

DEATH NOTICES

Carolyn Elliott

A celebration of life for Carolyn Elliott will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on June 25 at the Seventh Street Sports Complex, 105 NE Seventh Ave., John Day. Please bring a story or memory, a pot-luck dish of your choice and a lawn chair.

Romayne "Mike" Raymond Emmel

November 16, 1936

Romayne "Mike" Raymond Emmel, age 86, of Prairie City, Oregon entered into Heaven on May 24th, 2022 at his home with his loving family by his side. A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 11th, 2022 at 11:00 AM at the Prairie City Cemetery with Pastor Dave Hoeffner officiating. A reception will follow at the Prairie City Teen Center.



Mike was born November 16, 1936 in Clearbrook, Minnesota to Walter and Lena (Wisdahl) Emmel. He attended grade school in Clearbrook, then the family relocated to Kenmare, North Dakota where he attended middle school. He went on to high school in Kingfisher, Oklahoma where he completed through the 10th grade. Mike always had an interest in turning wrenches so he spent two years at A&M Tech studying Diesel Mechanics in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

In September of 1955, Mike entered the US Army. He was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant 4 in the 95th Engineering Battalion Motor Pool.

On July 3, 1960, Mike married Winona "Helen" Satterfield in Social Circle, Georgia. The young couple began their long and wonderful union as self employed ranchers that year. He truly loved the ranch life and only partially retired in 2016.

Mike was very active in his community. He was a member of the Brick Store Community Club, the First Baptist Church of Social Circle, GA where he served as a Sunday School Teacher and as an Ordained Deacon. When he moved to Prairie City, he became a member of the Prairie Baptist Church from 1970 to 2022 where he had also served as a Sunday School Teacher and Deacon. He served on the Prairie City School Board for 8 years, the Prairie City Rural Fire Dept. for a year and was a Prairie City FFA Alumni from 1982 to 2022.

He enjoyed working cattle and studying the Breeding Genetics and Conformation of Cattle. He even became Artificial Insemination Certified in both Georgia and Oregon.

Mike was a very talented man. He once built seven chicken houses for 40,000 laying hens. He also built their family home on the ranch using materials from the Bates Gymnasium. When he wasn't ranching or building, he could usually be found working on machinery, hunting or fishing.

Mike is survived by his wife Helen Emmel and brother Wayne Emmel of Prairie City, and three children; Darrell Emmel, Denise Harmon and Douglas Emmel and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents Walter & Lena Emmel and their youngest son, David Lewis Emmel.

Mike's family would like memorial contributions made to Merck Kmieć or to the Prairie City Teen Center or through the Prairie Baptist Church. To offer online condolences to Mike's family, please visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com Paid for by the family of Mike Emmel.

George Kent Hettinga

George Kent Hettinga, 77, of Pilot Rock passed away on May 29 near Dayville. A graveside service with military honors will be held at the Dayville Cemetery in Dayville on June 25 beginning at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family of George, please visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Mike Harer

Mike Harer, 73, of Dale died Jan. 14. A graveside service with full military honors will be held at noon on Saturday, June 11, at the Long Creek Cemetery. A lunch will follow immediately after at the Long Creek Seventh-day Adventist Friendship Hall. All who knew Mike are welcome to attend.



Malheur National Forest offices reopen

JOHN DAY — All offices of the Malheur National Forest will reopen to walk-in visitors starting Monday, June 3, the agency announced. The offices have been closed except by appointment for much of the past two years as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. Visitors can still call and make appointments to purchase maps, passes and permits. The following offices will be open to walk-in visitors from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday: Supervisors Office/Blue Mountain Ranger District, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day, 541-575-3000. Emigrant Creek Ranger District, 265 Highway 20 South, Hines, 541-573-4300. Prairie City Ranger District, 327 SW Front St., Prairie City, 541-820-3800.

Waterfowl barred from wildlife rehabs

SALEM — Many wildlife rehabilitation centers around the state have stopped accepting waterfowl due to the spread of avian influenza among wild bird populations. Because waterfowl can carry the virus without showing any obvious symptoms, allowing them into rehab facilities can pose a risk to all the birds in the facility, according to a news release from the Oregon department of Fish and Wildlife and Portland Audubon. Both young and adult waterfowl can carry the virus. If you find healthy baby ducks or geese without a parent nearby, it is best to leave them alone until the parent returns. Injured ducks and geese can be brought to an ODFW office for euthanasia, but people are

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asked to call ahead before doing so. If you see dead or sick wild birds, don't handle them, the agencies advise. Instead, report the incident to your local ODFW office, call the Wildlife Health Lab at 866-968-2600 or email Wildlife.Health@odfw.oregon.gov. The most recent outbreak of avian flu in Oregon is currently limited to Linn and Lane counties but is expected to spread in the coming weeks, ODFW biologists say. The virus is highly contagious among birds and can sicken and kill many species, including ducks, turkeys and chickens. The risk to human health is low.

