

## OBITUARIES

**Melva Marie Butler**  
Dec. 31, 1958 - Oct. 12, 2017

Melva Marie Butler, 58, a longtime Baker City resident, died Thursday, Oct. 12, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. A celebration of life will be held at noon Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Veterans Memorial Club, 2005 Valley St., Baker City.



Butler was born Dec. 31, 1958, to parents Jerry and Hazel Lovell at the Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise. She attended Emmett High School and later graduated from Capitol High School in Boise, Idaho, in 1976.

She married Dan Lees in 1978, and they became the proud parents of two wonderful and loving children, Jennifer and Michael Lees, both of whom graduated from Boise State University with Bachelor of Science degrees in civil engineering.

The couple shared 28 years together and later divorced. While living in Emmett, Idaho, they competed in dirt bike racing. Few people know that she was the statewide motocross champion of Idaho for two years. She took home many trophies and was an inspiration to all female riders.

The family moved to Prairie City in 1988 where she worked for the U.S. Forest Service fighting wildfires. She also coached the high school girls volleyball and basketball teams.

In 1990, they moved to the Sumpter Valley, and she worked in Baker City at Safeway, and later at Marvin Wood Products. She was best known for her business Melva's Upholstery, which she opened full time in Baker City in 2010. With limited knowledge and massive determination, she became extremely competent in her profession, gaining a huge following and an outstanding reputation. She not only met customers, but easily developed friendships with many of them due to her smile and personality. She was very proud of the business that she started from scratch.

She met her true love in Sumpter. He swept her off her feet, and on Sept. 27, 2014, she married the love of her life and best friend, Ryan Butler. They were inseparable, and their commitment to each other was truly visible to all that knew them.

She enjoyed cooking and entertaining her friends and family. Everyone cherished an invitation to spend time and have a meal at the Butlers. She was also a member of the local VFW.

She was dedicated to her children and grandchildren. She loved gardening, home canning, laughing and smiling. She loved going to work, producing beautiful workmanship with her upholstery work.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jerry; and brothers Danny and David Lovell.

She is survived by her loving husband, Ryan Butler, of Baker City; mother, Hazel Emery, of Baker City; daughter Jennifer Long and her husband, Justin, of Baker City; son Michael Lees and his wife, Angela, of La Grande; six grandchildren; brother Darell Howard of Baker City; sister Sherry Given of Baker City; and numerous nieces and nephews.

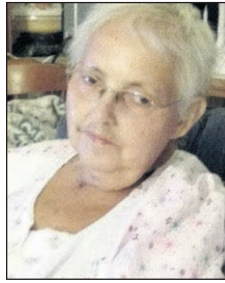
Memorial contributions may be made to help with expenses incurred through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, PO Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

### About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Blue Mountain Eagle. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries submitted to the Eagle with incorrect information may be corrected and republished as paid notices. Send obituaries by email, editor@bmeagle.com; fax, 541-575-1244; or mail, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-575-0710.

**Loretta Doreen (Dillon) Casselman**  
Oct. 19, 1953 - Sept. 10, 2017

Loretta Doreen (Dillon) "Lulu" Casselman, 63, passed away Sept. 10 at her Middleton, Idaho, home after a three-year courageous journey with cancer. During a portion of this period she became primary caregiver to her mother, Margie Gengler Baughman, who preceded her in death Feb. 9, 2017.



Casselman is survived by her two daughters Shelly Hallos of Middleton and Stephanie Hallos Gorham of Payette, Idaho; her spouse of 17 years, Earnie; four grandchildren; and four sisters, Rosetta Riley, Vernetta Stewart, Barbara Jones, and Marley Bratcher, all of whom reside in the Pacific Northwest.

Casselman attended Prairie City High School, graduating in 1973 with honors, and later from Treasure Valley Community College with a certificate in nursing. During her early years, she attended the Prairie City Assembly of God church where her grandparents, Nick and Nettie Gengler, were also members. As a nurse she worked primarily in long-term care at Presbyterian Care Center in Ontario, and a shorter duration in acute care at Holy Rosary hospital (currently St. Alphonsus) in Ontario. She worked for approximately 30 years, full time.

Hobbies and interests included vegetable and flower gardening, cooking and baking, sewing, reading and, most of all, spending time with her beloved family toward whom she gave selflessly. Casselman's life was infused with her love of God, and guided by Christian principles. She was generous and gentle with endurance.

A memorial with be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the John Day Assembly of God Church, with the Rev. Lee Teague officiating. A dinner will follow, and later a brief graveside service in Prairie City will be recognized. Family and friends are invited.

**David R. Furgerson**

April 17, 1939 - Oct. 11, 2017

David R. Furgerson, 78, of Canyon City passed away Wednesday, Oct. 11, at his home.

On April 17, 1939, Furgerson was born to James T. Furgerson and Mary Ilene Haley, in Dorena, Missouri.

