



BIRTH



James Craig Ensign



Clayton and Thea Ensign of John Day announce the birth of their son, James Craig Ensign, on Dec. 8, 2020. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Grandparents are Craig and Jan Ensign of Long Creek and Wes and Terry Aasness of Mt. Vernon.

'A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol' performance planned for John Day

Blue Mountain Eagle

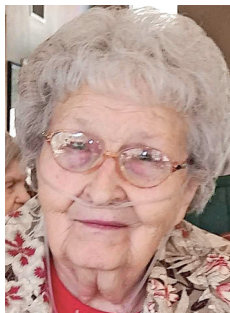
The production of "A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol" is coming to John Day. The show will be at the John Day Elks Lodge on Northeast Dayton Street at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 and 2 p.m. Jan. 23. All tickets must be purchased online at paintedskycenter.com, and there is limited seating. John Day Elks Lodge will have dinner sales at 6 p.m. on Jan. 22 prior to the production. Individual tickets are \$5, and family tickets are \$12.

OBITUARIES

Jessie Mae Lewis

Dec. 14, 1936 – Dec. 31, 2020

Jessie Mae Lewis, under the care of her daughter Holly and helper Dodie peacefully passed away Dec. 31, 2020, at Holly's home in Boise. Lying beside her was Lucy, her little dog; Lucy was always nearby giving comfort to Jessie.



She was born to Marvin and Arlene Fuchs on Dec. 14, 1936, on the family farm outside of Blue Mountain, Arkansas. She was next to the oldest of four children. On Jan. 8, 1955, she married Gerald Lewis, and was joined in November of that same year with first daughter, Tracy. In 1957 after moving to Canyon City, Annette came along. Holly, the third daughter, came along in 1960 to brighten the family picture, and the icing on the family tree was the family procaster, Dodie, born in 1971.

Jessie in the early years was a stay-at-home mom, but as the girls became older and involved with Girl Scouts and 4-H, she became involved with these groups. She later taught Hunters Safety through the Oregon State Game Commission. She was involved with the Republican Party of Grant County and the American Legion Auxiliary.

In 1980, Jessie bought The Oregonian dealership of Grant County. Twice Jessie won trips through selling subscriptions for the newspaper. First trip was to England and France. Second trip was a cruise to the Caribbean.

After selling The Oregonian newspaper, Jessie took an antique appraiser course; she passed and became a licensed appraiser here in Oregon.

In the early 2000s, she had an idea. She pulled together several people and formed a committee to raise money and built a skateboard park, the Smokey Gibson Memorial Park.

Jessie is survived by daughters, Tracy, Annette, Holly and Dodie; son-in-law, Jerry; grandsons Jaydden, Bridger and Tristan; granddaughter Sarah; and great-grandchildren Reese and Mattie.

Darrell Clifford Hopper

Oct. 21, 1926 – Jan. 8, 2021

Darrell Clifford Hopper, age 94, a long-time Silvies Valley rancher, passed away Jan. 8, 2021, at his home on Dog Creek in John Day, with his family by his side. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



Darrell was born Oct. 21, 1926, in Silvies Valley, Oregon, to Charles Ellsworth Hopper and Lula Maude (Beavers) Hopper. He attended school through the 10th grade and was a rancher in Silvies Valley for many years. As if owning his own ranch didn't keep him busy enough, he also worked as superintendent for Edward Hines Lumber Company for 36 years. He later worked at the United Methodist Church Thrift Store in John Day for a number of years.

Darrell married Gladys May Carroll in Reno, Nevada, on June 10, 1950. The couple remained married until her passing on June 15, 2007.

He enjoyed gardening, rock hunting, fishing, playing cards and word searches. He liked playing the guitar, banjo and harmonica, which made him a well-rounded member of the band he played in. He was a Christian and served in the Episcopal Church as a Lay Reader.

Survivors include two daughters, Carolee Wisor and Callie Moss, and a son, John Hopper, all of John Day, four nieces, one nephew and numerous great-nieces, -nephews and cousins. He had six grandchildren and seven adopted grandchildren he called his own along with three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Gladys Hopper; his parents, Ellsworth and Maude Hopper; sisters Zelma Brown, Hazel McKrola and Iris Woods; brother, Forrest Hopper; and three infant boys.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grant County 4-H through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Nancy Viggers

Sept. 13, 1930 – Dec. 29, 2020

Nancy Monica (Creswick) Viggers, 90, passed away peacefully Dec. 29, 2020, in Prairie City. No services are planned at this time.



