

OBITUARIES

LeMoine Emery (Lee) Bittinger

Lyle, Wash.

April 4, 1939 - July 18, 2017

LeMoine (Lee) Emery Bittinger of Lyle, Wash., passed away peacefully July 18, 2017, in his home surrounded by family. He was 78 years old. Lee will always be remembered as a wonderful husband and father, enthusiastic elk hunter, and a passionate basketball coach.



Bittinger

degree in education from University of Oregon and his master's degree in education from Portland State University. Lee spent his professional career teaching and coaching at the high school level. His fondest memories are of the times that he spent with his children, students, athletes and the community in which he lived and taught.

Lee was constantly a friendly face to everyone he met, willing to always help and commit his time to improving and bettering those around him. Over the years, he taught and coached in Union, Oregon (1967-1969), Gervais, Oregon (1970-1973), Arlington, Oregon (1975-1988), The Dalles, Oregon and Lyle, Washington school systems (1992-2004).

Services will be held Saturday, July 29, 2017, at 2 p.m. at the Covenant Christian Church, 2630 E. 18th St., The Dalles, OR 97058. All friends and family are welcome to attend and celebrate Lee's life.

Memorial gifts can be made to Heart of Hospice Foundation (in memory of LeMoine Bittinger), 2621 Wasco St., Hood River, OR 97031 (541) 396-1942

www.HeartofHospice-Foundation.com

Lee is survived by his wife Ellen; his stepbrother Bob Kirtchen of Florence, Oregon; his children: Cloy Bittinger of Prineville, Oregon, Steve Bittinger of Hermiston, Oregon, Nathan Bittinger of Hermiston, Oregon, and Cara Ammons of Toledo, Oregon; and his stepchildren Kim Ward and Jodi Stevenson of Ridgefield, Washington. Lee had 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lee was born on April 4, 1939, in Missoula, Montana, to wonderful parents. From an early age he spent time in the mountains around Plains, Montana, with his uncles and cousins hunting and fishing. Upon graduating from high school Lee joined the U.S. Navy (1957-1961) where he served our country on a flight crew as an aviation electronics specialist attached to Patrol Squadron 42 stationed in the Sea of Japan (East Sea).

After leaving the Navy, he received his bachelor's

Raining needles: Drug crisis creates pollution threat

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

LOWELL, Mass — They hide in weeds along hiking trails and in playground grass. They wash into rivers and float downstream to land on beaches. They pepper baseball dugouts, sidewalks and streets. Syringes left by drug users amid the heroin crisis are turning up everywhere.

In Portland, Maine, officials have collected more than 700 needles so far this year, putting them on track to handily exceed the nearly 900 gathered in all of 2016. In March alone, San Francisco collected more than 13,000 syringes, compared with only about 2,900 the same month in 2016.

People, often children, risk getting stuck by discarded needles, raising the prospect they could contract blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis or HIV or be exposed to remnants of heroin or other drugs.

It's unclear whether anyone has gotten sick, but the reports of children finding the needles can be sickening in their own right. One 6-year-old girl in California mistook a discarded syringe for a thermometer and put it in her mouth; she was unharmed.

"I just want more awareness that this is happening," said Nancy Holmes, whose 11-year-old daughter stepped on a needle in Santa Cruz, California, while swimming. "You would hear stories about finding needles at the beach. But you think that it wouldn't happen to you. Sure enough."

They are a growing problem in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, two states that have seen many overdose deaths in recent years.

"We would certainly characterize this as a health hazard," said Tim Soucy, health director in Manchester, New Hampshire's largest city, which collected 570 needles in 2016, the first year it began tracking the problem. It has found 247 needles so far this year.



AP Photo/Charles Krupa

In this June 7 photo, activist Rocky Morrison, of the "Clean River Project", holds up a fish bowl filled with hypodermic needles, that were recovered during 2016, on the Merrimack River next to their facility in Methuen, Mass. Morrison leads a cleanup effort along the Merrimack River, which winds through the old milling city of Lowell, and has recovered hundreds of needles in abandoned homeless camps that dot the banks, as well as in piles of debris that collect in floating booms he recently started setting.

Needles turn up in places like parks, baseball diamonds, trails and beaches — isolated spots where drug users can gather and attract little attention, and often the same spots used by the public for recreation. The needles are tossed out of carelessness or the fear of being prosecuted for possessing them.

One child was poked by a needle left on the grounds of a Utah elementary school. Another youngster stepped on one while playing on a beach in New Hampshire.

Even if adults or children don't get sick, they still must endure an unsettling battery of tests to make sure they didn't catch anything. The girl who put a syringe in her mouth was not poked but had to be tested for hepatitis B and C, her mother said.

Some community advocates are trying to sweep up the pollution.

Rocky Morrison leads a cleanup effort along the Merrimack River, which winds through the old milling city of Lowell, and has recovered hundreds of needles in abandoned homeless camps that dot the banks, as well as in piles of debris that collect in floating booms he recently started setting.

He has a collection of several hundred needles in a fishbowl, a prop he uses to

illustrate that the problem is real and that towns must do more to combat it.

"We started seeing it last year here and there. But now, it's just raining needles everywhere we go," said Morrison, a burly, tattooed construction worker whose Clean River Project has six boats working parts of the 117-mile river.

Among the oldest tracking programs is in Santa Cruz, California, where the community group Take Back Santa Cruz has reported finding more than 14,500 needles in the county over the past 4 1/2 years. It says it has gotten reports of 12 people getting stuck, half of them children.