He joined the United States Army on Sept. 7, 1956, and served for three years. He then went on to become a truck driver, retiring in 2004 after 35 years of driving. He married Shirley (Huffman) Furgerson in Winnemucca, Nevada, in 1971.

Furgerson enjoyed trains and spending time grading. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his brothers John Thomas and James Furgerson.

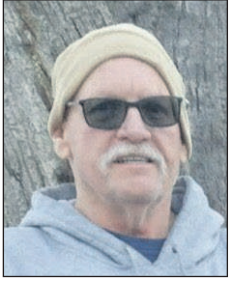
He is survived by his wife, Shirley Furgerson, of Canyon City; daughter Deborah Quant of Burns; son Richard Furgerson of Myrtle Creek; sister Virginia Sexton of Bend; sister Veda Byassee of Maricopa, Arizona; brother Robert Furgerson of Ontario; stepchildren Brenda Church, Esther Majors, Linda Kendall, Carol Claughton and Jack Wilson; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and Sydney and Sophie Brockway, who were both very special to him.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave a condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

**Ernie Gipson**  
Nov. 19, 1955 - Oct. 6, 2017

Ernie Gipson, 61, of John Day passed away from complications during a transplant surgery on Friday, Oct. 6, in Portland. A celebration of life will be held from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the New Castle Community Center in New Castle, Colorado.



Gipson was born on Nov. 19, 1955, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He spent most of his childhood and teenage years in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he attended Central High School. In his earlier years, he competed at a high level in professional rodeo circuits, and placed in the "Final 15" in 1979 for single steer roping.

His final years were spent living and working as a rangeland manager for the U.S. Forest Service for over 20 years, including jobs on the Tonto National Forest, the Allegheny National Forest, the Thunder Basin Grassland and, most recently, the Malheur National Forest. While in Arizona, Gipson was very active in the Society for Range Management. One of his career specialties was working with correctional inmates and allowing them to have productive work experiences on public lands. He proved to be successful at whatever he did, and often volunteered for the Cinnabar Mountain Playday's youth rodeo association in John Day, and was known as "Ernie the Gate Man" by some.

Gipson was an amazing father and friend. He was loved by everyone he met, and was known for his jokes, his dry sense of humor and his kindness towards others.

He is survived by his father, Tom; his stepmother Carol; his sister Nickey; and his three children, Amanda, Chris and Sam.

**Toni Goodwin**  
June 6, 1946 - Oct. 12, 2017

Toni Goodwin (Taylor), 71, of John Day passed away Thursday, Oct. 12, at Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day. A memorial service was held Oct. 17 at Driskill Memorial Chapel in John Day, with Robert Waltenburg of Dayville Community Church officiating. An additional service will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 29 at Little Creek Casino in Kamilche, Washington.



Goodwin was born to Fredrick "Blair" Taylor and Lenore Taylor (Rasmussen) on June 6, 1946, in Tacoma, Washington. She graduated from Lakes High School in Lakewood, Washington, in 1964. She attended Washington State University, graduating in 1967, and then went on to Western Oregon State College, graduating with a master's in education. Goodwin also received a superintendent certificate from the University of Oregon. She was married to Ralph Goodwin on Sept. 14, 2002, in Baker City.

She worked as school district superintendent for Mt. Angel, Umatilla and Baker City school districts from 1987 to 2007.

She enjoyed reading, being at the beach and ocean fishing. She was also a member of the Dayville Community Church and Umatilla and Baker City Rotary. Goodwin accomplished many things in her life, such as being the first woman to be president of the Oregon State School Administrator's Association, serving on the board of directors of Marion Polk Schools Credit Union and winning the Rotary's Paul Harris award.

Goodwin is survived by her husband, Ralph Goodwin, of John Day; sister Karan Vanderwarker of Des Moines, Washington; daughter Marla Taylor of Kent, Washington; son Mikel Hardman of Kent; stepchildren Michelle DesJardin, Marguerite Powell, Ralph Goodwin Jr., James Goodwin and Mathew Goodwin; 18 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave a condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

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The Doctor speaks Spanish - el doctor habla Espanol.

**CORRECTION**

A Monument/Dayville football player was misidentified in a caption in last week's issue. The athlete was Mark Thomas who wears the No. 22 jersey. The Eagle regrets the error.

**ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:**

Did you know a service-connected disabled veteran is entitled to FREE use of Oregon State Parks?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Courthouse.

**Katee Hoffman**

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- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

**LAST WEEK'S TEMPS**

JOHN DAY	H/I/LO
TUESDAY	65/42
WEDNESDAY	54/35
THURSDAY	46/34
FRIDAY	43/32
SATURDAY	51/28
SUNDAY	61/32
MONDAY	71/36

**24/7 FORECAST**  
AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122  
ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM  
WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM/INFO  
NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY  
162.500 MHZ

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 18-24**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Slight chance of rain	Rain likely	Rain likely	Slight chance of rain	Partly sunny	Plenty of sunshine
<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>