Nancy was born Sept. 13, 1930, in Toronto, Canada. At 17, her family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. There she met her beloved Jack at the Church of Our Savior. They moved west to Helena, Montana, in 1950 and were married in the Episcopal Cathedral the day after her 20th birthday.

As a couple, they lived in many parts of the country, including Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Port Angeles, Washington. In 1993 they found the John Day Valley, which reminded them of their first home. They Moved to Prairie City, Oregon, to happily live out their golden years.

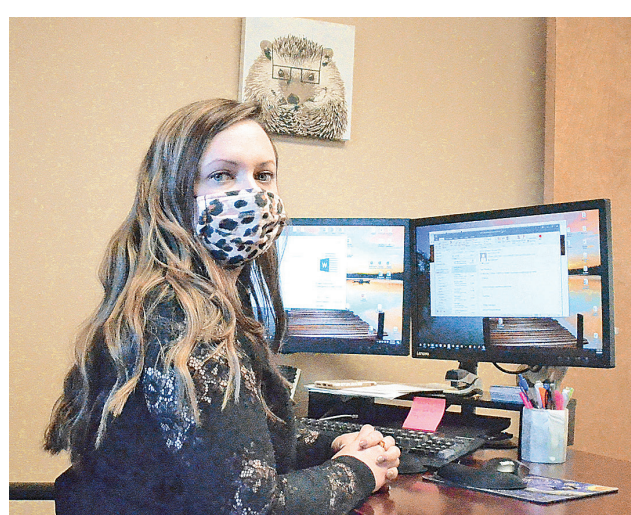
Nancy was an outgoing person who made many friends in her life. She was an avid reader, which led her to her first job at the Toronto Public Library, Runnymede Branch. Later on, she would enjoy her career in sales and marketing for the Idaho First National Bank.

Nancy cherished her role as the wife of an Episcopal minister, and the mother and matriarch of an extended family of relatives and friends. She was a good Christian woman who championed causes centered on peace, justice, equality, education and the public good. She was a proud Democrat but was able to get along with everyone regardless of their political differences. Nancy always had a positive attitude and looked for the good in people and situations. She touched and was loved by so many, especially her family.

She is survived by her brother Edward Creswick of Ufford, Suffolk, England.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grant County Library through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Grant County Economic Development Director Tory Stinnett in her office on Main Street at the L Building last month.

Stinnett draws on crisis background to boost economic development

By Steven Mitchell Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County's Economic Development Director Tory Stinnett, who worked for both the District Attorney's Office's Victims Services and the Department of Human Services office, said her background has been key in helping the business community weather the economic uncertainty brought on by the pandemic.

"I'm used to working with people suffering and in crises, and right now, businesses and people are suffering and in crisis mode," she said.

Stinnett, who took over the Economic Development Office in August, said people are experiencing a lot of "fear and uncertainty," and her time at DHS and Victim's Services taught her how counterproductive it is to change people's emotions. She said her previous positions taught her the value of listening and hearing what people have to say to match them with services that can best help them.

"It's also about understanding that you can't save everybody at the end of the day," she said. "And sometimes it's just helping people as much as you can in a horrible situation."

Stinnett said what is vital in trauma work is giving people options.

"You can give people resources," she said. "But you can't tell people what to do."

Stinnett said, especially in a rural area, face-to-face contact with people is critical, and those opportunities have been few and far between during the pandemic.

"People will listen to you if you can see them and tell them about a program you're doing," she said. "They are much more likely to participate than if you sent them an email or they heard about it on the radio."

Stinnett, who grew up in Clackamas and went to Oregon State, said she moved to Grant County about four years ago.

She said the transition from an urban to a rural area was not as difficult as expected.

Stinnett said she empathizes with people in the community who have misgivings about some of the proposed changes.

"I hear what they're saying because, coming from

the Portland area where you have a lot of outsiders who are coming with a lot of changes to a place that you've grown up and known, it can be an interesting transition," she said. "So, I understand."

For example, she said her commute went from 20 minutes to an hour and a half because of the influx of outsiders moving to Clackamas.

Stinnett said recognizing that similarity with people in the community has been positive.

She said her experience working with different demographics throughout the county, from the business community to local leaders and the general public, has blown her away. She said, "across the board," the people are "really kind."

After attending various city council meetings, she let communities know about COVID-19 relief funds and other grant programs. The overriding response from people in those meetings was that other cities might need more money than they did.

