

Maynard 'Friday' Koen mystery solved after 26 years

Prosser remembers 81-year-old treasure

■ JULIA HART
Reporter

PROSSER — Bud Hamilton and his sister Joyce Melton grew up embracing Maynard 'Friday' Koen as an adopted family member, working by their father's side as a loyal farmhand.



Photo provided by Joyce Melton

Maynard 'Friday' Koen, seen here at a family birthday, who disappeared 26 years ago, is fondly remembered by the Hamilton family, who considered him friend and family. His skeletal remains were recovered Oct. 21, near Hat Rock State Park on the Columbia River in Oregon.

The 81-year-old Friday disappeared Sunday, Aug. 15, 1993, after leaving Prosser around 7 p.m. Melton intensely recalled how weather conditions had turned nasty with thunder and lightning on that fateful evening.

They both knew a phone call disclosing the whereabouts of the man affectionately revered as their "Grandpa" would come someday.

On Monday, Oct. 21, authorities contacted Hamilton and informed him that the skeletal remains of a man identified by his driver's

license as Koen, had been recovered.

A scuba diving couple near Hat Rock State Park on the Columbia River in Oregon, located a submerged red Ford Ranger truck and reported their discovery to the Umatilla Police Department.

"It was still a shocker when the call came," Hamilton conveyed. "It's a bittersweet thing, but we're glad we

know for sure what happened to him."

The Prosser community all felt they knew Friday and embraced him as their own. Everyone joined in on the early search for him, Melton, a Burbank High School teacher warmly reminisced.

She spoke from outside her classroom remembering how he attended her wedding and was always taking part in their family

functions.

As word spread throughout Prosser that Friday would be soon coming home, a sense of closure was found.

"We always thought of him as ours, only to find out many community members also claimed him," Hamilton stated. "It's nice to know we weren't the only ones who missed him."

Maynard Koen already had a headstone in the Prosser Cemetery. "We placed it there many years ago," Melton acknowledged. It reads — "He was a great man. Whom the whole community loved."

SHS teacher Wayne Cone collapses on campus

Popular AP Chemistry teacher cared deeply for students' well-being

■ JULIA HART
Reporter

SUNNYSIDE — Sunnyside High School students were saddened to hear that popular AP Chemistry teacher Wayne Cone, 55, of Prosser, died as a result of a medical emergency Monday, Oct. 28.

According to SHS Principal Ryan Maxwell, Cone collapsed at school just before morning classes

were to begin and later died at the Astria Sunnyside Hospital.

The School District issued a statement Tuesday, Oct. 29, saying counselors would be available to talk with students, staff, and families, as needed.

"We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Sunnyside High School teacher Wayne Cone," the official announcement read.

see **SHS TEACHER**, page A2



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

A COLORFUL PRIZE

Dressed up as Glenda the Good Witch from the "Wizard of Oz," Daenerys selects a skeleton bucket of tart tasting Granny Smith apples as her cake walk prize during the 91st annual Outlook Elementary School Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Smith tells her side of the Swigart story

Eyewitness provides account of incident

■ PATRICK SHELBY
Managing Editor

KLICKITAT COUNTY — In an emotional interview, Janeece Smith, an eyewitness to the June 16, homicide of Roger Swigart, who was also his girlfriend for three-and-a-half years, revealed her explicit reason for not taking part in any follow up investigation with the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, Oct. 17.

"I can't trust them," Smith frighteningly expressed as she painfully began to provide a first-hand narrative about the horrific Jensen Quarry Road confrontation between Swigart and Mark Allen with dramatic detail. "I didn't want to leave the scene. I wanted to walk through it, and they wouldn't let me," as her voice quivered with anguish.

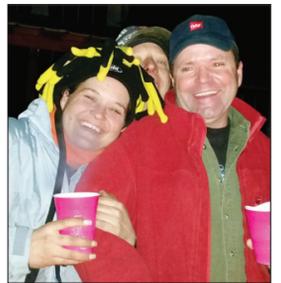
According to Smith, she ran toward the gun fire and was less than 15 feet away when she felt something hit her chest and stopped. She saw the gun on the dash of

Allen's truck while Swigart was on Allen's back behind him.

"He (Allen) looked over his head and then wretched his arm over and shot him in the head after looking at me. And, then got up off the ground and looked at me and goes, 'I killed your (expletive) boyfriend. You should call 9-1-1. I killed your boyfriend. I killed your boyfriend,'" Smith graphically stated.

Smith pointed out there was no blood on Allen, no

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Janeece Smith courtesy photo

PAST MOUNTAIN CELEBRATION — Janeece Smith next to Roger Swigart with Mark Allen in the background during a New Year's Eve party at her cabin. According to Smith, the picture was Roger's last post on Facebook.

PMH mammography facility is new standard

Self-referral is available for exams

■ DEB BRUMLEY
Reporter

PROSSER — Women of the valley wanting to schedule their annual mammography screening, need drive no further than Prosser for the best care.

That excellence became available for the first time on Saturday, Oct. 5, when Prosser Memorial Health held its annual Fall Health Fair by offering mammograms using its

new high definition, 3D equipment.

The state-of-the-art equipment is the perfect accompaniment to the highly skilled staff in the mammography department.

Verlaine Schneider, Mammography Technologist, R.T. (R)(M), who has been serving patients for more than 40 years in the X-ray and Mammography fields, is passionate about the ability to enhance their department's care and outcomes, using the newly installed Hologic Genius 3D mammography equipment.



WELCOME HOLOGIC GENIUS 3D — Verlaine Schneider, Mammography Technologist, R.T. (R) (M), is shown sterilizing the new, state-of-the-art mammography equipment, the only one of its kind, available for women's mammography between Ellensburg and Walla Walla.

Deb Brumley/Sunnyside Sun

The technology is the first of its kind available between Ellensburg to Walla Walla.

The Hologic equipment

has a "Smart Curve Paddle," which offers an unheard

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