



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

The deck overlooking the John Day Golf Club.

# Golf club reopening this weekend

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Significant flood damage shuttered the clubhouse at the John Day Golf Club for nearly three months, but a local contractor and volunteers put the final touches on a long-overdue renovation of the 70-year-old building last month, and now the member-owned club is gearing up for a reopening on Saturday, April 9, with a 14-hole golf scramble, auction and tri-tip dinner.

Clubhouse manager Joe Densberger said the flooding, which was caused by an outdated plumbing system, damaged the old bar and one wall so severely that both had to



Kathleen Lee/Contributed Photo

**Chuck Coffman, a longtime member of the John Day Golf Club, helps knock down the old fireplace during the demolition phase of the club's renovation last winter.**

be removed to even begin the repairs.

In that case, he thought,

why not open up the clubhouse by knocking out the wall and fireplace that divided the cocktail area and banquet room? A

, which looks out over the nearly 3,000-yard course with its meticulously maintained, uniform greens and tree-lined fairways?

Densberger said it took a village of dues-paying member volunteers to get the project off the ground. In the middle of winter, they put in long days to knock down the wall and pull out the old bar. After that, he said, the rest of the project went out for bid and was awarded to Dayville-based contractor Casey Fretwell.

Fretwell put in the custom-finished bar, installed new flooring and did needed electrical work.

Longtime dues-paying members like Chuck Coffman, a firefighter with Grayback Forestry, spent eight- and 10-hour days for over two weeks knocking down the wall, pulling out the fireplace and making numerous trips to the dump. Coffman's wife, Kathleen Lee, an insurance agent at Bissett, chipped in after work and on weekends.

Lee said both men and women lent a hand in the effort. She said the club

## JOHN DAY GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES

John Day Golf Club  
Greens fees

Nine holes: \$20 (\$17 when a guest of a member)

18 holes: \$32 (\$27 when a guest of a member)

Cart rental: \$20 for nine holes and \$25 for 18

Pushcart rental: \$2

Club rentals: \$5 for a complete set

All-inclusive yearly memberships are \$780 for families, \$600 for individuals or \$60 for students, plus a one-time \$150 initiation fee.

Social memberships, which cover entry to the clubhouse, are \$60 per year.

could not have afforded the project had the members not volunteered.

Densberger said while he could not share the cost of the project, he noted that the volunteers saved the club a significant amount of money. For his part, Coffman estimated the savings to be around \$30,000.

Coffman and Lee joined the club in 1997 shortly after getting married. Lee was the women's club president, and Coffman said he learned to cook for large groups people in the clubhouse's kitchen over the years.

Asked why he was willing to spend long hours volunteering at the golf club when he was already a paying member, Lee said that comes with being a part of a member-owned club.

"You just want to do what you can to make it the best place," she said. "So that we can make it one of the best (golf courses) and affordable for people."

## Loyce M. Phillips

May 28, 1928 ~ March 28, 2022

Loyce M. Phillips, 93, of John Day was surrounded by family when she passed away March 28th in Pasco, Washington. Graveside Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 9th at the Canyon City Cemetery.

Loyce was born May 28, 1928 to Dewey and Mildred Benson in Prairie City, Oregon. She was the first of four children followed by Peggy, Jack and Sherrie. Loyce completed her education at the Mt. Vernon Schools and graduated in 1945 (a year early) with a class of two. During her school years she worked for her Aunt Velda Williams at her local café and also worked Sundays at Oregon Telephone as one of their first operators.

Loyce attended a Portland Business School and then lived and worked at the Bear Valley Ranger District.

At the conclusion of World War II, she was transferred to the US Forest Service office in John Day and later she was employed at the Grant County Bank where she met the love of her life, Stanley Phillips. Their first date was a fishing trip. They were later married at the First Baptist Church in John Day on December 12, 1948. Three children were born of this union, Ronald, Thomas and Mary Lou.

After their children started school, Loyce worked for her aunt Kristine Staig for 35 years at the John Day Liquor Store.

In their latter years, Stan and Loyce formed Phillips' Fire Investigation where they worked and traveled extensively both for business and pleasure. They traveled to all 50 states, visited parts of the Oregon Trail, Branson Missouri, and Nashville Tennessee, took their grandchildren to Hawaii, Disneyland, and fishing in Alaska and attended the National Finals Rodeos in Las Vegas regularly.

They were accompanied by family and friends on several trips. After celebrating 54 years of marriage, Mr. Phillips passed away.

Loyce continued to live in the family home of 67 years that she and Stan built until June of 2021 when her health required a move to Pasco Washington to live with and near Mary Lou and Gordon.

Loyce was a very loving and nurturing person who enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

She was an avid gardener, seamstress, cake decorator, baker, hunter and angler extraordinaire. Although she didn't seek the spotlight, she always seemed to be where help was needed and quietly disappeared when the time was right.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Thomas (Tommy); husband Stanley, sister Peggy Cloud and grandchild Jacelyn Black.

Loyce is survived by son Ronald R. Phillips and daughter Mary Lou (Gordon) Campbell; grandchildren Aaron (Kirsten) Black, Emily (Greg) Ransier; three step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; Nathan, Natalie, Zoey, Addison; and one great-great-grandchild Mila; brother Jack (Marlene) Benson; sister Sherrie (Harley) Allen and brother-in-law Lyle Cloud.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home PO Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com. Paid for by the family of Loyce Phillips.



