

Frances Ann Slocum Dion

Heppner

May 13, 1939 — December 3, 2020

Frances Dion, 81, of Heppner, Oregon, died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

She was born May 13, 1939, in Heppner, Oregon, the third child of Lawrence and Frieda Slocum. Frances graduated from Heppner High School in 1957, where she was involved in marching band, volleyball, student body and cheerleading. She was also a member of the Rainbow for Girls Club.

She moved to the Portland area in 1963, where she was a loving mother and raised her three children. She worked for Dow Chemical, retiring in 2005.

Frances returned to Heppner in 2007 where she enjoyed gardening, Wednesday lunches at the senior

center, daily walks with friends and visits with her sister Carolyn Cutsforth of Rhea Creek.

Frances is survived by her son Will Applegate; daughter Tena Applegate-Chavez; son-in-law Mo Chavez; granddaughters Steffani Chavez and Emily Chavez; best friends and loving companions Chloe, Bubba and Gracie; brother Peter Slocum; and sisters Carolyn Custsforth, Mary Neher and Nancy Nelsen.

The family would like to express our gratitude to Karen of Temple Veterinary in her help in rehoming our mother's loving pets.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Valerie L. (Runion) Hurford

Umatilla

June 2, 1962 — January 3, 2021

Valerie L. (Runion) Hurford was born on June 2, 1962, in Tumwater, Washington, to parents Yvonne and Willard Runion. She died on January 3, 2021, at her home in Umatilla, Oregon, at the age of 58 years.

She is survived by her brother Clyde; her children Cody Runion, KaSandra Hurford and Courtnie Hurford; her grandkids Xavier (10), Isabella (3), Benjamin (7 months) and Leonardo (7 months); and several cousins and nieces.

She enjoyed gardening, being in the sun, relaxing with family and making unforgettable memories with her children. She enjoyed shopping, getting excited and stopping at every yard sale regardless if it was a bad one or not. She loved the

outdoors and, most of all, she loved spending time with her grandchildren the most. Those babies were her pride and joy. She enjoyed helping/taking

care of people when she could, even if it meant putting others first before herself. She had a good heart and meant well always. She will be missed by many, forever and always.

A graveside service following state guidelines will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please share memories of Valerie with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



Hurford

DEATH NOTICES

John Francis 'Jack' Bowen

Pendleton

May 16, 1932 — Jan. 10, 2021

John Francis "Jack" Bowen, 88, of Pendleton, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at his home. He was born May 16, 1932, in Ellensburg, Washington. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneerchapel.com.

Julian Briseno

Hermiston

March 24, 1959 — Jan. 9, 2021

Julian Briseno, 61, of Hermiston, died Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born March 24, 1959, in Dallas, Texas. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Mary Kilkenny Emert

Nampa, Idaho

Jan. 7, 2021

Former Heppner and Ione resident Mary Kilkenny Emert, 79, of Nampa, Idaho, died Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, at her home. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

Deciderio Olmos Hernandez

Milton-Freewater

Jan. 26, 1948 — Jan. 8, 2021

Deciderio Olmos Hernandez, 72, of Milton-Freewater, died Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at his home. He was born Jan. 26, 1948. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of arrangements.

Larry A. Mills

Heppner

Jan. 30, 1936 — Jan. 8, 2021

Larry A. Mills, 84, of Heppner, died Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at a Portland Hospital. He was born Jan. 30, 1936. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

Edward 'Ed' Shinner Jr.

Milton-Freewater

May 5, 1963 — Jan. 8, 2021

Edward "Ed" Shinner Jr., 57, of Milton-Freewater, died Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, in Milton-Freewater. He was born May 5, 1963. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in charge of arrangements.

Jovita Solis

Hermiston

Dec. 27, 1964 — Dec. 28, 2020

Jovita Solis, 56, of Hermiston, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020, in Jalisco, Mexico. She was born Dec. 27, 1964, in Texas. A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 9, at 3 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston. Burial followed at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Linda Winn-Olson

Hermiston

March 31, 1948 — Jan. 8, 2021

Linda Winn-Olson, 72, of Hermiston, died Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, in Portland. She was born March 31, 1948, in Pendleton. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

Sherry Hamlin

West Richland, Washington
July 7, 1941 — January 9, 2021



Hamlin

Sherry Hamlin passed from this earth at 79 years old. She was born in Omak, Washington, and lived for many years in Hermiston, Oregon, and in her final years very near her youngest daughter in West Richland, Washington.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lesley Leland Yetter and Ellen Louise Hutchins Yetter, brother Jerry Day, and her beloved husband Doc Hamlin.

