

OBITUARIES

Sammie Lou Laurance  
Feb. 2, 1931 – March 10, 2015

Sammie Lou Laurance, 84, died March 10 at Valley View Assisted Living Facility in John Day. There will be no services at this time.

Mrs. Laurance was born Feb. 2, 1931, in Clarksville, Texas, to Jesse and Nell (Duncan) Robertson. She graduated from Rule High School in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1949.

On March 10, 1951, she married Otho Laurance in Knoxville.

She worked for 15 years at the Grant County Courthouse in Canyon City, where she was a deputy clerk.

Her hobbies included cooking, sewing, genealogy and canning. She was noted for her pie baking and hot rolls. She made many pies which she donated to auctions and raffles.

She was a member of the John Day Church of the Nazarene and the Grant County Genealogy Society.

Survivors include her husband, Otho Laurance of John Day; daughter, Joni (Bob) Warren of John Day; sons, Gary (Jeanette) Laurance of Isla Mejueres, Mexico, Rick Laurance of Sweden and Steve (Brenda) Laurance of Chino Valley, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters. Memorial contributions may be made to the John Day Church of the Nazarene or Valley View Assisted Living through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

Carl Lee ‘Swiz’ Schnabele  
May 16, 1945 – March 7, 2015

PAULINA – Carl Lee “Swiz” Schnabele, 69, of Canyon City, died March 7 in Paulina. A celebration of life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Schnabele Ranch Headquarters in Canyon City.

Mr. Schnabele was born May 16, in Prineville, to John Lester and Helen Loretta (Basey) Schnabele. He attended Paulina Elementary, and graduated from Crane High School in 1964.

He had a successful career in cattle ranching until his death.

His many accomplishments included professional saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and team roping. He was an avid hunter, skilled gambler and enjoyed branding with friends. He was a longtime member of the Paulina Rodeo Club and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda (Landers) Schnabele; daughters, Kelli (JW) Rose and Katy (Aaron) Kafka; mother, Helen Schnabele; grandchildren, John Barry Rose, Tommy Jack Rose, TC Hammack, Taelor Hammack and Tiersyn Kafka; and nephew, Dustin Weatherman.

He was preceded in death by his father. Memorial contributions may be made to the Paulina Rodeo Club through Juniper Ridge Funeral Home, 678 N. Main St., Prineville, OR 97754.



Darrell James Morris  
July 7, 1946 – March 8, 2015

SUBLIMITY – Darrell James Morris, 68, formerly of Prairie City, died March 8 at his Sublimity home.

Mr. Morris was born July 7, 1946, in Prairie City, the seventh of nine children to Lloyd and Clara (Howard) Morris. He attended school in the John Day area.

In August 1970, he married Patricia Fowler in Burns. While living there, he worked for the Bureau of Land Management patrolling the Steens Mountains; delivered oil for the Hines Oil Company; and did security for the Air Force.

His wife Patty died in 1973.

In 1976, he met Dolores Ditter, whom he married on May 21, 1977, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Scio. For the next two years, they lived in Stayton, and managed the Northridge Apartments.

They moved to Bend, where they lived for the next 25 years, and where he worked at Thousand Trails Resort and at the Riverhouse Hotel.

They raised several foster children on their small farm.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing, playing cribbage and camping.

In 2004, they retired to Sublimity, where he enjoyed watching hummingbirds at the feeder, rock polishing and playing the computer game Bejeweled.

Survivors include his wife, Dolores; son, Daniel; three sisters; two brothers; and a sister-in-law.



Martha Rose Simonson

Martha Rose Simonson, 72, died March 10 at her Granite home. No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements are under the care of Gray’s West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

Genealogy seminar on tap

Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON – Interested in tracing your family history?

The Grant County Genealogical Society will hold a spring seminar, featuring guest speaker Connie Lenzen, CG, Saturday, April 11, at Mt. Vernon Community Center, 640 Ingle St.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m., and the classes start at 9 a.m.

Lenzen, a board certified genealogist, will present four classes:

- Vital records on the Internet.
- Evidence analysis: Break

down those brick walls.

- Newspaper research.
- Oregon Trail research.

Lenzen is a lecturer, former National Genealogical Society director, former president of the Board of Certification of Genealogists, and is on the education committee of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

The cost of the seminar is \$35 a person in advance, or \$40 at the door. Lunch is included.

