

Former Burns ag research center leader wins range management society award

Blue Mountain Eagle

Dr. Tony Svejcar received the W.R. Chapline Research Stewardship Award at the Society for Range Management's 74th annual meeting held virtually this February. This award gives special recognition to members of the society for exceptional and sustained research accomplishments in range science and associated disciplines. Only one award is given annually, and it is one of the most prestigious awards presented by SRM.

Svejcar is a preeminent scientist who is nationally and internationally recognized for his many significant contributions to rangeland science and management, according to a press release.



Dr. Tony Svejcar

He initiated the Agricultural Research Service's CO₂ Flux Network, an effort designed to identify the influence of U.S. rangelands on the global carbon cycle.

Svejcar also pioneered use of the stable isotope ¹³C for carbon cycling research. Svejcar and his co-investigators have tested and refined an array of techniques for reducing or managing expanding populations of western juniper and he has made lasting contributions to our understanding of the seedling ecology of native plant species in the sagebrush steppe.

Svejcar's work has generated over 200 publications.

"Not only does Dr. Svejcar possess a superior scientific aptitude, but his humility, drive, leadership skills, and strong sense of purpose, enable him to leverage that aptitude by helping other researchers and students to realize their own potential," the society said in a statement.

"Nowhere is this more evident than at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns, where he was Research Leader for ARS for nearly 30 years. During that time he selflessly gave of his talents to build a regional center of excellence for customer-driven rangeland research whose influence now operates at the global scale."

OBITUARIES

Roger Verne Ashmead

Oct. 3, 1938 – Feb. 25, 2021

Roger Verne Ashmead, 82, of Condon, Oregon, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, in Bend, Oregon. There will be no public services at this time. To leave an online condolence for the family, visit whisperingpinesfuneralhome.com.

Roger was born in Pendleton, Oregon, on Oct. 3, 1938, to Kenneth William and Doris Irene (Wilhelm) Ashmead. He was raised in Fossil, Oregon, attending grade school and graduating from Wheeler County High School. After school Roger served in the United States Army.

He met Peggy Lou Miller and married her on June 20, 1964. They raised four children in the Fossil and Condon area.

Roger enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching old westerns and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sara Irene Shaw; his parents, Kenneth and Doris Ashmead; and two sisters, Ardeth Ashmead and Phyllis Cook.

Roger is survived by his wife of almost 57 years, Peggy Ashmead; two daughters, Lora Wright and Sherry Woody; and one son Bill Ashmead; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in Roger's name to St. Charles Heart and Lung Center through Whispering Pines Funeral Home, 3168 NE Third St., Prineville OR 97754, 541-416-9733.

Whispering Pines Funeral Home is honored to assist the family with arrangements.



Wild & Scenic Film Festival streaming starting April 1

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival arrives online in the Blue Mountain Region at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1. This is the seventh year in which the Land Trust has partnered with the South Yuba River Citizens League to show the films of this extraordinary festival.

Last year, because of the pandemic, the Land Trust canceled its in-person presentation at Whitman College but instead hosted 52 films online over eight weeks that were viewed by over 3,400 guests.

This year, the festival will again be online. The premier presentation will be streamed live. During the live event, guests can enjoy the films, local food options, chat with audience members and vie to win door prizes, all from the comfort of home. Visit bmlt.org/wild2021 for more information and to register.

The Blue Mountain region can support their own local advocates for the environment by attending Blue Mountain Land Trust's Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour event.

Featured at this On Tour event are



Contributed photo

The film 'Here We Stand' features Save the Redwoods League's efforts to make conservation inclusive.

"Here We Stand," a film from Theresa Baker and Save the Redwoods League about improving inclusivity in the outdoors; "Common Ground," which shows how water can bring together the interests of tribes, ranchers and government to work toward a common goal; and "A Message From The Future of Paradise," which reflects on the potential rebuilding process of a community

destroyed by fire, providing a model for others.