She is survived by her brothers Jack and Larry Day and sister Pat Brandenburg; her children, sons Ken Linck and wife Tobie and Robin Linck and wife Donna, and daughters Marlee Goodnight and Jennifer Hamlin Backer and wife Amy Backer. Sherry was blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Christopher and Amanda, Danielle, Linck and Hannah, Jolie and Jake, and Rachel, Kody and Jimmy.

Sherry grew up and graduated in beautiful Lake Chelan, Washington. She also graduated from Highline College. She had a varied career while raising her four children, working for the

Boeing Corporation in her youth and finally retiring from Good Shepherd Hospital after 21 years. She was an amazing host and excelled at

both cooking and entertaining, and was a true artist with her sewing, always creating many special experiences for those who participated in her life.

A private family service will be held graveside at Pleasant View Cemetery in Stanfield, Oregon. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, and since Sherry loved to nurture people, those who wish to make donations in her name can make them to Agape House, 500 Harper Road, or to Martha's House, 305 S.E. Fourth St., both in Hermiston, OR 97838. Both organizations are affiliated with Eastern Oregon Mission and provide food and temporary housing services to people in need.

A memorial celebration will be held at a later date due to the ongoing COVID situation.

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

Gaylord Hugh Salter

Athena

April 9, 1930 — January 7, 2021



Salter

Gaylord Hugh Salter, 90, of Athena, Oregon, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on January 7, 2021.

Gaylord was born on April 9, 1930, in Baker, Oregon, to Hugh and Ida Laverdure Salter, the second of four children. He spent his early years in Lewistown, Montana, moving to Ione, Oregon, as an eighth-grader. Gaylord attended Ione High School where he participated in football, basketball, baseball and other school activities, graduating in 1948. Gaylord spent the next two years working alongside his father at the Morrow County Grain Growers elevator in Ione.

Gaylord enlisted in the US Army on May 9, 1950, and was stationed in Alaska during the Korean conflict. After his honorable discharge, he attended Eastern Oregon College in La Grande and studied education, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1956. He received his master's degree and principal accreditation from Eastern Oregon in 1967.

Gaylord began his teaching career in Umapine, Oregon, in 1956. After two years in Umapine he began teaching at Athena Grade School in Athena, Oregon. He taught seventh and eighth grades and coached football until 1967. In 1967 he was named principal of the grade school and continued in that role until his retirement in 1993. The *East Oregonian* presented Gaylord with the Golden Apple Award in recognition of the positive influence he had on his students. He was instrumental in planning the merger of the Athena and Weston school districts in 1974.

Gaylord married Viva Swearingen in Hood River, Oregon. They raised three children in Athena: Jodi, Jeff and Jon. They were married for 33 years until her death. In 1993, Gaylord married Joy Ward.

Gaylord's hobbies included hunting deer, elk and ducks along with fishing. He was extremely happy when he caught an 18- and a 19-pound steelhead in the same season. He loved returning to Ione to hunt deer and play pinochle with his family. He passed on

his love of hunting and fishing to his sons and grandsons. He loved working in his yard and tinkering. He was a Little League coach for the Cubs in the Triangle Little League. Gaylord was an avid sports fan and followed the Weston-McEwen TigerScots, Oregon Ducks, pro football, pro baseball and, in his younger years, boxing. He didn't miss any activities his children and grandsons participated in.

He will be remembered for his love of family, kindness, sense of humor and helping others.

Gaylord is survived by his wife, Joy; his daughter Jodi Venneri (Doug) of Walla Walla; son Jeff of Tacoma; son Jon (Carla) of Athena; grandson Elliot Salter and fiancé Kati King of Moro, Oregon; grandson Jason Demianew (Renee) of Weston, Oregon; and great-grandsons Summit and Linton Demianew. He is also survived by his sister, Helen Salter of Pendleton, and nieces and nephews Janice Brooks (Les), Dick Snider (Nancy), Larry Snider, Rochelle Salter-Campbell (Tim), Chris Salter (Marjorie) and Gordon Rowan (Julie).

Gaylord was preceded in death by his wife Viva in 1990; sister Joyce Snider, brother Robert William Salter, infant sister Lela Salter, nephew Ken Snider and his parents Hugh and Ida Salter.

The family would like to thank Sara Sanchez for her wonderful care of Dad in his final two months. The family would also like to thank Chris, Carol, Shae, Jen and Aaron from Walla Walla Community Hospice for their care and guidance.

