

BILLY GRAHAM’S FUNERAL

Evangelist’s children carry on crusade

By TOM FOREMAN JR. and JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Rev. Billy Graham’s children remembered “America’s Pastor” on Friday as a man devoted to spreading the Gospel, living his life at home as he preached it in stadiums, with a personable humility and an unwavering focus on the Bible. As his oldest son told the funeral congregation, “There weren’t two Billy Grahams.”

His adult children — all speakers or preachers in their own right — recalled being taught by their parents how to read Scripture aloud and deliver sermons, but also taking quiet walks with their father and feeling his embrace even when they made mistakes.

Franklin Graham, who delivered the main funeral message, said all of those qualities were part of the whole.

“The Billy Graham that the world saw on television, the Billy Graham that the world saw in the big stadiums, was the same Billy Graham that we saw at home. There weren’t two Billy Grahams,” he said. “He loved his family. He stood by us. He comforted us.”

Franklin Graham’s funeral message, which included a Gospel call to repentance and salvation, followed shorter remarks by his siblings in a service that lasted just over an hour before an invitation-only crowd of approximately 2,000.

“I believe, from Heaven’s perspective, that my father’s death is as significant as his life. And his life was very significant. But I think when he died, that was something very strategic from Heaven’s point of view,” said his daughter Anne Graham Lotz, later adding: “I believe God is saying: ‘Wake up church! Wake up world!’”

The congregation included President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and their wives. Neither Pence nor Trump spoke during the service that was streamed live online, but they met privately with the family beforehand.

The funeral planning began a decade ago with Billy Graham himself. It also reflected his family’s



Clockwise from top: The casket of Rev. Billy Graham is moved during a funeral service at the Billy Graham Library in Friday in Charlotte, N.C. Mourners react during a funeral service for Graham, who died last week at age 99.

The Billy Graham that the world saw on television ... was the same Billy Graham that we saw at home.”

— Franklin Graham, Billy Graham’s son

desire to capture the feeling of the crusades that made him the world’s best-known Protestant preacher of his era. Graham, who died last week at age 99, brought a message of salvation to millions during visits and live broadcasts to scores of countries.

The funeral served as a Billy Graham crusade told through his children. Lotz read Scripture, inserting her name into the passages to make her relationship with God more personal and breaking it down intellectually, like her father. Youngest daughter Ruth told about

how she sinned and didn’t listen to her father with a hasty marriage, but he was waiting for her with open arms when she realized her mistake.

And oldest son Franklin, now CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, wrapped up with his

father’s central theme: that the only path to salvation is to accept Jesus Christ.

While Franklin Graham steered clear of politics during his message, the Trumps and Pences were the first guests he welcomed as he began.

And his invitation to be

saved by Jesus contained this barb: “The world, with all of its political correctness, would want you to believe that there are many roads to God. It’s just not true.”

Like Graham’s famous crusades, the funeral featured singers who had shared his stage in years past: Linda McCrary-Fisher, Michael W. Smith and the Gaither Vocal Band.

The lineup of clergy and singers from as near as North Carolina and as far away as Asia, was racially diverse — moreso than the mostly white audience.

Other notable guests included television host Kathie Lee Gifford, musician Ricky Skaggs, evangelist Rick Warren and politician Rudy Giuliani. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper attended, as did his predecessor Pat McCrory.

The funeral came at the end of more than a week of mourning that included crowds lining the road for a procession from Graham’s home in the mountains to Charlotte, where Graham grew up. Approximately 13,000 people — including former presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton — filed past his casket during a public viewing in Charlotte this week. And on Wednesday, Graham became the first private citizen since civil rights icon Rosa Parks in 2005 to lie in honor at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington.

Graham was being buried next to his wife in a memorial prayer garden at the Billy Graham Library, with his grandchildren serving as pallbearers. His pine plywood casket was made by inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. The grave marker reads: “Preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Friday’s goodbye also emphasized the message that only Graham’s earthly journey has come to an end, a point underscored by Franklin Graham as he stood behind the same pulpit his father used in the 1990s.

Graham recalled one of his father’s frequent sayings that people shouldn’t believe it when they hear the famous evangelist had died: “He said: ‘I’ll be more alive than I am now. I’ll have just changed addresses, that’s all.’”

BRIEFLY

Hermiston graduate leaps to London

A 2011 Hermiston High School graduate is featured in an upcoming episode of “House Hunters International.”

Connor McMichael and his wife, Sydney, recently moved across the pond. Connor transferred jobs from Seattle to London — and with the big move comes adventure.

The couple is featured in “The Leap to London,” an episode of the HGTV show at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7. McMichael’s mother, Katja, said her son and daughter-in-law applied for the show. They were looking for a budget-friendly place to live that’s a short commute to his job in the Piccadilly Circus area.

