She agreed the deaths appeared unnatural and her opinion was included in a search warrant request filed in the case to scan for cell phone activity near where the cows were found. Charges in any of the cases could include trespassing and aggravated animal abuse. With the cattle valued at \$1,250 to \$1,400 each, crim-

inal mischief might also be charged.

As a vet with an interest in large animals, Karlin has performed many post-mortem examinations on deceased livestock. When, and if, another mutilated cow turns up in Crook County, Karlin has agreed to perform an appropriate necropsy so she can personally examine a fresh specimen if another turns up.

"I wish I had an answer," she said. "We're kind of at a loss."

One possible explanation is these were, in fact, natural deaths

Podcast host Dunning's long-running show Skeptoid devoted an episode to debunking cattle mutilation in 2015. Dunning, who read the 28-page search warrant request, called the recent Crook County case typical of numerous accounts often attributed to aliens or satanic rituals.

"This is almost certainly the same kind of bird predation we've seen in so many similar cases," he wrote to The Bulletin. "In my opinion, there is nothing here that suggests anything but normal and expected bird predation had occurred, and ... no justification for a search warrant to seek out an apocryphal human responsible for the wounds."

Dunning said he's learned there's actually a short window of time between when the animal dies and when its body is scavenged when it's obvious what killed the animal.

"Most particularly birds, and also some insects, will always go first for the exposed soft tissue: eyes, tongue, lips and mouth area, genitals. The animal is dead with zero blood pressure so there is never significant bleeding from post mortem wounds. The body is in the process of drying and decaying, so skin pulls tight from around the excised area, giving the impression of a perfect surgical cut."

Karlin is awaiting the results of liver and blood samples she's sent away for lab testing. Police have sent hair samples to the state crime lab on the chance they don't belong to the bovine.

Last year, the FBI in Oregon started receiving questions about cattle mutilations in Central and Eastern Oregon, according to Beth Anne Steele, spokesperson for the FBI Portland office. But despite sporadic media inquiries, the office does not have a current role in the cattle mutilation investigations. Steele wrote to The Bulletin.

Reporter: 541-383-0325, gandreus@bendbulletin.com

INDIANAPOLIS

4 Sikhs among victims of mass shooting

BY CASEY SMITH AND RICK CALLAHAN

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Amarjit Sekhon, a 48-year-old mother of two sons, was the breadwinner of her family and one of many members of Indianapolis' tight knit Sikh community employed at a FedEx warehouse on the city's southwest side.

Her death Thursday night in a mass shooting that claimed the lives of seven other FedEx employees — four of them Sikhs — has left that community stunned and in mourning, her brother-in-law, Kuldip Sekhon, said Saturday.

Police said Brandon Scott Hole, 19, apparently began firing randomly at people in the parking lot of the FedEx facility, killing four, before entering the building, fatally shooting four more people and then turning the gun on himself.

It was not clear if Sikhs were targeted in the shooting. Hole's motives remained unclear Saturday.

The killings marked the latest in a string of recent mass shootings across the country and the third mass shooting this year in Indianapolis.

Deputy Police Chief Craig



A body is taken from the scene where multiple people were shot at a FedEx Ground facility in Indianapolis.
Michael Conroy/AP

McCartt said Hole was a former employee of FedEx and last worked for the company in 2020. The deputy police chief said he did not know why Hole left the job or if he had ties to

the workers in the facility.

About 90% of the workers at the facility near the Indianapolis International Airport are members of the local Sikh community, Indianapolis Po-

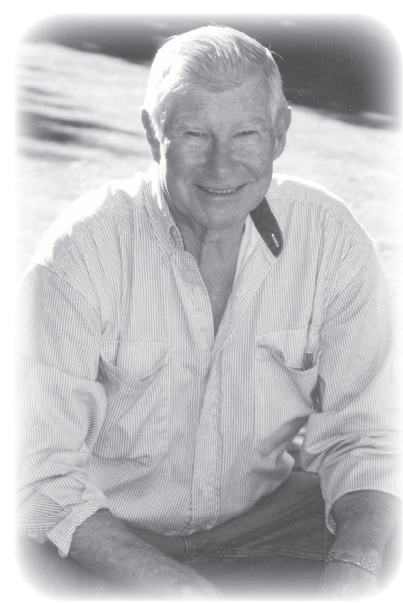
lice Chief Randal Taylor said Friday. Members of the religion, which began in India in the 15th century, began settling in Indiana more than 50 years ago and opened their first house of worship, known as a gurdwara, in 1999.

The attack was another blow to the Asian American community a month after six people of Asian descent were killed in a mass shooting in the Atlanta area and amid ongoing attacks against Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic.

OBITUARY

Ernest Dalton Davidson

December 24, 1931 - March 28, 2021



Ernest Dalton Davidson, passed away March 28, 2021 at his home in the arms of his beloved wife of 67 years, Wynona Gates Davidson. "Ernie" was born December 24, 1931 in Hillsboro, Oregon; the son of Roy Lee Davidson and Ernestine Brown Davidson. He attended school in Forest Grove, Oregon and

graduated as a three-sport letterman and Hi-Y President from Forest Grove High School in 1950.

