

Rodeo queen is double-crowned

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

ELGIN — In addition to being named queen of the Oregon High School Rodeo Association in June, Dayville's Rowdy Israel was crowned queen of the

Elgin Stampede last month. Israel, 16, who was already busy making appearances at rodeos across the state High School Rodeo Association, now carries two titles and all of the commitments that come with being double-crowned.

For instance, on Friday, Aug. 19, Israel represented the Elgin Stampede in Kennewick, Washington, then had to be in Cottage Grove for a rodeo on Saturday and Sunday on behalf of the Oregon High School Rodeo Association.

Rowdy's mother, Nicole Israel, said Friday that making the appearances is a definite "parent commitment" because Rowdy has to be at certain places at certain times and she has to make sure she is there. "Whether I have to drive all night to make it happen or whether I don't," she said, "that's just a commitment you have to make."

It's a commitment on Rowdy's part as well. A typical appearance consists of a parade in the morning, then later a grand entry at a rodeo. After that, she puts her horse away and signs autographs into the night.

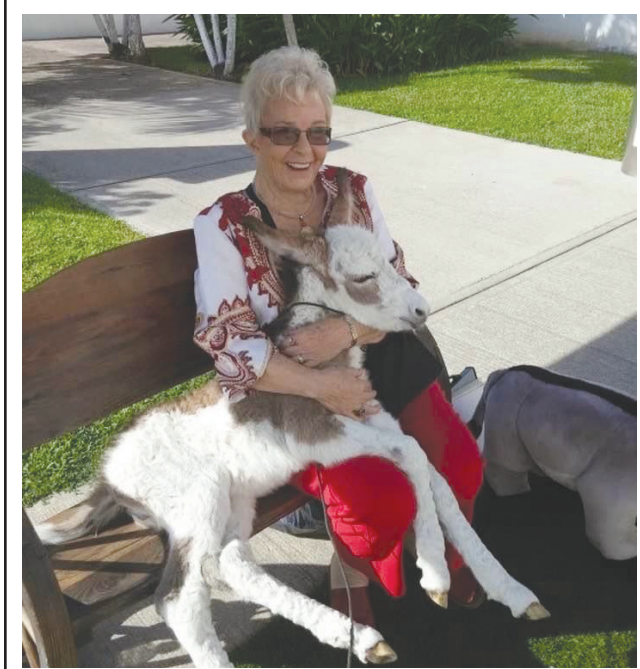
She also competes in Oregon high school rodeos, as she did at the rodeo in Cottage Grove over the weekend and at the Grant County Junior Rodeo before that.

The appearances, she said, keep her "super-busy in a compacted day."

Nonetheless, Rowdy said, she is grateful for the dual honor of being a double rodeo queen. She thanked her sponsors and those who supported her in and around Grant County.



Contributed Photo
Dayville's Rowdy Israel is crowned the 75th annual Elgin Stampede queen last month by outgoing queen Sarah Baker. Israel was also named Oregon High School's Rodeo Queen in June.



Christi Jean Sproul
January 12, 1932-August 9, 2022

Imagine living a full and generous life of 90 years! Christi Jean Sproul, age 90 passed away peacefully August 9, 2022 in St. Helens, Oregon.

Jean was born January 12, 1932 to Ruby & Oscar Hoverson of John Day....Jean married her high school sweetheart, Jim Sproul on December 17, 1950.

Jean is survived by her son, Guy Sproul, daughters, Sally Stuerhoff, Mary Branstetter, Nancy Lee, their families, Stepson, Lewis Lowery, Sister, Marlene Warren.

Preceded in death by her husband, Niles Arnold Sproul (Jim) Jerry Lowery, whom Jean married after the passing of Jim Sproul in 1998, son, James T Sproul.

Our family would like to give Thanks to Legacy Hospice of Portland.

We invite all to join as we celebrate Christi Jeans' Life on October 8, 2022, 1PM at the John Day Golf Course. Paid for by the family of Christi Sproul.

William C. Railey

August 14, 2022

William C. Railey, more commonly known as Billy, Bobcat Billy, Uncle Bill and of course Dad, passed away peacefully at his home in Mount Vernon August, 14, 2022. A celebration of life was held at the Monument Senior Center, Sunday August 21, 2022.



Bill was always the hardest worker on any job he held. He always supported and provided for his family and instilled an unparalleled work ethic in his children. Bill loved a good practical joke and has left his fair share of lifelong stories that have been passed down through the generations, especially by his older sisters.

Bill had the biggest heart, he was someone you could turn to for advice and would be the first to offer up his help if it was needed. Bill proved time and time again how strong willed and stubborn he was.