For more information, visit www.hgtv.com/shows/house-hunters-international/episodes/the-leap-to-london.

GOP women set candidate’s forum

PENDLETON — George Murdock, Larry Givens and John Shafer are featured during a Umatilla County Commissioner Forum sponsored by the Round Up Republican women.

The public is invited to the no-host luncheon event Thursday, March 8 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. The meal is \$11 for members and \$13 fr non-members.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to ensure there is enough food and seating. To register, contact rounduprw@gmail.com or 541-276-3182.

Milton-Freewater schools present Spring Band Gala Concert

MILTON-FREEWATER — A Spring Band Gala Concert will feature student musicians in the Milton-Freewater School District.

The beginning band, intermediate band, advanced band, Central Middle School Jazz Band and McLoughlin High School Jazz Band are all featured during the concert. The free event is Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jack Williams Auditorium at McLoughlin High School, 120 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.

For more information about the Milton-Freewater School District band programs, contact Michael Agidius at mike.agidius@miltfree.k12.or.us, 541-938-5591 or 541-938-5504.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

OBITUARIES

Pamela Rochelle McSpadden

Stanfield

July 20, 1954 - Feb. 28, 2018

Pamela Rochelle McSpadden was born July 20, 1954 in Butte, Montana, the daughter of Edward and Dorothy (Landice) Berreth. She passed away in Stanfield on Wednesday February 28, 2018 at the age of 63.

Pamela lived in Montana and later Seattle, Washington, before moving to Stanfield, Oregon, in the mid-1990s. She enjoyed being active in her community as a city council member, volunteering at the Stanfield Senior Center and the Food Bank.

She also enjoyed cooking, fishing, going camping,

working in her yard and loved dogs.

Pamela married Bob McSpadden in Pendleton, Oregon, on Nov. 14, 2001.

She is survived by her husband, Bob; sons, Ryan and Rodney Minten; sisters, Debbie Schrader and Linda Gillot; brother, Gary Berreth; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday March 7, 2018, at the Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

To leave an online condolence for the family go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

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. Call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

MONDAY, MARCH 5
STOKES LANDING SENIOR CENTER BOARD, 6 p.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. (Karen 541-922-3137)

HEPPNER PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Heppner. (541-676-9618)

MILTON-FREEWATER PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. 6:30 p.m. study session, 7 p.m. regular meeting. (541-938-5531)

WESTON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall, 210 E. Main St., Weston. (541-566-3313)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6
PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT WORK SESSION, 3 p.m., Pendleton School District office, 107 N.W. 10th St., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)

WESTON LIBRARY BOARD, 5:30 p.m., Weston Public Library, 108 E. Main St., Weston. (541-566-2378)

IRRIGON PLANNING COMMISSION, 6 p.m., Irrigon City Hall, 500 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Stanfield City Hall council chambers, 160 S. Main St., Stanfield. (541-449-3831)

PILOT ROCK CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-2811)

DEATH NOTICES

Barbara Struthers

Heppner

Sept. 11, 1921 - March 2, 2018

Barbara Struthers, 97, of Heppner died Friday, March 2, 2018 at a Pendleton care facility. She was born September 11, 1921. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

CEARNS, PAMELA — Celebration of life from noon to 3 p.m. at the Stanfield Moose Lodge, 615 W. Coe Ave.

COURSON, RICHARD — Graveside service at 11 a.m. at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton.

FLATT, BILL — Celebration of life at 1 p.m. at the Condon High School gymnasium, 210 W. Bayard St. A potluck reception will follow at Condon Grade School, 220 S. East St. Wear red, white and blue.

GUTIERREZ, JOSE — Recitation of the Rosary at 11 a.m., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Burial to follow at Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield.

SAMS, MARVIN — Memorial service at 11 a.m. at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home Chapel, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.

SILVA, RUTH — Celebration of life at noon at the VFW Building, 1221 S.E. Court Place, Pendleton.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

MCSADDEN, PAMELA — Memorial service at 2 p.m. at the Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

MEETINGS

UMATILLA CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Umatilla City Hall council chambers, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (Nanci 541-922-3226 ext. 105)

PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall council chambers, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-966-0201)

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle, Boardman. (541-481-9252)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Lutzer 541-676-5613)
HERMISTON AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 4 p.m., Herm-

iston Airport lounge, 1600 Airport Way, Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

MEACHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 6 p.m., Meacham Fire Department, Meacham. (541-786-2069)

BLUE MOUNTAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION, 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Hermiston campus, 980 S.E. Columbia Dr, Pendleton. 5 p.m. executive session, 6 p.m. regular meeting. (Shannon Franklin 541-278-5951)

CONDON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Condon City Hall, 128 S. Main St., Condon. (541-384-2711)

UMATILLA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Umatilla Fire Department, 305 Willamette St., Umatilla. (541-922-2770)