

OBITUARIES

— PAID NOTICES —

William “Chuck” Hickerson Jr.



William “Chuck” Hickerson Jr.

William Charles (Chuck) Hickerson Jr. passed away peacefully on Sept. 24, 2021. He was 98 years old.

Chuck was born July 5, 1923, in Tacoma, Wash., and raised in Tonasket, Wash., graduating from Tonasket High School in 1941. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Dec. 20, 1941.

He spent four years serving as a gunner on Merchant Marine ships including the SS Jupiter, the SS Ewing Young, the SS Horace Mann, the SS Mexican, the SS Perote, and the SS Appleton Victory. He saw action in many theaters of the war and received Campaign Medals for the Asiatic-Pacific, American, and European-African-Middle East Areas. He also received the Good Conduct and WWII Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 11, 1945.

After his discharge, Chuck attended Lewis and Clark College, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor’s of Arts degree. He continued his education for many years, earning a Master’s degree from Willamette University in 1969.

Chuck met the love of his life, Joyce Anna Gillen, while attending college and they married on June 6, 1949, in Linnton, Ore. He taught music in Knappa, Ore., and Elkton, Ore., before becoming band director in Arlington, Ore., in 1965. Over the next 15 years, he shared his love of music with the children of the community, giving them a lifelong appreciation of listening to and making their own music. Many former students have shared lasting memories of their years in band and choir.

Chuck served the Arlington community for the more than 50 years he lived there, volunteering on many boards and committees, including the port commission, the Gilliam County Transportation District and the North Gilliam County Cemetery District.

After retiring from active teaching, Chuck and Joyce turned their love of volunteering to the Peace Corps. They served for two years in Fiji with Joyce teaching nursing and Chuck as a water works advisor. They formed friendships with other volunteers that last to this day.

Chuck played every instrument, but his favorite was his beloved Selmer clarinet. Chuck’s talents showed at an early age when he taught himself to read the newspaper by age 5. He was playing fiddle and singing professionally at age 9 and continued to play professionally and for fun for the rest of his life. He played with the Oregon Jazz Band for 55 years, taking the family to exotic venues like Anaheim, Ship Ashore Resort in Crescent City, and the Albany Timber Festival. His favorite venue was his shop, where he jammed with locals and friends from all over.

Chuck was preceded in death by his son Charles A., his brother Leslie Hickerson, and his sister Charlotte Novotny. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Joyce; sons Richard C. (Kathleen), Gerald E. (Pamela), Patrick D., and Andrew W., and daughter Ruth DeLaRosa (Robert); eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to your favorite charity.

Mary Lyon



Mary Lyon

Mary Kathleen Lyon was born at home in Eureka Springs, Ark., to Jesse James Birchfield and Mary Magdline Pierce Birchfield. She had six brothers and two sisters.

Mary lived most of her life in Pine Grove, Ore., and lost her life on Sept. 11, 2021, due to complications of a broken femur and continued Alzheimer’s.

She joins our loved ones in eternal rest. Mary lost her oldest son, Elmer Dale Stover, on May 4, 2019.

Mary has one surviving son, Joe Lee Church; daughter-in-law Judy Church; one grandson, Shaun; one granddaughter, JusDean; five great-grandchildren; one sister, Ruby Eckert; one brother, James Birchfield; and many nieces and nephews. Rest in peace, sister. We love you always. I will miss you forever.

Louanne Starr



Louanne Starr

Louanne Starr was granted her angel wings on Oct. 3, 2021, passing at home in Federal Way, Wash. Louanne was born in Clatskanie, Ore., on Aug. 6, 1939, and moved to Portland, Ore., as a child with her family. She graduated from Pacific University, Forest Grove, Ore., and earned a Masters degree from Western Oregon University.

She moved to The Dalles, Ore., in 1970. Louanne was a speech therapist with the Wasco County School District for more than 30 years before retiring in 2002. Louanne moved to Federal Way in 2020 to live closer to family.

Louanne was a charter member of Cascade Singers for 44 years, traveling to Europe for singing tours. She was a 50-year active member of The Dalles United Church of Christ Congregational and sang in the church choir. Beta Sigma Phi, Delta Kappa Gamma, Retired Teachers Association, and Wasco County Historical Society were some of her organization memberships. Besides traveling abroad, Louanne loved her trips to Reno or Las Vegas for a little gambling. In the summers she spent time at her family home “Gin Acres” in Sisters, Ore., usually accompanied by her little dogs.