## Donna Jeanette Talus

September 13, 1931 ~ July 22, 2021

Beaverton — Donna J. Talus, 89, died July 22, 2021, after a brief illness at a Beaverton memory care facility. She was born September 13, 1931, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of Ralph and Estelle Sebern.

Donna graduated from Yakima High School in 1949. Following graduation she attended Willamette University, obtaining a bachelor's degree in 1953. In 1955, she married Henry Talus in a union that lasted 37 years until Henry's death in 1992. She dedicated her life to teaching, first in physical education and later Language Arts and Journalism, serving 29 years in total. Additionally, she coached multiple sports including volleyball, tumbling and tennis.

Donna was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church, in addition to being the state president of A.A.U.W (American Association of University Women). She served as state president for several years.

In addition to her husband Henry, she was predeceased by her daughter Dottie, brother Ralph, and sisters Helen and Juanita. She is survived by sons Steve and Stacy (Becky) and grandchildren Hanna, Jackson, Reed, and Ellie, as well as many nieces and nephews. Paid for by the family of Donna Talus.

# Eagle schedules candidate forum

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Blue Mountain Eagle will host a public forum with the three announced candidates for Grant County commissioner in the May 17 election.

The free event will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, in the large conference room at the Grant County Regional Airport, 720 Airport Road, John Day.

Scott Knepper of Prairie City, John Rowell of John Day and Mark Webb of Mt. Vernon

are running to fill the seat on the Grant County Court being vacated by Sam Palmer, who is running for the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat. The candidates will talk about their qualifications, discuss their positions on issues facing the county and answer questions about the campaign. Blue Mountain Eagle Editor Bennett Hall will moderate the discussion.

Members of the public are invited to attend in person. The event will also be streamed live on the Eagle's Facebook page.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Small business lending webinar set

SALEM — Business Oregon is hosting a free virtual meeting to discuss and gather input on plans to bolster existing small business financing programs and create new ones.

Oregon has applied for \$83 million from the State Small Business Credit Initiative, a federal program aimed at providing venture capital, venture loans and expanded traditional loans to small businesses.

Business Oregon is planning a series of virtual meetings with business owners, with the first scheduled for 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/3emy83hn> to get the Zoom link and sign up to get email updates on financing opportunities.

### Aid available for EOU, BMCC students

JOHN DAY — Applications are being accepted for Grant County Futures Scholarships.

The scholarships are for students enrolled in or planning to enroll in classes through Eastern Oregon University or Blue Mountain Community College's online degree programs and courses offered through the Grant County Center in John Day. This year's scholarships are funded for a minimum of \$1,000 apiece.

Applicants must have been Grant County residents for at least one year, show financial need and provide letters of recommendation.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. April 28. Forms can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/2fwer34y>. For more information, contact Ashley Armichardy at 541-575-1550 or [aarmichardy@eou.edu](mailto:aarmichardy@eou.edu).

### Work party in the Ochocos

PAULINA — All Hands All Brands for Our Public Lands, a coalition of outdoor recreation groups, will host its third annual campout and work party in the Ochoco Mountains June 17-19 at Sugar Creek Campground northwest of Paulina.

This year's primary project will be to construct two four-strand wire fences around aspen stands near Big Summit Prairie, along with a small buck and pole project around a quarter-acre stand.

A potluck social is planned for Saturday night, along with a free raffle, archery shoot and music. Participants should bring T-post pounders, gloves, plenty of water, tools for attaching wire clips, 3-pound hammers and cordless drills.

Register at the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers website, [www.backcountryhunters.org/ahab](http://www.backcountryhunters.org/ahab). For more information, contact Eric Brown at 541-647-0424 or [ericbrown5112@gmail.com](mailto:ericbrown5112@gmail.com).

### OTEC has unclaimed capital credits

BAKER CITY — If you are a current or former member of the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, you might have some money coming to you — but if so, you'll need to act soon if you want to claim it.

OTEC has updated its list of unclaimed capital credits — essentially, profit-sharing checks that were issued to co-op members but never cashed. If the credits remain unclaimed for four years after they were issued, the money goes back to the co-op. The deadline to claim the oldest outstanding credits is July 31.

The list of current and former OTEC members with unclaimed credits can be viewed at <https://www.otec.coop/capital-credits>. Credits can be claimed by contacting your local OTEC office. For more information, call 541-523-3616.

— Blue Mountain Eagle

## DEATH NOTICES

### Donald Carlos Stratton

Donald Carlos Stratton, 87, of John Day passed away March 28 at Blue Mountain Hospital. A graveside memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Friday, June 17, at Canyon City Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Grants for Grant County Vets through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To light a candle in memory of Don or to offer online condolences to his family, please visit [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com).

## CORRECTION

**Grant Union Softball:** Savannah Watterson's last name was misspelled in a story about Grant Union softball in the March 30 edition. The Eagle regrets the error.

### Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday .....	51/31
Thursday.....	48/28
Friday .....	59/34
Saturday .....	57/34
Sunday.....	56/35
Monday.....	54/36
Tuesday .....	43/21

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 APRIL 6-12

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	AM snow showers	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy
<b>59</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>