To join Blue Mountain Land Trust for this live event, visit bmlt.org/wild2021. Tickets start at \$20 and dining packages start at \$80. A recorded version of the festival will be available online through Tuesday, April 6.

For more information contact Katy Rizzuti, katy@bmlt.org.

Futures scholarship applications available

Blue Mountain Eagle

Qualified local residents can now apply for the Grant County Futures Scholarship.

Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in courses through Eastern Oregon University or Blue Mountain Community College's online degree programs and courses offered through the Grant County Center in John Day. They must also

have been county residents for one year, demonstrate financial need and provide letters of recommendation.

Applications are available at granted.k12.or.us/documents/scholarships/GC-Futures-Scholarship.pdf.

Funds are intended for the 2021-22 academic year. The deadline is Thursday, April 22.

Please contact Ashley Armichardy at 541-575-1550 or aarmichardy@eou.edu with any questions.

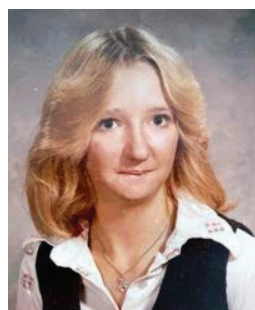
Blood drives planned

Blue Mountain Eagle

The American Red Cross is planning blood drives in Grant County March 16-18.

The John Day events will be held from 1-6 p.m. March 16 and from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 18 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 944 E. Main St., John Day.

A drive will also be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 17 at Prairie City School, 740 Overholdt St.



Ellen Renee McEndarfer Whiteman Evans

August 12, 1960 ~ February 28, 2021

One of Sierra County's most beloved, and courageous, residents, Ellen Evans, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Feb. 28.

She leaves behind husband Scott Evans; daughters Jennifer Whiteman (Co), and Alesha Evans (N.C.); granddaughters Samantha (TorC) and Julieana (Co) Whiteman; sisters Linda Whiteman (TX) and Amy Whiteman Ratliff (Idaho); and brothers Thomas and Jess Whiteman. She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Mary McEndarfer.

In addition to her family, Ellen left behind a community inspired by her strength, courage and desire to help others.

In 1962, two-year old Ellen drank Drano. In seconds her life changed forever; her survival making medical history.

She suffered from severely burned lips, mouth, tongue, esophagus and stomach, and doctors decided to keep her comfortable until her imminent death.

She surprised the doctors and staff at two different hospitals when she survived 7 1/2-hour laryngoscopy and esophagus surgeries – at the time the longest on record for such a small child – and double-lung pneumonia.

Her story captivated newspaper, TV, and radio audiences, with reporters filing stories and updates from the operating room. The publicity prompted children nationwide to save pennies for a medical expense fund. Though she was too young to read, people from across the country wrote her thousands of letters of encouragement.

She also became the subject of articles in several medical journals, as the oldest living person to survive swallowing Drano.

As a young teen living in Idaho she excelled at everything she did; becoming a Candy Striper at the local hospital, a top Girl Scout cookie seller, participating in the Junior Miss pageant, and was named "Miss Physical Fitness" in high school. She attended Chemeketa Community College in Salem OR, and the University of New Mexico, and worked for years as a loan manager for Bank of the Southwest.

In 2008 she followed her culinary dreams and opened a popular candy shop in T or C, Cocoa Re'al, and her chocolates and fudge were known worldwide. She volunteered for many organizations, including the Fiesta Committee Council, and became the Parade Marshall in 2011. She was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and the Sexual Trauma Abuse Response Team. She recently founded the Sierra County Lost, Found and Rehoming of Animals Facebook page.

While in college she met Scott Evans, who was her soulmate for 35 years. Ellen and Scott and daughters traveled widely while he was in the military.

"She was the best thing that ever happened to me," said Scott.

Throughout her life she endured numerous surgeries to reconstruct the esophagus, and suffered from complications of her damaged digestive system.

She and Scott moved to T or C in 1999, and soon after Ellen was placed on life support after surviving yet another surgery. Doctors again wanted to place her under hospice care, but she wasn't through fighting yet. Throughout all this she was encouraging others who faced health or other issues, and always going out of her way to help others.

