

OBITUARIES

Mary Margaret (Johnson) Lemons

Dec. 15, 1924 — Feb. 10, 2020

Mary Margaret (Johnson) Lemons, 95, passed away Feb. 10, 2020, with her family by her side.

Margaret was born Dec. 15, 1924, in Prairie City, Oregon, to Percy and Mary Johnson. She lived on the family ranch up Indian Creek until graduating from high school. She then attended the University of Oregon for two years and belonged to the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. A family illness brought her home early.

Margaret worked as a telephone operator and at the Umatilla Army Depot. Later she worked for her Uncle Hobert and Aunt Zella Glover at the Mercantile in Mt. Vernon. There she met Dennis Lemons.

Dennis and Margaret were married March 30, 1949. Dennis brought a son, Larry, to the marriage, and together Margaret and Dennis had three more children, Susan, Sandra and Kim. They also raised a son Mike (Woody) Woodward. Stanley Dehiya and family were also a big part of their lives. Dennis and Margaret celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary just before Dennis passed away in 2001.

Margaret loved playing the piano and teaching piano lessons. She played piano for churches for over 60 years. She taught 4-H sewing and cooking for many years. But her main passions were her flowers and her beautiful yard. It was a masterpiece, for sure.

Margaret is survived by her children Susan, Sandra, Kim (Carla) and Mike (Fonda); her older brother, Darrell Johnson; many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis; her son Larry, her parents; her brother, Bob; and sister, Charlotte.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Grant County 4-H Association, Blue Mountain Hospice or a charity of one's choice through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To offer online condolences to the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



William 'Bill' F. Thissell

Feb. 22, 1929 — Feb. 5, 2020

William "Bill" F. Thissell passed away Feb. 5, 2020, at his home in rural Burns surrounded by family. Bill was born Feb. 22, 1929, to Fred and Grace (Tillson) Thissell in Canyon City, Oregon. He joined four brothers Clyde, Walt, Glen and Don, brother Richard (Dick) and sister Linda followed.

He lived mainly in Grant and Harney counties except for a few early years around Alsea, Oregon. Bill went to grade school and a short time of high school in Grant County. His family moved to Burns in the mid-1940s. He worked for a few ranchers from that area, Baker's, Burnhardt's. Also around the Seneca for the Biggs Ranch.

Bill was in his early 20s working at the Biggs ranch when he met his wife, Clara (Stratton). Bill and Clara married Oct. 4, 1954, while he was serving in the Army. Bill and Clara then moved to Seneca where he worked for Edward Hines and John Biggs. They had two sons and two daughters. He later became manager of Biggs Ranch for 11 years. In 1969, Bill moved his family to rural Burns. He continued working swing shift for Edward Hines driving to Seneca for 15 years. Then he started doing government contracts, wood sales, fence building and wild horse gathers from Murderers Creek. Bill wore many hats — woodcutting, hunting, horse chasing, rancher and fence builder — but the love of his life was his family, marriage to Clara for 65 years and ranching.

He is survived by his wife, Clara; children Monte, Diane, Joanne and Kelly; 12 grandchildren; and 28 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, nephew and sister-in-law.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Bible Baptist Church in Hines at 1 p.m. Join us and bring your memories. Potluck to follow.



Marsha Marie Sams

Aug. 11, 1946 — Feb. 11, 2020

Marsha Marie Sams, 73, of Boise passed away Feb. 11, 2020. She was born to John and Ruby Ford Aug. 11, 1946, in New Eagle Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Marsha graduated from McGuffey High School in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, in 1964 and Waynesburg College with a degree as a medical technologist in 1968.

Marsha married Dennis Sams in Turlock, California, on Oct. 25, 1986. They lived in Willow Creek, California; John Day, Oregon; and Boise, Idaho, where Dennis served as a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene.

Marsha worked as a laboratory technologist in laboratories and hospitals, including the Blue Mountain Hospital (John Day, Oregon) and Interpath Laboratory (Boise, Idaho). She loved crafts and playing the piano and was a fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers and Boise State University Broncos football team.

Marsha is survived by husband, Dennis Sams (Boise, Idaho); son, Kamron Sams (Melba, Idaho); daughters, Kielee Mosley and Kaidee Weaver (John Day, Oregon); brother, Kevin Ford (Mariposa, California); and grandchildren, Emily Mosley (Lakeside, Montana), Heather Mosley (John Day, Oregon), Wyatt and Fallon Weaver (Corvallis, Oregon), Kizer Sams (Pocatello, Idaho), Elle, Karson and Kinsley Sams (Melba, Idaho). Marsha was preceded in death by her parents, John Ford and Ruby Ford Hayes.

In lieu of flowers, make donations in Marsha's name to CareNet, SAT-7, Christian Literature for Africa, Trinity Pines Camp and Conference Center or Focus on the Family.

A viewing will be held on Feb. 22, 2020, at 11 a.m. at the John Day Church of the Nazarene located at 521 E. Main St., John Day, Oregon, with a funeral service to follow at 2 p.m. To leave condolences, please visit bowmanfuneral.com, 208-853-3131.



Hunter Education class begins Feb. 24

Blue Mountain Eagle

A Hunter Education class will kick off Feb. 24 at the Grant Union High School library in John Day.

No one younger than 18 may hunt wildlife (except on their own land) without completing the course. Anyone planning to hunt in another state may be required to have a Hunter Education card. Completion of the course may meet concealed carry permit requirements for persons 21 and older.

The classes begin at 6 p.m.

and will take place Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 24 through March 5 at the Grant Union library. The classes last 2-2.5 hours.

There will be a field day at a shooting range at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 7.

Walk-in registration will take place from 5:30-6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at the library. Participants should use the outside entrance in the parking lot on the side of the office/library building. People who fail to register by Feb. 24 can still register before class Feb. 26

at the library.

Registration can also be completed beforehand by contacting the local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office, 541-575-1167, or online at myodfw.com/articles/hunter-education-course-or-field-day-registration.

ODFW has established a \$10 class fee per student that may be waived in some circumstances.

For more information, call Bryan Nelson at 541-575-1808 or Deanna Maley at the ODFW office at 541-575-1167.



Eagle file photo

Ten-year-old Jaime Vandehey of Canyon City shoots a pistol at the Hunter Education field day at the law enforcement gun range in 2019. ODFW instructor Mark Boss is standing nearby supervising.

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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	43/29
Wednesday	50/28
Thursday.....	41/30
Friday.....	42/33
Saturday.....	37/25
Sunday.....	37/20
Monday.....	50/28

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 19-25

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Cloudy	Possible snow
44	45	50	52	42	32	46
24	21	24	35	22	20	24