For a registration form, contact the Grant County Genealogical Society at gsgsociety94@yahoo.com, or call Jeannette Harrison, 541-932-4718.



Contributed photos

Luke Williamson shows off Robo, the Lego robot he designed to accompany “RoboTales,” a children’s chapter book series on which he is collaborating with his mother, local author Jill Williamson.

Mom and son pen fictional adventure

By Cheryl Hoefer  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – If you can’t think like a kid, the next best thing is having a kid around who can do the thinking for you.

That’s what local author Jill Williamson learned, when she welcomed input from her 13-year-old son, Luke, on a story premise that would appeal to elementary-age students.

At first, back in 2012, the entire family brainstormed ideas, but it was Luke who became his mother’s writing partner, helping name characters and creatures, and plot out stories.

The result is “RoboTales,” a children’s chapter book series about Robo, the robot dog, and his adventures with children in a fictional galaxy. The mother-son writing team have completed the first three of eight books planned in the series, designed for readers ages 7-13.

Luke even designed the lead character out of Legos.

“I couldn’t have done it without him,” Williamson said. “He’s quite creative.”

After several rejections from major publishing houses, they opted to self-publish, which Williamson had done with previous works, including a short novel “Chokepoint.”

The next step was to secure an illustrator, and that’s where they felt the financial pinch.

Able to afford only one illustration, they commissioned Michigan-based graphic artist Kirbi Fagan to create a portrait of Robo, to show the artistic style the writing duo wanted for the books.

Then they turned to Kickstarter, an online crowdfunding site that helps people fulfill their dreams through people in the community backing the project.

Each project has a campaign, with a specified time frame in which to reach the target funding goal.



Michigan illustrator Kirbi Fagan has created this image of robot dog Robo.

Kickstarter is all or nothing. If a campaign attains its goal within the specified time period, people who pledged money will need to pay up, and the project can proceed. If the goal is not reached, no one is charged anything, but the campaigners are back to square one.

The final date for the RoboTales campaign is March 19. To date, \$1,158 has been pledged of the \$4,995 goal.

Williamson said prospective donors can think of it like pre-ordering the books.

“We get the money in advance, which helps us to afford to produce the product. And when it’s complete, we mail you that product,” she said.

Williamson plans to have Luke’s name on the cover as co-author. Half the profits will go into his Oregon College Savings Plan.

They hope the books will be released this coming October.

“It was a long time coming, but I hope readers will enjoy the stories,” Williamson said.

Check out the Williamsons’ Kickstarter campaign at www.kickstarter.com and enter “RoboTales” under the products search at the top. The campaign information includes an introductory video and synopses of the first three books.

For more information about RoboTales as well as Jill Williamson’s books, visit www.jillwilliamson.com.

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*Preserve it Forever...*

**Looking for an Adventure This Summer?**

**Summer Youth Crew Jobs Are Now Open with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council!**

- Hiring youth ages 14-24 in Long Creek and John Day
- Crew members will help with a variety of natural resource projects

To apply, stop by our office in Long Creek (691 Hwy 395 N.) or visit <http://www.nfjdwc.org> Call 541-421-3018 for information

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Celebrate a birthday by putting a **FREE** birthday wish in the Eagle.

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Example 2x2

**Kim’s Turning 50!**

Let’s Celebrate March 29!

Love,  
Your Family at the Eagle

Call, e-mail, or drop off your info to Lindsay by 5 p.m., Friday for the next week’s paper.

**WEATHER FORECAST**

Mostly sunny		<b>Wednesday</b> 60/30
Sunny		<b>Thursday</b> 67/39
Mostly sunny		<b>Friday</b> 69/43
Showers likely		<b>Saturday</b> 54/33
Mostly sunny		<b>Sunday</b> 63/38
Slight chance of rain		<b>Monday</b> 59/33
Colder		<b>Tuesday</b> 48/27

**LAST WEEK**

	MARCH 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
John Day	72/34	56/44	61/42	66/37	64/53	72/48	50/40
Sheep Rock	68/34	70/39	60/42	68/32	73/42	72/50	74/38

**24/7 FORECAST**  
**AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122**  
**ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; [WWW.TRIPCHECK.COM](http://WWW.TRIPCHECK.COM)**  
**[WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM/INFO](http://WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM/INFO)**  
**NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY — 162.500 MHz**