

OBITUARY

Delmer O. Crawford

April 29, 1924 — Oct. 4, 2021

Hermiston

Delmer O. Crawford of Hermiston, was born April 29, 1924, outside of Ione, on the Oregon Trail to parents, Wate and Mabel (Phillips) Crawford. He died Oct. 4, 2021, in Hermiston at the age of 97 years. Delmer was raised and attended school in Ione before joining the United States Navy. He served during World War II until his honorable discharge and returned home and married Francine Ely April 22, 1949.

They owned the Shell Oil Bulk Plant in Hermiston and Pendleton along with several Shell service stations, following their retirement from the oil business, Delmer worked security at various agriculture plants in the area for several years. He enjoyed traveling, farming and time spent with his family. Delmer was an active member of the Elks Lodge #1845, holding several offices, the Eagles Lodge and the Ione American Legion Post.

He is survived by his daughters, Marlene Bush, Hermiston, and Anita Kongsli, Kennewick; nine grandchildren, Jonathan Bush, Kennewick, Justin (Susan) Bush, Elko, Nevada, Jocelle (Bert) Quinn and Jenee Bush, Hermiston, Jacki (Darral) Moore and Loni Kongsli,

Kennewick, Jeffrey (Jean-Pierre) Correa, Brooklyn, New York, Jerid (Tonisha) Falconer, Vancouver, Washington, and Jana (Mike) Topf, Pasco; 17 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Delmer was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Francine Crawford; a daughter, Cyndee Falconer; his parents; and seven siblings, Vernon, Sam, Rollo, Margaret, Melba, Harlan and Ruth.

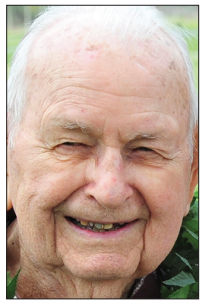
We would like to give thanks to the Good Shepherd Medical Center staff for the kindness and compassion shown not only to Delmer but to our family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Vange John Memorial Hospice Education Fund c/o Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston. A private burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston.

Please share memories of Delmer with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.



Crawford



Sending a message of gratitude, support



MARC MULLINS

MARC'S REMARKS

I recently read an article on the front page of the East Oregonian ("A place to lay sadness," Saturday, Oct. 9) about the importance of hospital chaplains, and the benefit they provide for health care workers in a time such as we are in with so many COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths.

As an ordained pastor, I agree with the premise of that article. With COVID-19, we are in the throes of a very real and serious threat to the physical, emotional, relational and spiritual aspects of our existence. I applaud the attention and concern given to health care workers who toil long and arduous hours, day in and day out, to provide care for the most vulnerable.

Having said this, I also have grave concern for the patients who occupy the bed spaces in filled-to-capacity hospital rooms. In my role as pastor, I've been called on in recent weeks to visit patients in the last days of their

lives. In their final hours and following their deaths, I've been honored and privileged to be present with family members who want only the best for their dying loved one.

Fortunately, here in Pendleton, we have a crew of physicians and nurses who understand the importance of arranging it so that family members can be with their loved ones as death draws closer. I am so very grateful for such wisdom, care and compassion that is evident in our local teams of health care staff.

Such is not the case in other places, however.

Just two weeks ago my own mother-in-law died alone, lonely and distressed in a Tacoma-area hospital. Although her condition was not COVID-19-related, not once were any family members allowed to visit her in person during her six-day stay. For nearly a week she remained isolated from those who knew and loved her the most.

Imagine, then, the utter shock when my brother-in-law received a call from the hospital, announcing her death to him and granting him permission to enter the hospital to visit his deceased mother.

"What? You wouldn't let me see my mother when she was alive, because of COVID fear, but now that she's dead it's somehow OK for me to come in and see her?"

Understandably, all of us in the family were more than a little angry over this apparent double standard of a policy.

Ours is not the only family who has faced such a tragedy. Countless others can share similar experiences. The reason I share mine is to bring recognition and appreciation to those health care workers in our own town. Whenever I've entered our local hospital as a pastor, I've been welcomed by the staff as a part of an important health care team. (Spiritual, emotional and relational well-being are important components of physical health.)

Plus, I've witnessed allowances for at least one family member per day to be with their non-COVID-19 hospitalized loved ones. I invite you to join me in sending messages of gratitude and support to the doctors, nurses and other health care workers who serve tirelessly in our community each and every day.

Marc Mullins is co-pastor of the First Christian Church of Pendleton.

Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church plans grand opening

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church is back.

Having completed construction on a new church building at 855 W. Highland Ave. following an electrical fire that destroyed the old building three years ago, church leaders are welcoming people to a grand opening and dedication. The celebration is Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17.

Sid Rittenbach, chair of the building committee and a church member, recently recounted his feelings about the fire.

"It was a discouraging time," he said.

The old building was "gutted," blackened and destroyed. Much of the building was reduced to rubble, he said.

Other people felt the same

way, Rittenbach said. The fire, though, was not enough to break their spirit. They kept meeting for services, moving their usual around 100-person services to the gymnasium of their school.

The congregation formed a committee in response to their building's destruction. They discussed, and they started plans for a new building. The new building, which would end up costing around \$5 million, according to Rittenbach, would be larger and would include addition features.

The new building, just less than 24,000 square feet, is an upgrade from the old building's 14,000 square feet. It also has LED lighting that is programmable, as are the heating and security cameras.

"I'm sure that those who built the old building do miss it, but we are blessed

to have this one," he said.

Dean and Karen Lifshay have been with the church more than five years, Dean as the pastor and Karen as the communications secretary.

Karen said the old building was nice and in the style of other Seventh-day Adventist churches. This gave it a "familiar" feel, she said, but there were drawbacks, too. It did not have a fellowship hall, and it gave little space to the Spanish-speaking congregation, which meets separately from the English-language services. There is a chapel inside the new building, whereas a classroom held Spanish-language services previously.

"We planned for growth," Karen said.

The chapel can accommodate 120 worshipers, though there are only 40 Spanish-speakers in the

chapel group presently. The main room of the old church had capacity for 400, though this number is misleading, she said. If there were 400 people in the service hall, they would have been tightly packed together. The new sanctuary has space for 350 people in much more comfortable seating, she said. There also are rooms, where people also can watch the service.

"In theory, it's around 1,000 people," Karen said of the potential total occupancy of the church for a worship service.

Karen said she likes this "wider format" and improved technology. The new building is missing an organ, which was present in the old building, but the other upgrades are more than worth that loss, she said. Besides, the organ was not often used.

LOTTERY

Monday, Oct. 11, 2021

Megabucks

2-8-15-23-31-36

Estimated jackpot: \$4.3 M

Lucky Lines

1-6-9-16-17-24-28-31

Estimated jackpot: \$25,000

Win for Life

14-16-60-65

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-2-4-0

4 p.m.: 0-8-6-2

7 p.m.: 7-0-6-6

10 p.m.: 0-1-6-5



Thank You!

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month we wanted to first say thank you to our membership and to our community partners. We are shaped by the people we serve. As a member-owned utility, we are driven to be more than a business, *we are your energy partner.*

Join Us In Celebrating YOU Our Members
During October Cooperative Month!

- **\$100 Bill Credit Giveaways Each Thursday in October:** complete the form on our website or mail in your entry, available on Page 8 of the October Ruralite!
- **Watch Your Mailbox:** UEC is sending every residential member a FREE energy efficiency kit - *direct to your door!*

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