Agencies solicit restoration proposals

PORTLAND — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking for proposals for the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership to improve forest health on public and private lands, the agency announced. Proposals for fiscal year 2023 should be submitted to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service by Aug. 5. The program is part of a broader federal effort to reduce wildfire threats, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species. Project proposals are developed collaboratively by the NRCS, Forest Service and partners such as county, state and non-governmental agencies, tribal governments, utilities and individual stakeholders. NRCS and Forest Service national offices will evaluate the proposals and will announce the selected projects in late fall 2022. Landowners should contact their local NRCS and Forest Service office for more information. — Blue Mountain Eagle

Mary Ellen (Clark) Brooks

May 18, 1938 – May 20, 2022

Mary Ellen Brooks, 84, of Mt. Vernon, Oregon, passed away May 20, 2022, at her residence. A graveside ceremony, with vault interment, will be held on Friday, June 3rd at 1:00 PM at the Canyon City Cemetery, followed by a Memorial Service at the Grant County Fairgrounds Pavilion beginning at 2:30 PM with Mitch Mund officiating.

Mary Ellen was born May 18, 1938, in Portland, Oregon to Harold and Wanda (Mathews) Clark. At that time the family lived in Canyon City. Mary Ellen was later joined by sister Wilda (Clark) Pierce and brother George "Rusty" Clark.

Mary Ellen lived in Grant County for most of her life. During the school year, she would stay in Canyon City with Grandma Clark or Aunt Mary to make getting to school easier. During her school days, she enjoyed learning to roller skate, playing volleyball, attending 4-H summer school, and attending American Legion Girls State. From the time she was old enough, Mary Ellen started working. She worked in the school cafeteria and office during the academic year. She babysat kids for several different families, stocked shelves and packed groceries at the Canyon City grocery store, then went on to a job at Morgan Truck Line. In the fall of 1955 after graduation, she began work at the Grant Co. Bank running a bookkeeping machine. At the age of 16, Mary Ellen graduated from Mt. Vernon High School as Valedictorian with a 3.98 gpa. She was the recipient of a four-year scholarship to Eastern Oregon College that she turned down.

On October 4, 1956, she was married to Robert "Bob" Brooks in Winnemucca Nevada. They had three children; Kenneth (Cecelia) Brooks, Rebecca (Alan) Nelson, and Mary Elizabeth Brooks; eight grandchildren, Robin Brooks, Melissa (Sam) Helmick, Orrin (Kati) Ledgerwood, Robert "Bob" Ledgerwood, Travis Nelson, Ryan Nelson, Brandy (Jason) Carruth and Levi (Vinni) Sloan-Serafini; and ten great-grandchildren, Reagan and Rianne Pickard, Emma and Elexus Helmick, Kaylee and Taryn Ledgerwood, Zaiden and Zuriah Nelson, and Clayton and Logan Yoder.

After marrying Bob, Mary Ellen became a stay-at-home mom, which meant she held a wide variety of jobs over the course of her life. When she could and was needed, she was a ranch hand; feeding cows, loading hay, riding horses, night herder, branding dinner cook, cattle drive flagger, and trailer mover. They also owned John Day Valley Packing, where she worked alongside the employees in all aspects and became one of the best meat wrappers around. Most people in the county will remember her job as a swather driver for their custom haying business. Her and that big yellow swather covered a lot of miles every summer. She was very proud of the fact that she had run her swather cutting hay for 41 years and had aspirations of cutting her 14 acres this year for year 42. She also worked as an executive assistant for Senator Ted Ferrioli for about 14 years. All of these outside jobs were done along with the daily wife/mom tasks of cooking, cleaning, laundry, mending, baking, ironing, etc.

Even with all of the work to be done Bob and Mary Ellen found time to travel. Most of the time it was to visit out-of-state family in Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Alaska. They also went on a few trips with local friends that including Nashville, Tennessee to see the Grand Ole Opry and the next year to Branson, Missouri. After those trips, they started a yearly tradition with their good friends the Turners, of attending the National Finals Rodeo. One of their final trips was when just the two of them attended the Calgary Stampede.