He fought for life and never quit. Life may have knocked him down from time to time, but he was a Railey, and nothing keeps a Railey down.

To sum up a man in a few words feels unfair and unjust. The true summation of a man can be seen in the love of the ones he left behind, the ones that are left to carry on and honor the man he was. Raise a glass for Bill, honor him by working hard for your family, by loving them fiercely, by enjoying the fresh air and a good fishing hole.

Bill leaves behind his wife Lisa Railey of 22 years and four children.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in honor of Bill the family suggests Healing Reins (therapeutic horse therapy program) through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO BOX 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com. Paid for by the family of Bill Railey.

Dump truck hits power line, flips

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — A dump truck driver who flipped his truck Monday, Aug. 22, on Adams Road in Canyon City suffered minor injuries.

According to a press release from the Grant County Sheriff's Office, Timothy Hueckman, 66, of John Day left the dump box

raised as he drove down Adams Road and caught a power line that snapped into multiple pieces and ultimately flipped the truck onto its side.

McKinley said the wreck closed through traffic on Adams Road and West Bench Road for three hours on Monday. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative and CenturyLink worked to restore services in the affected areas.

Firefighters respond to blaze near Greenhorn

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

GREENHORN — The Grant County Emergency Management Office is watching a number of fires started by multiple lightning strikes in and around Grant County, including a 15-acre blaze dubbed the Crocket's Knob Fire burning near Greenhorn, an unincorporated community on

the Grant-Baker County line north of Austin.

According to a Facebook post from the Grant County Emergency Management Office, firefighters were on the scene Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Emergency manager Eric Bush said the blaze was not near any structures, buildings or towns and that the Forest Service is committing resources to keep the fire from spreading.

Tom McCormack (Mac) Kerns

October 31, 1934 ~ July 5, 2022

Mac's Story

Mac Kerns passed away, peacefully, at his home outside of Haines, Oregon July 5, 2022, with his loving family at his side.

Tom McCormack (Mac) Kerns was born in Sheridan, Wyoming on October 31, 1934 to Tom and Janet (McCormack) Kerns. In 1936 the little family moved to Eugene and then Lorane, Oregon. Soon, Mac's father researched a desirable location (out of the Willamette Valley because of hay fever and allergies) for the family to settle and farm. The beautiful Baker Valley reminded Tom of the Sheridan area he'd grown up in and it had a railway which he knew was very important for transporting crops and farm animals. In 1939 Mac and his family moved to a ranch in Haines. He and his older sister Jean attended grade school in the Rock Creek, then Muddy Creek, riding horseback to and from. His freshman year of high school was in North Powder. Because his older sister Jean was attending high school in Baker Mac's folks determined it would be best if he attended there also. Lucky thing because it was there he met his future bride Joyce (Cole).



that position he was able to visit China on a marketing trip.

Mac remained active and positive all through his life, by participating in community activities. The 4th of July Haines Fun Run was rarely missed by him and as a member of the Haines Methodist Church, he assisted with the construction of that Community Hall. Mac was a proponent of water and stream enhancement and use, while also especially a champion in advocating for better forest management to prevent fires. The children of Haines Elementary School (many of which were great-grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews, he loved to point out) benefited from his volunteering in the classroom. He served on a board for the rural fire district as an activist for getting support through tax rolls for better fire protection. His interest in local history led him to involvement with the Baker County Historical Society and Eastern Oregon Museum at Haines, OR, where

Joyce and Mac were married June 21, 1953 and began 57 years of marriage and adventure. The newlyweds resided on the ranch in Haines until that fall when Mac resumed his studies at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Mac completed his college career with a degree in Agricultural Engineering which he used thoroughly throughout the rest of his life. In 1959 the ranch had a rough year and Mac's brother-in-law Tom suggested he seek employment with the U.S. Forest Service. Mac signed on for what was going to be a temporary job but the Forest Service offered him many ways to use and expand his knowledge so he stayed with them until 1984. He obtained his professional license as a Civil Engineer in 1962. In 1978 he became a licensed land surveyor and in 1991 he added Certified Water Rights Examiner to his resume'.

The family had expanded with the birth of Lorance Brent in 1954, Wesley Allen in 1958 and Janet Irene in 1960. Mac's career with the Forest Service took them to many postings throughout the Northwest, then Missouri and finally Washington DC. They often purchased a home that benefited from remodeling or later on constructed their homes. Mac included the children in all aspects of the building projects and they learned many valuable skills in the process. Each move was considered an adventure by Mac and Joyce and he not only made a difference with his engineering skills in building roads and reservoirs, but became active in community affairs and their church. Locally, while working in the Malheur Forest out of John Day, Oregon, Mac was the chief engineer in the project creating the Tipton Cutoff highway. He was awarded "Best Road Job In the Nation" for that project. He also served on the John Day city council while living there.