Louanne knew no strangers, had a smile for everyone and always lent a hand. This spirit was returned to her in her later years by her many friends in The Dalles. Louanne was a kind

and caring soul and extremely generous with her time, talents and treasures.

Louanne was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Helen Starr, and her younger brother, James. She is survived by her older brother William (Leah); sister-in-law Suzanne; nieces Kim (Greg) and Pam (Brett); and nephews David, Douglas and Brian Wicklund.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held on Oct. 30 at 1pm at The Dalles United Church of Christ Congregational, 111 E. Fifth St., The Dalles. Her ashes will be interred at Rose City Cemetery, Portland, alongside her parents. In lieu of flowers, the family is encouraging a donation to a favorite charity in her name, as Louanne supported dozens of organizations.

Daniel “Dan” Truax



Daniel “Dan” Truax

Daniel “Dan” Truax, 65, of Parkers Prairie, Minn., passed away unexpectedly Sept. 23, 2021. He passed away on a mini vacation, living and loving life.

After honorably serving in the U.S. Army, Dan completed technical school receiving his diploma in Cable Television Technology. He then hitchhiked from Minnesota to Mt. Hood, Ore., and fell in love with the Columbia Gorge. He move to Hood River, Ore., in 1979, planted his roots and started a family. He spent the remainder of his years in The Columbia Gorge.

Dan had a passion for music and taught himself how to play guitar at a young age. He enjoyed “jamming” with any and everyone, especially his grandchildren. He loved the outdoors and spent his brief years of retirement enjoying them to the fullest. Dan was a caring and compassionate man, always quick to help someone in need. He loved to make people laugh and could always brighten up a room with his quick wit and sense of humor. One of his philosophies was, “Don’t pet the sweaty stuff ... or is it don’t sweat the petty stuff?” He was a laid back guy who touched many lives with his kindness, music and laughter. To know him was to love him.

Dan is survived by his partner Lorrie (her son Rowland); daughter LeeAnn; son Chris (Tawny); grandchildren Shailyn, Noah and Stella; sisters Brenda (Jim), Tammy (Jerry), Jane (Dan), Julie (Ron) and brother Rob; along with numerous nieces and nephews and children by marriage Toby (Joleen) and Amber (Hank), and grandchildren by marriage Roni, Jaida, Ambry and Brea.

Details for Dan’s celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Washington Trails Association (give.wta.org) in Dan’s name.

Darlene Gibson



Darlene Gibson

Darlene Ann (Doyle) Gibson, 74, passed away peacefully at her home in Beaverton, Ore., on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021. Darlene was born on June 8, 1947, in The Dalles, Ore. She was the first born of two children of Henry and Donna (Spitler) Doyle.

Darlene graduated from The Dalles High School in 1965. Darlene had retired after a successful career as the vice president of a wholesale insurance brokerage company.

Darlene enjoyed spending time with her husband, Pat Gibson; her daughter Lisa White and husband Don Shallcross; son Don White and wife, April; sister Diane Fredericksen and husband Jens; stepsons Kris and Erik Gibson and stepdaughter Gena Frison; niece, Tina Neal and husband, Tony, and kids Peyton and Piper; nephew Jeff Bowman and kids Keefer, Roxy, and Lola; niece Kaitlyn Doyle; uncle Bill Spitler and aunt Harriette Spitler; cousins Kathy (Spitler) Tucker, Mike Doyle and Melody (Doyle) Pinto; grandkids Andrew, Adam, and Cooper Shallcross, Zoe, Kyrian and Sage White, Bailey Chillion, Khaliah Benton, Aireyonna and Savannah Frison, Khearstyn, Khodi, and Kameron Gibson; and several great grandchildren.

Darlene’s celebration of life will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16 at her nephew’s home, 11495 S.W. Ridgecrest Drive, Beaverton.

Jeffrey Miller



Jeffrey Miller

Jeffrey Bryan Miller passed away April 21, 2019, in Umatilla County near Pendleton, Ore. Jeff was born on March 7, 1967, and was 52 years of age at the time of his passing.