At his request, there will not be a service. There will be a family celebration of life when it is safe to gather.

Memorial contributions can be made to Walla Walla Community Hospice, Providence St. Mary Foundation, Weston-McEwen TigerScots Booster Club or a charity of donor's choice through Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

To leave a condolence online, visit www.munsellerhodes.com.

Orlando Gomez

Salt Lake City, Utah

January 4, 1963 — January 5, 2021



Gomez

Our beloved father, brother and grandfather Orlando Gomez passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at the age of 58 surrounded by his family in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Orlando was born on January 4, 1963, to Frank and Bertha in Pasco, Washington. After graduating from Hermiston High School in 1981, he went on to study business administration at Oregon State University.

After graduation, Orlando started a long career with the U.S. Forest Service. This career led him to multiple locations throughout Oregon and Utah. Orlando was full of life with so much intellect, selflessness, grit, a heart of pure gold, a caring for others, kindness, humility, and love for his family and friends. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world. He was beyond proud of his boys Nathan, Andrew and Brandon, and always did his best to support them.

Orlando was also a passionate pool player and could often be found playing pickup games and competing when he wasn't at home. Anytime he was at home he enjoyed sitting in his recliner and watching any outdoor show on Discovery or the

National Geographic Channel, as well as any car shows, such as "Fast N' Loud" or "Counting Cars." If he was not sitting in his recliner enjoying his shows he enjoyed working on at home projects or fixing up any vehicle he could get his hands on. Anyone who knew Orlando knew that he was the most loving father and friend anybody could ask for.

He is survived by his children Nathan and wife Nora, Andrew and Brandon; his siblings Gloria, Frank (Jr.), Johanna, Victor, Priscilla and Elizabeth (Lisa); and his granddaughter Hadley Drew Gomez. Orlando was predeceased by his parents, Francisco (Frank) and Bertha Gomez, and also his brother Rene.

A graveside funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the Hermiston Cemetery in Hermiston, Oregon.

The family requests that all flowers and notes are sent to 139E Utopia Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84115.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. To leave an online condolence for the family, please go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Michael William Smith

Milton-Freewater

February 1, 1948 — January 4, 2021

Michael William "Mike" Smith, 72, passed away January 4, 2021, in his home in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

Mike was born on February 1, 1948, in Walla Walla, Washington, to parents James Rodney Smith and Helen Allyn (Johns) Smith. He grew up in Athena, Oregon, attending school in both Athena and Pendleton, graduating in 1967 from McEwen High School and later taking classes at Blue Mountain Community College. He loved to run and participated in track in high school and at college.

Growing up in a loving farming community, much of his early years were spent surrounded by his eight cousins and siblings and as he grew older, working with them at the family ranch — Johns, Smith and Beamer, Inc. As a ranch hand, Mike drove tractor and was most proud of driving long-haul cattle trucks around the state, and even made himself a detailed balsa wood truck replica. He never knew a stranger and always enjoyed being around people. Mike married Marilyn Darrow in 1972, they divorced in 1982. Mike later worked at Watermill Foods/TreeTop in Milton-Freewater for 20 years, until retirement.

Mike married Carol Ellen Grover, the love of his life, on June 10, 1995, in Pendleton. Mike and Carol loved animals, raising a mule, "Zipper," and many cats and dogs. If there was a local fair, circus or parade, Mike and Carol attended, and never missed a chance to see the Harlem Globetrotters. A hobby of theirs was to drive around the

area and support their nieces and nephews in their sporting events. They loved taking trips to the Oregon Coast.

One of Mike's favorite activities was attending the Pendleton Round-Up. He particularly enjoyed and felt accepted by the Native American community. He spent many years in the Native American Village during Round-Up when he volunteered his time helping take care of the livestock.

Mike was a lifelong OSU Beaver fanatic, with over 16 of his relatives attending Oregon State University. He was recognizable for his Beaver hats with headlights and wearing multiple layers of clothing. He was proud to be a lifelong Umatilla County resident.

Mike is preceded in death by his parents James and Helen Smith of Athena, Oregon.

Mike is survived by his wife, Carol Smith of Milton-Freewater; brother Terry Smith (Penny) of Warrenton, Oregon; sister Karen Smith Albert (Tim) of Athena; and numerous nephews, nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews who were special to him.

A private burial will be held at the Athena Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date due to COVID restrictions.

Donations are welcome to Mike's mother's scholarship, the Helen Johns Smith Memorial Scholarship at the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, P.O. Box 603, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

To leave an online condolence, visit www.munsellerhodes.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 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.

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