Upon retirement in 1984, Mac and Joyce moved back to Haines to ranch with their family. There, Mac was active in several aspects of agriculture, especially as a Water Rights Examiner and even served as chairman of the Oregon Wheat Growers Commission. In

helped inspire people own memories of early years

Mac had a way of linking the past to the present, learning from experiences not only of his own, but also of others, to aptly apply them in solving problems. In his last days he still displayed an interest in what each of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were working on, learning or simply interested in.

In 2021 Mac, with assistance of his youngest brother James, penned a "Christmas letter" that eventually grew into a book entitled "Our Oregon Heritage." These writings document and celebrate the lives of Thomas and Cornelia Condon (Mac's great, great-grandparents) and Herbert McCormack's family. (Herbert being Ellen Condon's husband and grandfather and Mac's great-grandparents).

Mac was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years Joyce Avon (Cole), daughter Diane, parents Tom and Janet, and sister Jean (Tom) Griffith.

Mac is survived by his children Brent (Mary), Wes (Mary Davies), Janni (John) Eggers, grandchildren Jacque (Josh) Cobb, Logan (Holly) Kerns, John (Catie) Kerns, Jeff (Kim) Kerns, Mark (Savannah) Kerns, Zach (Savannah) Eggers, 1st Class Petty Officer Eli Eggers, and Andy (Chelsey) Johnson, great-grandchildren Colt and Orin Cobb, Weston Kerns, Lance and Joy Kerns, and Bridger and Briar Johnson. Brothers Tim (Jan) Kerns, James (Margery), sister Ellen (Philip) Stevenson and brother-in-law Tom (Jean) Griffith plus numerous nieces and nephews. Also Mac's special friend Mary Boyer.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 3, 2022 at the Haines United Methodist Church. Memorial contributions in Mac's memory may be sent to the Eastern Oregon Museum or the Haines United Methodist Church via Cole's Tribute Center.

Paid for by the family of Mac Kerns.

Latrona Joyce Winegar

February 24, 1942 ~ August 14, 2022

Latrona Joyce Winegar was born on February 24, 1942 in Prairie City, Oregon to Charles Raymond "Todd" Winegar and Thelma Viola (Garner) Winegar. She was the sixth child in a family of eight. They moved to Redmond before Latrona started school.



When she was a first grader in Redmond she developed Rheumatic Fever and very nearly had to take first grade over, but her dedicated teacher came to their house and tutored her so that she could advance with her classmates to 2nd grade.

Latrona graduated from Redmond Union High School in 1960. After graduation she attended Merritt Davis School of Business in Salem, Oregon. After that graduation she worked in Redmond at U.S. National Bank for a few years. After marriage and moving to many towns she always had employment in banks. Adding numbers and counting money came easy to her.

Latrona married Eddie Bryan Smith from Sweet Home, Oregon, on June 5, 1965. After 55 years of marriage he preceded her in death.

They are survived by their children: Son - Bryan, daughters - Kristi and Mary, and granddaughter Kaitlyn.

Latrona developed a love for sewing and cooking at an early age. Many years of 4-H helped her hone these talents to perfection so that when she moved back to Prairie City in later years and her sister, Viola, approached her to open a quilt shop, she was willing to begin a new adventure. Thus came Quilts and Beyond.

Latrona really enjoyed being in Prairie City and making new friends. She especially loved the smaller town atmosphere and viewing Strawberry Mountain. The friends that she made during this period of her life were very precious to her and they will all miss her dearly.

One of Latrona's favorite pastimes was playing cards - her family accused her of "counting cards." She was usually the winner. In fact, she's probably up there in heaven right now with her mom, sister and brothers, and her husband, counting those cards and having lots of laughs. Most importantly Latrona had a very loving relationship with her Lord and Savior.

Her siblings are: (Deceased) Margaret Jean Winegar Watson, Franklin Winegar, Raymond Winegar, Charles Henry Winegar, (Surviving) Ella Mae Winegar McMullen, Viola Winegar Rose and Vanda Winegar Recek. A service was held on Sat. 8-20-22.

Paid for by the family of Latrona Winegar.

Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	HI/LO
Wednesday	HI/LO
Thursday	HI/LO
Friday	HI/LO
Saturday	HI/LO
Sunday	HI/LO
Monday	HI/LO

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 HHHHHH

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly cloudy	Sunny	Mostly cloudy	Sunny
100	95	92	94	95	89	90
63	63	60	60	59	56	58