He joined the US Navy and was in the VA 195 Air Group as lead aircraft mechanic aboard the carriers, Princeton and Oriskany, for two tours in Korea. As a mechanic, he volunteered to be flown in behind enemy lines to retrieve downed pilots and their planes. Between the two tours, on June 21, 1953, he married the love of his life and best friend "Nonie" Davidson in Forest Grove.

Ernie was honorably discharged in 1955 and the next day began work at the Ford Plant in San Jose, CA. After a year in San Jose, he and Nonie returned to the Davidson family farm in Forest Grove where Ernie worked the farm and enrolled at Pacific University. Ernie graduated in 1958 with a bachelor of Science in Education and Mathematics. They moved to Pilot Rock, OR where he taught Math for 4 years.

In 1963, Ernie and Nonie moved to Bend with their two boys Dan and Rick. Ernie taught Math at Bend High School and later became Assistant Principal of the same school. In 1975, he became the Administrator of Data Processing for the Bend-LaPine School District where he was responsible for converting the school system to computerization. He retired from the schools in 1990. He always said his favorite job was teaching because he enjoyed the students.

Nearly every day for Ernie was a new experience and fun adventure. Dalton (as the family called him) camped out in the farm woods as a youngster, he learned to fly an airplane before he was out of high school, he logged, drove freight trucks, rode his horse in a rodeo and enjoyed helping his brother-in-law operate heavy equipment in Forest Grove. In Bend he was on the Search and Rescue team and also part of the Mt. Bachelor Ski Patrol. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was most content being outdoors. Ernie's family was foremost... family weekends were spent camping, fishing, hunting, clamming, crabbing or sitting around a bonfire...even woodcutting with Ernie was a "fun" adventure! As the boys got older, the boy's activities were Ernie's priorities. Upon retirement, these adventures continued with backpacking in Europe, cruising or being snowbirds in the pickup and camper.

Ernie was a people person and loved spending time swapping stories with his friends and family, having dinner parties, playing bridge or poker. He was known and loved by many whether you called him Dalton, Ernie, Bones, Pops, or Mr. Davidson.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Janice and Dorothy Lee. He is survived by his wife, Wynona, two sons: Dan (wife Julie) of Coeur d'Alene and Rick (wife Jutta) of Germany, 5 Grandchildren and 7 Great Grandchildren.

Because of the Pandemic there will not be a service at this time, but a tentative date is set for August 14. Instead of flowers, contributions may be given to the Bend Education Foundation or Band of Brothers.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

CITY CLUB OF CENTRAL OREGON
Conversation Creates Community

May 18, 2021 Special District Election VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUMS SLATE!

City Club of Central Oregon and the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County have partnered to bring you **candidate forums**. Video production by **Connect Central Oregon**.

These virtual forums are FREE to the public.
Forums are pre-recorded.



SUBMIT QUESTIONS! We encourage you to send questions for the candidates at least via email to info@cityclubco.org or info@lwvdeschutes.org

NEW! Redmond and Bend-Lapine School Districts Forums will have **English to Spanish translation!**

WATCH! LWV of Deschutes home page: LWVDeschutes.org/

City Club C.O. YouTube: [youtube.com/c/CityClubofCentralOregon](https://www.youtube.com/c/CityClubofCentralOregon)

Find more information here: LWVDC calendar:

<https://lwvdeschutes.org/events/>

Create your own voter pamphlet at [Vote411.org!](http://Vote411.org/) **VOTE 411**

• **April 22, 5:30pm: Admin. School Dist. 1, Bend-La Pine School Board zones 1,2,4, 7**

• **April 24, 5:30 pm: Deschutes Public Library District, Library Board zone 3**

• **April 27, 5:30pm: Bend Metro Park & Recreation District, Board positions 3,4,5**

• **May 3, 5:30pm: Redmond School District 2J, School Board positions 3, 4**

• **May 4, 5:30pm: Redmond School District 2J, School Board positions 1, 2**

• **May 6, 5:30pm: Redmond Area Park & Recreation District, Board positions 1, 2**

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DEATH NOTICES

Donna Cecelia Hatch-Bartley of Redmond, OR December 30, 1938 - April 11, 2021

Arrangements: Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. 541-382-2471 Please visit the online registry for the family at www.niswonger-reynolds.com

Services: A gathering of family & friends will be held at a later date. *Contributions may be made to:* Country Side Living 1350 NW Canal Blvd, Redmond, OR, 97756 or Alzheimers Association 777 NW Wall St, Bend, OR 97703

Rodney Lee Little of Prineville, OR Feb 7, 1942 - March 26, 2021

Services: Celebration of Life 4/16/21 @ 1:00pm Mitchell Baptist Church, Mitchell *Contributions may be made to:* American Cancer Society

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809

Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm

No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.

Email: obits@bendbulletin.com