Jeff was born in Portland, Ore., to Kenneth Verdon Miller and Janice Olivia (Monical). He was born in Portland but spent the majority of his early years in The Dalles, Ore., where his father had moved the family to set up a chiropractic practice. Jeff was a 1985 graduate from Wahtonka High School.

As kids, Jeff, and the neighborhood kids (including his brother, Craig) enjoyed exploring the wilderness areas near their childhood home and having amazing adventures. From the beginning, Jeff was always very sensitive and good-natured. He very much disliked conflict and would be the first to jump in and defuse a dangerous situation before it could spiral out of control. Jeff loved the TV series Star Trek as a child, and it remained and enduring source of nostalgia

during family visits. Jeff had an extraordinary memory and could remember the names of people and even conversations that occurred decades prior. He would jokingly refer to his memory as his “memory banks.” He had a good sense of humor with an appreciation for the wacky and/or absurd and loved to laugh.

Jeff was a very spiritual person and seemed to know his life path early on. He developed a strong and personal connection with God and strove to live his life as selflessly as had Jesus. Very much a live-and-let-live type, Jeff sought to live his own truth unapologetically.

Jeff is survived by his parents; brother, Craig; and four step-sisters, Sandy Byers, Baraga Herman, Karen Martell and Brenda Derryberry.

Memorial Services will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23 at Life in Christ Center, 3095 Cherry Heights Road, The Dalles.

Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson’s Tribute Center • Celilo Chapel, 204 E. Fourth St., The Dalles. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

Don Nunamaker



Don Nunamaker

Don Nunamaker long-time Hood River, Ore., resident, real estate broker and pillar in the community, passed away Oct. 7, 2021, at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. Don was born Nov. 15, 1942, and was 78 years of age at the time of his passing. Services are pending with arrangements under the direction of Anderson’s Tribute Center (Funerals • Receptions • Cremations), 1401 Belmont Ave., Hood River. Visit www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for the family.

Curtiss Buster

Faith | Family | Fellow Man | Fisherman



Curtiss Buster

“He fought the good fight, He finished the race, He kept the faith.” — II Timothy 4:7

Curtiss Lee Buster, age 59, of Scappoose, Ore., peacefully joined the Lord on Oct. 5, 2021, following a long and brave battle with cancer.

Curtiss was born on May 25, 1962, in Great Falls, Mont., to Curtiss and Bobbie Buster, who later settled in The Dalles, Ore., and had three more children. Always a hard worker, Curtiss enjoyed working side by side with his dad for many years, in both Alaska and Oregon.

He lived each step of his life in faith and truly enjoyed serving others in his community.

Curtiss was preceded in death by his son Matthew Levi Buster in 1996 and his brother Christon Robert Buster in 2020. He is survived by his beloved daughter Jordan Buster; loving girlfriend Gina Roberts; parents Curtiss and Bobbie Buster; sisters Jody Buster and Cindy Burow; nephews and nieces Tyson, Devan, Kylie, Donovan, Charlie, Chelsey, Dianne, and Bruce; great niece Annabelle; and his furry and faithful dog, Coco.

Ever faithful to the Lord, he was very much at peace with God’s plan for him. He will be missed dearly, but is now in heaven, holding his son and swapping stories of fishing, hunting and fixing up trucks with his brother.

“Well done thy good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:21
The family will celebrate his life privately, as he wished.

Death notices, see page A16

Columbia Gorge News obituary policy

Obituaries, death notices and service announcements must be publication-ready; *Columbia Gorge News* may edit for AP style and grammar. All-caps submissions are not accepted. Contact information must accompany all submissions.

Prepayment for obituaries is required. The submitting party must approve all copy in person or via email before publication.

There is no charge for death notices and service announcements, which include the deceased person’s name, date and location of birth and death, and service and funeral home information.

For the Wednesday edition, obituaries, death notices and service announcements must be received by noon on Monday. Deadline is subject to change with holiday editions.

Cost is as follows:

- One photo and 250 words maximum, \$100
- One photo and 500 words maximum, \$200
- One photo and 700 words maximum, \$300
- One photo and 900 words maximum, \$400

Obituary word count is approximate and will also allow for two photos with an adjusted word count.

Longer obituaries are also accepted with a maximum two photos.

All are additionally published on our website at www.columbiagorgenews.com/obituaries.

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For more information, contact Trisha Walker, trishaw@gorgenews.com or 541-386-1234 ext. 109.

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