

OBITUARIES

George Rex Hixson

July 7, 1923 – April 5, 2015

PENDLETON – George Rex Hixson, 91, formerly of Long Creek, died on April 5, shortly after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Hixson was born July 7, 1923, in Simla, Colo., to B. Rex Hixson and Edith V. Hixson.

In his early years, he rode a horse to school each day. He attended schools in Simla, Limon and Ordway, Colo., where he was active in football, basketball, FFA and choir. It was in Ordway where he met and married his high school sweetheart, Evelyn (Meyers) Hixson, on July 30, 1944.

He attended Colorado State University where he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho. When World War II started, he returned home to work on the ranch.

He worked with livestock his entire life. He ran sheep from the wheat fields of Kansas to the mountains of Colorado.

In 1964 the family cattle ranch in Ordway was sold, and in 1968, he moved his family to Long Creek to raise cattle.

The start of his roping cattle business began with a Watusi bull that came from Africa who crossed with Long Horn cows. He had an eye for a good horse. Roping was a passion for him, in addition to a lifestyle. He started in rodeo competitions at a young age and continued to rope until he was 87.

At the 2010 American Cowboy Team Roping Association National Finals, with a tip of his hat, he made his final roping run with his son, Bret. There was not a dry eye in the house.

He holds honorary FFA degrees in Colorado and Oregon, and was a 4-H leader and a cattle judge in Colorado. He received numerous awards and championships for his cattle, mules and horses. One accomplishment of which he was proud was the breaking and exhibition of the Baker Livestock hitch of 20 white miniature mules. He wrote a book about that experience.

In 2000, he and his wife moved to Pendleton. He enjoyed roping, the Professional Bull Riders and the Pendleton Round-Up.

Throughout his life, he fostered the love of horses, livestock and rodeo to all who met him. He took great interest in the development of young people and their interest in rodeo.

Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Evelyn; sons, Monty (Jeannine) Hixson of Pendleton, and Bret (Sue) Hixson of Corvallis; and granddaughter, Kathryn.

He was preceded in death by an older sister, Marvel; and younger brothers, Merle and Calvin.

Arrangements are under the care of Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom Bishop Funeral Home, 131 Byers Ave. S.E., Pendleton, OR 97801.



Sam 'Buddy' Hornbeck

March 4, 1939 – March 20, 2015

BURNS – Sam "Buddy" Hornbeck, 76, died March 20 at his home, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held at a later date, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lexington.

Mr. Hornbeck was born March 4, 1939, in Kingfisher, Okla., to Jesse and Lola Hornbeck. At age 13, he quit school to help provide for his mom and younger siblings, following his father's death in a car accident in Las Vegas, where they were living.

In 1957, while working as a gas station attendant, he met his future wife, Delcie Marie Russom. On Sept. 14, 1959, they married in Las Vegas. In November 1962, the family moved to Henderson, Nev., where he joined the Henderson Fire Department, achieving the rank of lieutenant.

In 1966, he and his brother, Stanley, planned to move their families to Alaska. On the way, they worked at mills and ended up in Albany, where he worked at a lumber mill for six months, and then for the Albany Fire Department.

In 1977, the family moved to Redmond, where he was a firefighter/EMS trainer and coordinator for Central Oregon firefighters. He began working as a paid firefighter and was vital in training the first female firefighters to work in the Redmond Fire Department. In 1985, he was awarded Firefighter of the Year.

He also worked with the Boy Scouts through the LDS Church.

Mr. Hornbeck loved hunting, fishing, boating, camping, shooting and anything to do with nature. He was known as a great camp cook, and cooked large meals for civic/church groups and was a designated fire house cook at all the fire stations he served.

He was known to have a great sense of humor, but most of all he enjoyed being with family.

After 36 years of service as volunteer and paid firefighter, he retired in 1991. He and his wife moved to Seneca, where he was a fire and ambulance volunteer. The couple opened a café with the help of their two younger sons. He also volunteered cooking for the annual Oyster Feed.

