

**Robert 'Bob' Tolar**

Dec. 6, 1940 — Oct. 11, 2021

Formerly Echo

Robert "Bob" Tolar was born in Echo, Dec. 6, 1940, the youngest child of Ray and Bennie Lee Middleton Tolar. He died in Portland Oct. 11, 2021.

Bob's mother came to Echo from Texas and his father from North Carolina in 1923. Bob attended Echo schools, graduating from Echo High School in 1958 and from Eastern Oregon College in 1962, majoring in education, English and history. He was a lifelong learner in all three areas. He also continued his lifelong pattern of making friends he kept for life.

He taught English in Milton-Freewater and Athena until 1966, when he was asked to teach English as a Second Language at Portland State College. Determined to show his international students the "real America," each year he'd charter a bus to transport his foreign students to Echo, where for one week-end each of them became a guest in the homes of Echo residents. For many, this was a highlight of their education.

In 1968, he received a Fulbright grant to train teachers and advise the minister of education in Mogadishu, Somalia — introducing Bob to his lifelong love of Africa. Returning to Portland, he was asked by Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta, to design and implement a program for non-English speaking students and newly arrived immigrants.

He married Maria Anne Furniss in 1973. They returned to Eugene in 1974 and Bob completed

his doctorate at the University of Oregon in higher education, then served as dean of students and later executive vice president of Western States Chiropractic College in Portland (where he obtained full academic certification for the college). In 1988, he became state education coordinator for WSU's Small Business Development Center and two years later developed an international program to institute small business assistance programs in emerging democracies with no history of private enterprise.

This resulted in major programs throughout Romania and later Krasnoyarsk, Russia. Learning of the extreme poverty of many elderly in Romania, he formed the Idea Foundation to raise money through folk concerts — another of Bob's passions — and 100% of proceeds went to the most needy. In the past 20 years, Bob continued to develop educational programs through his own organization, The Echo Group, including projects in Namibia and Cameroon. Remarkably, all of these projects are currently ongoing.

In 2003, Eastern Oregon University presented Bob with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Bob was preceded in death by sisters, Louise Gurtler and Mary Ruth Colburn; and brother, Mick Tolar; he is survived by his oldest brother, Joe Ray Tolar, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.



Tolar

**OBITUARIES**

**Esther R. Garcia**

Dec. 29, 1950 — Oct. 15, 2021

Hermiston

Esther R. Garcia, of Hermiston, was born Dec. 29, 1950, in Snyder, Texas, the daughter of Nolberto and Josefa (Ramirez) Ruiz. She passed away Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, at the age of 70.

As a child, Esther moved with her family to Pleasanton, California, where she grew up and attended school. She married Don Garcia in Livermore, California, Aug. 16, 1975. The couple lived in Burley, Idaho, for several years until moving to Hermiston in 1988. She has resided in Hermiston for the past 33 years.

Esther studied education at Blue Mountain Community College. She taught English as a second language in several Eastern Oregon schools. She taught at the Stanfield School District for 12 years until retiring in 2016.

Esther loved spending time with her grandchildren and her role as grandma. She had a creative side to her and enjoyed the arts, drawing, crafts, cooking

and experiencing culture. She also enjoyed music and singing.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Don; daughter, Liz Fisher; son, David Garcia; grandchildren, Nikolas Fisher, Jackson Wilson, Remy Wilson, Ashton Garcia and Crew Garcia; sisters, Gloria Mendoza and Becky Herrera; brother, Ray Ruiz; and many nieces and nephews and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Grace Dudley; two brothers, Robert Ruiz and Richard Ruiz.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, at West Park (below McNary Dam), near Umatilla. Face masks will be required.

Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

To leave an online condolence for the family, please go to [www.burnsmortuary-hermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuary-hermiston.com).



Garcia

**Peter Josiah Tibbets**

Oct. 22, 1991 — Oct. 16, 2021

Pendleton

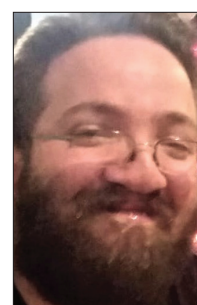
Peter Josiah Tibbets, of Pendleton, died at his home Oct. 16, 2021, in Pendleton. He was born in Portland, Oct. 22, 1991, the son of Albert Tibbets and Kara Hehn Tibbets.

He attended Pendleton High School. He became assistant manager at Dollar Tree and held that position until he became employed at Keystone RV, where he was a supervisor. He enjoyed video games and

time spent with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Avery; his father, Albert; his mother, Kara; and his brothers, Kris, Jim and Paul.

A funeral service will be held Nov. 6, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Free Methodist Church, 1711 S.W. 44th St., Pendleton. Memorial donations can be made to Pioneer Humane Society/PAWS.



Tibbets

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**Saturday, Oct. 23**

**Durand, Bill** — Celebration of life at 11 a.m., Youth For Christ building, 1001 Second St., La Grande.

**Garcia, Esther** — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., West Park (below McNary Dam), near Umatilla. Face masks required.

**Linfoot, Ruth** — Celebration of life at 10 a.m., First Assembly of God Church, 1911 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

**Ruiz, Bass** — Celebration of life at 10 a.m., First Christian Church, 215 N. Main St., Pendleton.

**Sunday, Oct. 24**

**McBee, Gerald** — Celebration of life from 2-4 p.m., Maxwell Siding Pavilion, 255 N. First St., Hermiston.

**LOTTERY**

**Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021 Megabucks**  
8-10-21-22-31-36  
Jackpot: \$4.7 million  
**Lucky Lines**  
4-7-11-14-18-22-26-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$16,000  
**Powerball**  
7-29-36-41-43  
Powerball: 5  
Power Play: 2  
Jackpot: \$86 million  
**Win for Life**

36-40-42-67  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 1-4-4-3  
4 p.m.: 0-8-2-8  
7 p.m.: 1-5-8-9

10 p.m.: 2-5-3-6  
**Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021 Lucky Lines**  
3-8-9-14-20-22-28-32  
Jackpot: \$17,000

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 6-0-6-9  
4 p.m.: 5-7-1-4  
7 p.m.: 9-7-5-5  
10 p.m.: 9-6-4-5

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Chantel A. Robinson**

Dec. 8, 1986 — Oct. 19, 2021

Irrigon

Chantel A. Robinson, 34, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, at home. She was born Dec. 8, 1986, in Hermiston. A private family celebration will be held. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Please share memories of Chantel with her family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

**Marshall R. Lilly**

April 27, 1943 — Oct. 19, 2021

Stanfield

Marshall R. Lilly, 78, of Stanfield, died Oct. 19, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born April 27, 1943, in Wyco, West Virginia. A graveside service will be held Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, at 1 p.m. at the Echo Cemetery. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Please share memories of Marshall with his family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

**OBITUARY POLICY**

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries; death notices and information about services are published at no charge. Obituaries can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries can be submitted via the funeral home, by email to [obits@eastoregonian.com](mailto:obits@eastoregonian.com) or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818.

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