"She approached every single day with courage and vigor," said good friend Melissa Loomis. "I'm not sure how she never gave up, when she had plenty of reasons to do so. At times I would be super down and depressed about my ailments, but she would always tell me it will get better, and to not stop getting up, which she did, every single day."

T or C resident Julie Tallent remembers how Ellen sent food to her house after Tallent was injured in an auto accident, even though she had never met her. "She was an amazing, thoughtful and kind lady, always thinking of others," said Tallent.

"Her strength came shining through when we talked privately about some of our struggles/experiences early in life, and more recently when she opened up about her personal struggle to overcome the physical challenges she dealt with every day for most of her life," said Val TwoWolves. "She'll hold a special place in my heart for as long as I live."

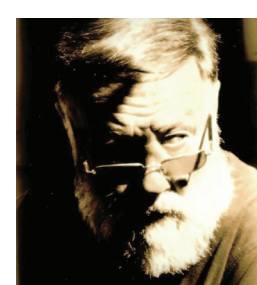
Sherrie Boehm, who was a close friend, commented on Ellen's passing on Facebook, "She lived life to the fullest and was the hardest fighter I've ever known. I will keep you in my heart forever."

In a 2017 interview for the "Sentinel" Know Your Neighbor column, Ellen said, "This was supposed to happen to me, so others could survive it. I was the doctors' trial and error patient -- and some things worked, and some didn't. I just believe we are all here for a purpose and until it is fulfilled, we remain here."

In addition to helping and encouraging others, Ellen loved fishing, yard sales, gardening, Halloween and cruises. During her retirement she loved managing her E Bay store and passing her culinary knowledge on to her granddaughter, said Scott.

Paid for by the family of Ellen Evans

5234587-1



Mervin Ortmann

July 6, 1943 ~ February 4, 2021

Mervin Ortmann, 77, of Prairie City, died Thursday, February 4, 2021 at his home.

Mervin Adam Ortmann was born July 6, 1943 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. He immigrated to America with his family in 1948;

settling in Portland, Oregon. His teenage years were fueled by his love of hot rods, of which he built many. Summer nights during the '60s, he was sure to be seen in downtown Portland with his high school buddies and their street rods, dragging Broadway; Merv at the wheel of his beloved 1940 Ford coupe. His love of old cars led him to become a skilled metal craftsman, perfecting his abilities in the art of body and fender restoration.

He loved working with his hands and also became very adept in woodworking, and restoring antique furniture. He was committed to his own standards of excellence in everything he endeavored to do. Mervin loved music of all kinds, fishing, fine art, farming and dogs. He respected nature, and all of earth's creations. He was known by all who knew him to speak his mind. And you would hear the truth whether it was "candy coated" or not. He could be crude and sometimes rude, but under his gruff exterior was a big and sensitive heart. He was a man of integrity, who hated injustice. He had the determination of a tank, and was certainly known "as a force to reckon with."

He leaves behind his wife; Jane of Prairie City, OR; daughters: Jill Woynowski, Portland, OR, Amy Giandomenico, Prairie City, OR; stepsons Frank Holly Jr., Vancouver, WA, Robert Holly, Vancouver, Henry Holly, Lebanon, OR., George Holly, Kingman, AZ; Six grandchildren, sister Elaine Boone, Walnut Creek, Ca. Brother Wayne Ortmann, Washougal, WA.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Mervin, the family suggests the Blue Mountain Humane Association (a no kill shelter as Mervin was an advocate for rescue dogs) in La Grande through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services PO Box 543 Halfway, OR. 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Paid for by the family of Mervin Ortmann.

5234535-1

Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	52/30
Wednesday	60/32
Thursday	59/34
Friday	63/37
Saturday	45/33
Sunday	48/34
Monday	42/32

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 MARCH 10 - 16

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Chance of rain/snow	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Slight chance of rain	Slight chance of snow	Cloudy
46	47	52	57	51	46	49
28	25	28	32	27	20	22