He was instrumental in planning and building the Bear Valley Golf Course and gun club in Seneca.

In 2007, they moved to Heppner, where he worked with the local high school FFA, was active in the community and in the LDS Church.

In November 2014, after his cancer diagnosis, he moved closer to his oldest son, Robert, in Burns.

Survivors include his wife, Delcie Marie Hornbeck, of Heppner; sons, Robert Ell (Penny) of Burns; Jessie Maurice (Patricia) of Redmond and James Stanley (Bobbi) of Prineville; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; eight nephews; five nieces; brothers, Lloyd and Douglas; and sister, Colleen.

He was preceded in death by his brothers David (Bobby) and Stanley; and sisters Eloise and Patsy.



Theda Alene Weatherford

Aug. 26, 1916 – April 7, 2015

Theda Alene Weatherford, 98, of Dayville, died April 7 at Valley View Assisted Living Facility in John Day. A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Presbyterian Church in Dayville, with interment in the Dayville Cemetery, and a potluck reception in the church hall.

Mrs. Weatherford was born Aug. 26, 1916, at the Damon family ranch on Damon Creek west of Mt. Vernon, to John and Ada Snyder Damon. Her father also was born and raised there.

She graduated from Mt. Vernon High School at age 17, on April 25, 1934. Shortly afterward, her father sold the ranch, and moved the family to Dayville.

On July 22, 1945, she married Walter O. Weatherford, in her parents' home. A year later she gave birth to their only child, Carey. After her husband died in May 1989, she moved to a house on South Fork Road in Dayville. It was there she continued to tend her flowers and her cats, and help friends when she could. She developed a strong friendship with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which began with her watering the flowers and making sure the sprinkler was moved so the grass would stay green. Her 30-year relationship with the church and friendship with the members sustained her over the many years prior to her death.

As a young woman, she worked for the Oregon Telephone Company in Dayville as a switchboard operator, and was a postal clerk for 13 years for the Postal Service in Dayville.

She served as president of the Dayville Library Board, and was the Dayville correspondent for the Blue Mountain Eagle for many years.

Survivors are her son, Carey, and his fiancée, Julia Betz, both of Bend; grandson, Paul, of Portland; and many cousins and dear friends.

Arrangements are under the care of Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.



Donna Mae Switzer

Oct. 16, 1933 – Feb. 17, 2015

ST. HELENS – Donna Mae Switzer, 82, formerly of Canyon City, died on Feb. 17 at Cherrywood Adult Foster Home in St. Helens. A graveside memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25, in Dayville. A reception will follow at 1 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Canyon City.

Mrs. Switzer was born Oct. 16, 1933, in Ontario, to Everett and Alveretta Boke Hutton. She attended high school in Vale, and graduated from Boise Junior College (now Boise State University) where she studied bookkeeping.

She was a bookkeeper for Les Schwab Tire Center for 25 years before retiring.

She married Thomas W. Switzer in Vale, with whom she raised two children.

Survivors include her son, Wayne (Desma) Switzer; granddaughter, Brittanie (Matt) Martin; grandson, Josh (Bekah) Switzer; great-grandchildren, Elijah and Elizabeth Martin; and her brother, Clark (Carolyn) Hutton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas, and daughter, Tamie Jo Hettinga.

Memorial contributions may be made to Blue Mountain Hospice or St. Thomas Episcopal Church through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave, Baker City, OR. 97814.

Lawrence Henry Grassl

Dec. 18, 1940 – April 1, 2015

Lawrence Henry Grassl, 74, formerly of Grant County, died on April 1.

Mr. Grassl was born Dec. 18, 1940, in Portland, to Henry and Elizabeth Grassl.

He was an avid NASCAR fan and enjoyed working on old Ford pickup trucks. A kind and generous man, who had a great smile and wonderful sense of humor, he was always ready to help anyone in need.