"It's become pretty commonplace to find them. We call it a rite of passage for a child to find their first needle," said Gabrielle Korte, a member of the group's needle team. "It's very depressing. It's infuriating. It's just gross."

Some experts say the problem will ease only when more users get treatment and more funding is directed to treatment programs.

Others are counting on needle exchange programs, now present in more than 30 states, or the creation of safe spaces to shoot up — already introduced in Canada and proposed by U.S. state and city officials from New York

to Seattle.

Studies have found that needle exchange programs can reduce pollution, said Don Des Jarlais, a researcher at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai hospital in New York.

But Morrison and Korte complain poor supervision at needle exchanges will simply put more syringes in the hands of people who may not dispose of them properly.

After complaints of discarded needles, Santa Cruz County took over its exchange from a nonprofit in 2013 and implemented changes. It did away with mobile exchanges and stopped allowing drug users to get needles without turning in an equal number of used ones, said Jason Hoppin, a spokesman for Santa Cruz County.

Along the Merrimack, nearly three dozen riverfront towns are debating how to stem the flow of needles. Two regional planning commissions are drafting a request for proposals for a cleanup plan. They hope to have it ready by the end of July.

"We are all trying to get a grip on the problem," said Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini. "The stuff comes from somewhere. If we can work together to stop it at the source, I am all for it."

DEATH NOTICES

Sharon Parker

Pendleton
July 20, 2017

Sharon Parker, 75, of Pendleton died Thursday, July 20, 2017. Funeral services will be held Thursday, July 27 at 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary of Pendleton, with burial to follow at Olney Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, JULY 22

ALBEE, SUSAN — Memorial services at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 323 Catherine St., Walla Walla.

FRICKE, LOU — Graveside service at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

IRIBARREN, JACKIE — Service at 2 p.m. at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop, 131 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Burial will follow at the old Pilot Rock Cemetery on East Birch Creek Road. An information gathering will follow at the Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

No services scheduled

MONDAY, JULY 24

No services scheduled

TUESDAY, JULY 25

No services scheduled

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office.

For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, JULY 24

MORROW COUNTY PARKS PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m., Bartholomew Government Building, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. Morrow County Parks Master Plan regarding recreation, projections, tourism and a review of the OHV Park will be discussed. (Kirsti Cason 541-989-9500)

UMATILLA BASIN WATER-SHED COUNCIL, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Michael T. Ward 541-276-2190)

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

IRRIGON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Irrigon Fire Station, 705 N. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

TUESDAY, JULY 25 WEST UMATILLA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, 3 p.m., district office, 3005 S. First St., Hermiston. (Janie Cuellar 541-567-5201)

IONE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 4:30 p.m., Ione Community School, 445 Spring St., Ione. (541-422-7131)

MORROW COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (541-922-4624)

For a complete listing of regional events, visit easternoregonevents.com

SATURDAY, JULY 22

PENDLETON ON WHEELS RELAXED BIKE RIDE, 7 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, 501 S. Main St., Pendleton. Weekly casual ride. Meet with those taking a longer ride, but take a shorter route that matches participant interests that day. Usually in the 10 to 20 mile ride as participants desire. (Pete Wells 541-379-2180)

POW SATURDAY BIKE RIDE, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Information kiosk at Museum Park, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Weekly bike ride by Pendleton on Wheels. Rides are open to the public, as far and at a speed comfortable for you. (Pete Wells 541-379-2180)

PENDLETON BIKE WEEK, 8:30 a.m.-11:59 p.m., Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton. Motorcycle rally includes Bagger Shootout, Seattle Cossacks Precision Motorcycle Drill Team, Grand Funk Railroad concert, tattoo contest, West Coast Bikini Bike Wash, .45 Caliber Poker Run, Wounded Warriors bike show, Rattlesnake 400, Blue Mountain Nitro National Hill Climb, Hardtail Saloon, vendor village and more. Tickets are \$85 for a week pass, \$125 for a VIP pass, available at www.pendletonbikeweek.com/shop. Tent camping and RV

spaces (limited) also available. (360-606-5763)

PARKING LOT SALE, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, Hermiston. Clothing 5 items for \$1, furniture priced as marked and knick-knacks you-name-the-price. (Dave Hughes 541-567-8774)

HERMISTON FARMERS MARKET, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Festival Plaza, Northeast Second Street and Main, Hermiston. Local produce, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, art, live music, food vendors and more.

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

CELEBRATE OREGON AGRICULTURE, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Learn about the kinds of foods and other crops grown in Oregon with free activities for all ages. (Stefanie Swindler 541-481-7243)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES BOWL-A-THON FUNDRAISER, 6-8 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N.

First St., Hermiston. Proceeds benefit Domestic Violence Services. (Jeanne Bedolla 541-276-3322)

MUSIC IN THE PARK, 6-8 p.m., Lone City Park, Main Street, lone. Corey Peterson Band will perform. Concessions for purchase by Tacos Hometown; pre-order by calling 541-561-7397. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

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ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.

MONDAY, JULY 24

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

TOT TIME, 10-11 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For children ages 0-5. Costs \$1 per child per session. (541-276-8100)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ART STUDIO, 4-5:30 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

MUSIC IN THE PARKS SERIES, 7 p.m., Boardman Marina Park, 1 Marine Drive, Boardman. Outdoor summer concert features Dallin Puzey. Bring a picnic and blanket or lawn chair. Free. (Tami 541-571-0844)

COMING EVENTS

Wed-Sat • 7:45 pm • Hermiston, OR
August 9-12, 2017
TICKETS:
541-564-8500 or farmcityprorodeo.com
WEDNESDAY ONLY
CHILD TICKET - \$3
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