"People are just really kind out here," she said.

Stinnett said Grant County is a frontier — not a rural — community. She said recognizing that distinction is critical when considering the economic impact the statewide lockdowns have on frontier communities.

The National Center for Frontier Communities defines a frontier community as a sparsely populated area geographically isolated from population centers and services.

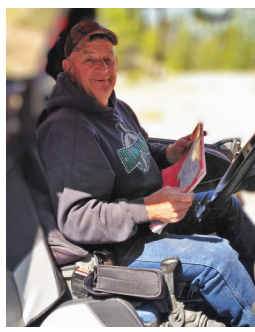
She said an area like Grant County losing restaurant access has more significant long-term impacts than in a more densely populated area.

She said people, especially business owners, must remember the unique challenges they face operating a business in a frontier community and that it is OK to apply for and use the funds within the "right parameters."

"We're still in a crisis mode, and people don't want to take more than they need," she said. "And that is really cool."

In these situations, she said she reminds herself that in "crisis mode," people want to know they have choices and are in control.

"People are much more receptive to accept help if they're given options," she said.



Walter Duane Osborne

January 31, 1956 ~ January 10, 2021

Paid for by the family of Walter Osborne

The world lost an irreplaceable Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, and dear Friend on January 10th, 2021 when Walter Duane Osborne of Florence, MT passed peacefully at age 64 after a brief but valiant fight with COVID-19. Just as he was throughout his life, Walt was surrounded by his loving family.

Walt was born to Ersel (Zeke) and MaryAnne Osborne on January 31, 1956 in Prineville, OR. After graduating from nearby Mt. Vernon High School in 1974, he joined the Air Force and proudly served his country for 5 years. In April 1979, he married Marie Osborne and had two children: Kraig and Megan. In 2014, he married for a third time; Loreen Osborne and her four children all loved Walt deeply and were cherished by him in return. After Loreen's passing, Walt again found room in his heart for a great love, and in December 2020, Walt married Pamela Osborne, and gained his Canadian family. Pamela was his proud wife and end of life partner. He always told her "You may not be my first kiss, my first date, or my first love, but you'll be my last everything."

He worked in the timber industry for 18 years as a logger, millwright, and sawmill foreman before moving on to a contractor drilling position for the government. This job allowed him to travel extensively, always making new friends along the way. He settled for a few years in Montana with Loreen until he became a widower and heard the road calling to him again. He went back to work directional boring/drilling simply to keep himself and his mind busy. It was during this time that he and Pam began their all-too-short life together.

Walt was a source of joy and happiness to all who knew him, and found his own happiness in the love of family and friends, and in time spent in the great outdoors. He was rarely indoors or idle, and loved spending time working, camping, hunting or just riding around the mountains with loved ones. Walt's rough exterior covered a gentle heart. He was strong, proud, and full of life; he could fix anything, knew everything there was to know about elk hunting, and considered chopping firewood a fun hobby. He was the rare individual who was never afraid of hard work, was always willing to help, and put his family above all else. Walt made every person's life he entered better. He will forever be deeply and sadly missed.

Walt is preceded in death by his parents MaryAnne and Ersel (Zeke) Osborne, his beautiful baby sister Patty Osborne, and his late wife Loreen Osborne. He is survived by his wife Pamela; sister Evelyn (Roy); his son Kraig (Lanea) Osborne; daughter Megan Fowler; Loreen's children, Virginia, Seth (Vanika), Eric and Jeremy; Pam's children, Kala (Riley) Christmann, Brayden Grieve; Pamela's mother Elizabeth Ralph; Grandbabies Korey, Konner, Kadyne, Beau, Ora, Amya, Peyton, Greyson, Dustin, Hannah, Dylan, Ashlynn, Everly and Ollen.

A memorial service will be held in honor of Walt in Mt. Vernon, OR at Clyde Holliday State Park on Saturday, May 15th 2021 at 11:00 AM. His ashes will be scattered in the mountains where he created so many memories for all of us. Until we meet again, we'll think of you always. We hold you close to our hearts, and there you will remain as a source of peace and guidance forever.

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Last Week's Temps

Table with 2 columns: Day and HI/LO. Rows for Tuesday (45/35), Wednesday (46/28), Thursday (50/27), Friday (43/28), Saturday (45/27), Sunday (49/31), Monday (42/25).

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 JAN. 20 - 26

Table with 7 columns for days of the week. Includes weather icons (sun, clouds, snow) and high/low temperatures for each day.