Mary Ellen was very active in the community serving organizations such as Friends of the Fair, the Mt. Vernon Grange, and Timber Truckers Light Parade, she served on the county budget committee for three years, and 14 years on the Blue Mtn. Hospital Board, helped with the local 4-H program, was the 2012 Grant County Fair & Rodeo Grand Marshal, the 2015 '62 Days Grand Marshall, helped get the old City Hall for the Mt. Vernon High School Museum up and running, organized people to assist with the Blue Mtn. Nursing Home residents attending the fair, volunteered at the John Day Chamber of Commerce office, served hamburgers at the American Legion booth during the fair, distributed dictionaries to grade schools in the county, and collaborated on a History of Mt. Vernon book with the proceeds going toward the Mt. Vernon Alumni Scholarship fund, put together a book about the history of the



Grant County Fair, and most recently received recognition from the Oregon Fairs Association as Fair Supporter of the Year 2021.

As most of you have seen either by gifts, donations to auctions and fundraisers, or on display at the fair, Mary Ellen had an artistic ability most dream of. She painted numerous pictures and saws using everything from oils, pastels, and watercolor to pencil sketches. She enjoyed her time with her paint group on Tuesdays. She was an excellent seamstress which is evident in the beautiful quilts she has sewn, along with clothing that was made for the family. Her knitting, crocheting, and embroidery work will be treasured by all who have a piece. She was always making something for a wedding, birthday, or just because it kept her busy, as she was not someone who liked idle time.

She was also very musically inclined. While she took piano lessons for several years, she also learned to play songs by ear. She contributed to several of her grandkids, great-grandkids, and other community children's lessons and love of music. While the piano was her favorite instrument to play, she could also play the banjo.

Mary Ellen was an avid reader and lover of history, as it seemed family history was her favorite and not just her own family. She was also a lady of strong convictions, who wasn't afraid to voice her opinions on matters. She was one of the first to jump in and provide a helping hand to someone or an organization in need. She disliked public recognition of her acts of generosity and selflessness, but made sure words of praise were expressed to others when deserved. Regardless of the sometimes-gruff exterior she presented, she had the biggest, most giving heart of gold which is evident by all the lives she touched. This county, friends, and family will greatly miss the lady that kept us on our toes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Wanda Clark, husband Robert "Bob" Brooks, and sister Wilda Clark Pierce.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Keerins Hall Renovation Fund through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, Oregon 97845. Paid for by the family of Mary Ellen Brooks.

Sabrina Cay Sintay Larsen

March 21, 1967 ~ May 12, 2022

Sabrina Cay Sintay Larsen passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on May 12th, 2022, after a courageous battle with brain cancer and leukemia. Born in Wallace, Idaho on March 21, 1967, Sabrina was the fourth of nine children. She was an excellent athlete, competing on high school, state, and college teams in basketball, cross-country, high jump, and triple jump. She won a state basketball championship and placed first at state in high jump. She received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Brigham Young University in 1990.



She met her sweetheart Glen at BYU and they were married in the Cardston, Alberta temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1987. They lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for several years before moving to Issaquah, Washington where they continued to raise their five children. Sabrina was an amazing wife and mother and she dedicated much time to her family.

Sabrina was active in her church congregation, serving diligently in programs that resulted in lifelong friendships. She especially loved working with children, youth, and women organizations and made a tremendous impact on all she met. Sabrina loved all people and always sought out those who needed a friend or special help. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed many adventures with her husband and family, exploring mountains, waterfalls, lakes, canyons, and much of the earth's beauty. She passed on her love of reading, gardening, and the outdoors to her children.

Diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer in December of 2016, Sabrina underwent several surgeries and many treatments. She fought valiantly for over five years and enjoyed many treasured memories with family and friends. In late March of 2022, Sabrina was diagnosed with untreatable acute leukemia and elected to spend her remaining time with family at home on hospice care. Her children, parents, and siblings were able to visit during this time, as well as many precious friends.

Sabrina is survived by her husband Glen Larsen; children Brian (Amy) Larsen, Kirsten (Ashton) Dyck, Andrew (Taylor) Larsen, Angela, and Maren; grandchildren Soren, Katherine, Rockwell, Andrew, Theodore, and Madison; parents George and Susan Sintay; and siblings Sindy (Kirt) Montague, Sonna (Brad) Smith, Sallie (Everal) Roberts, Shaun (Nathan) Brown, Sara (Eric) Jensen, Steve (Erin) Sintay, and Shane (Lauren) Sintay. She was preceded in death by her brother Scott (Nicki) Sintay. Paid for by the family of Sabrina Larsen. #servelikesabrina

Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday	72/50
Thursday	72/50
Friday	67/51
Saturday	60/50
Sunday	64/45
Monday	67/40
Tuesday	74/54

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 JUNE 8-14

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
72	79	80	74	59	59	65
48	54	56	50	41	40	44