Survivors include his brothers, Richard "Dick" (Betty) Grassl of Spokane, Wash., and Duane Grassl of Hermiston; children, Balinda Shannon of Gresham, Janet Costello and Richard Grassl, both of Scappoose, Paul (Tina) Grassl and Ellie Grassl, both of Portland, and Kristi Emerson and Rebecca Grassl, both of Monument; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH Dayville School



Contributed photo

Dayville School Students of the Month, from left: For February, Tyler Thompson (Grades 1-3), Ravyn Walker (high school) and Gauge Jenks (Grades 4-6), and for January, Faith Brown and Destiny Brown (both high school).



Contributed photo

From left, March Students of the Month at Dayville School are: Courtney Nichols (junior high), Jaine Homan (high school), and Dally Moore (Grades 1-3).

GRANT COUNTY LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon, Wed., Sat. 1-5 pm • Tues. 10 a.m. to noon and 1-7 pm
Thurs.: 1-5 pm and 7-9 pm • Fri. and Sun.: Closed



"My Life in France" by Julia Child

"Paris Match" by Stuart Woods

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Phone: 541-575-1992



BIRTHS



Micah Thomas Hatfield

Jason and Sarah Hatfield announce the birth of their son, Micah Thomas Hatfield, on March 12 at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces. He joins brothers Eithen and Brandon. Grandparents are Larry and Darlene Hatfield of John Day, Lenora Valentine of La Grande, and Rodney Sanders of Madras.



Micah Thomas Hatfield

Douglas James Woodward

Born in Mitchell, Oregon 1-14-1927
Died at home, Redmond, Oregon 3-24-2015

Too young to serve in the military in WWII, Douglas quit school and joined the Merchant Marines and served in the Pacific Theater hauling military cargo to the troops. After the war he moved to the Roseburg area, and later to Prineville, then settled outside Redmond. During his career as a logger he was an owner of P & W Trucking and Woodward Logging Co. He finished his logging career working for Boss and Peach Morgan. After he retired from logging, he spent the last 25 years as "Sheriff of Big Summit Prairie."

Douglas loved to hunt and fish, and spend time on Big Summit Prairie. He also loved gardening, watching old Western movies and just sitting in the sun.

He was preceded in death by his parents, "Toots" and Helen, wife of 55 years Lavern, sons "Doug" Jr. and Eddy, brothers Van "Ben" and an infant brother, and sisters Doris and Gloria.

He is survived by companion Barb Keener, children Gail and Dennis, sisters Peaches and Sue, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Also Blue, his beloved cat.

He was loved by many and a friend to all, and will be greatly missed.

Graveside service: West Branch Cemetery, April 6, 2015 at 1:00pm.

Dan Cannon and Carl Naas officiating.
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the West Branch Cemetery maintenance fund in care of Betty Woodward, Mitchell, Oregon, or the charity of your choice.

01635

Talents & Treasures, PCCA, and The Prairie City Merchants Present

The 5th annual Evening of Entertainment! Comedy and Music

Sat. April 18th
Prairie City
Old United Methodist Church
Desserts at 6:30 pm
Showtime at 7:00 pm
\$5 per person
\$15 per family of three or more

WEATHER FORECAST

Day	Forecast	Temp
Wednesday	Sunny	52/27
Thursday	Sunny	65/38
Friday	Sunny	71/42
Saturday	Mostly sunny	64/36
Sunday	Sunny	67/37
Monday	Mostly sunny	69/37
Tuesday	Increasing clouds	73/42

LAST WEEK

	APRIL 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
John Day	54/36	50/37	56/32	67/37	56/48	57/29	70/34
Sheep Rock	55/34	62/42	56/29	65/37	73/44	58/32	65/37

RIVER FLOWS

	Discharge	Last Year	Average	% of Avg.
John Day (Mainstem)	170	352	322	53
Ritter (MF)	298	675	760	39
Monument (NF)	1320	2930	3590	37
Service Creek (Mainstem)	2000	4570	5100	39
McDonald Ferry (Mainstem)	2580	5010	5620	46