

## PUBLIC SAFETY

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

6:46 a.m. — Umatilla police responded to a report of theft at the Country Club Manor Apartments on Umatilla Avenue.

8:06 a.m. — A caller at Umatilla Chamber of Commerce, 100 Cline Ave., Umatilla, stated there is a suspicious vehicle that has been in the parking lot for three days.

9:02 a.m. — A caller at Kiwanis Park, 129 Walla Walla St., Umatilla, reported they were concerned with writing on the walls of the bathroom at the park. Umatilla police responded and were unable to locate the writing on the wall.

12:04 p.m. — Pendleton police responded to a 911 call reporting an assault on the 700 block of Southwest Runnion Avenue. Police issued a citation.

1:31 p.m. — A caller at Powerline Road and Stephens Avenue, Umatilla, reported he caught two dogs that were at large.

1:58 p.m. — A 911 caller at Highway 730 and Scaplehorn Road, Umatilla, reported there were several chunks of metal in the right lane causing a traffic hazard. Umatilla police cleared the road.

2:41 p.m. — A caller at Tri-Harbor Landing Apartments, 210 Klickitat St., Umatilla, requested to speak with an officer regarding being defrauded of almost \$1,000. Umatilla police took a report.

3:01 p.m. — Hermiston police initiated activity at North First Street and West Elm Avenue, for a vehicle on fire.

5:12 p.m. — Hermiston police responded to a disturbance on the 600 block of West Oak Avenue.

9:16 p.m. — Pendleton police responded to a 911 call reporting an assault on the 800 block of Southeast Second Street. Police took a report.

10:58 p.m. — Stanfield police responded to a 911 call about a possible burglary on the 100 block of North Sherman Street.

11:51 p.m. — Umatilla County sheriff's deputies responded to Spofford and Birch Creek roads, Milton-Freewater, after a 911 call reporting harassment.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 31

6:49 a.m. — A property owner reported a gate was broken off his cattle guard in the area of Willow Creek and Blake Ranch roads, Heppner. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

9:17 a.m. — Umatilla County sheriff's deputies responded to a fight at Locust Trailer Court, 1501 N. Elizabeth St., Milton-Freewater.

9:55 a.m. — A 911 caller on Union Street, Hermiston, reported there is a male in the road accosting her customers.

Law enforcement responded.

11:09 a.m. — A 911 caller on Coppinger Lane, Echo, reported a burglary. Stanfield police responded and took a report.

11:19 a.m. — A 911 caller in Weston, reported the theft of her white 2005 Chevy Equinox SUV while she was unloading it. The Milton-Freewater Police Department is reviewing video for suspect information.

12:01 p.m. — A caller on South First Street, Hermiston, stated he wanted to know what can be done about high school students parking in their parking lot. He said for about a month now high school students will park in their lot, his staff has asked them not to park there, as parents will not be able to park to drop off and pick up their children. The caller asked if Hermiston police could check out the area when school is over.

12:04 p.m. — Pendleton police initiated activity at Sunridge Middle School, 700 S.W. Runnion Ave., for an assault and issued a citation.

3:23 p.m. — The manager at Econo Lodge, 1481 Sixth St., Umatilla, requested police to tell several men in the back to move along or be trespassed. Umatilla police responded.

3:30 p.m. — A Umatilla police officer initiated activity at Kennedy Street and Powerline Road for a vehicle stuck on a fence.

5:13 p.m. — A caller at Pendleton Early Learning Center, 455 S.W. 13th St., Pendleton, reported a male in a gold,

four-door Nissan, took cans from a donation drop location and left from the school area.

6:37 p.m. — A 911 caller on North Townsend Road, Hermiston, reported she could hear a woman in a domestic violence situation with her ex-boyfriend. The caller stated the ex-boyfriend drives a dark grey Chevrolet pickup. Umatilla County sheriff's deputies responded.

9:02 p.m. — A 911 caller on Fifth Street, Umatilla, reported a prowler. Umatilla police responded.

9:16 p.m. — Pendleton police responded to a 911 call reporting an assault on Southeast Second Street. Police took a report.

## ARRESTS, CITATIONS

## March 30

- Milton-Freewater police arrested Anastasio Solis, 47, on six counts of violating restraining orders.

- Milton-Freewater police arrested Sarah Ann Miller, 30, for unauthorized entry into a vehicle and vehicle theft.

## March 31

- Hermiston police arrested Antonio Miguel Jose, 30, for fourth-degree assault, second-degree assault, harassment, strangulation and on a warrant for failure to appear.

- Milton-Freewater police arrested Tyler Jonathan Hays, 25, for reckless driving and felony fleeing.

- Pendleton police arrested Christopher Lee Gonsalves, 33, for felony driving while suspended.

## Bettye Hammon

December 25, 1950 - March 8, 2022

Bettye Lou Hammon was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She passed away March 8, 2022, at her home surrounded by loved ones.

Bettye was born to Arnold and Millie Schiller of Pendleton on Dec. 25, 1950. Bettye attended Pendleton High School and graduated in 1970. Bettye married her husband, Donald Hammon on Sept. 3, 1971. They have two children together, Dawn and Jeffery.

Bettye enjoyed spending time with her family, cross-stitching and made many blankets for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed many trips to the Oregon coast with her husband and family and was always in the grandstands cheering when her children and grandchildren would compete in events. Bettye loved spending time with her husband driving back roads and fishing.

Bettye is survived by her husband, Donald Hammon; daughter, Dawn Dunfee; son, Jeffery Hammon (Pendleton, Oregon); brothers, Gene White (Tacoma, Washington); and Charles Schiller (Pendleton, Oregon); three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family has planned to take a trip to the Oregon coast to celebrate Bettye's life in a place where she truly loved to be.



## Nancy Luanne Miller

October 16, 1959 - March 28, 2022

Nancy Luanne Miller passed away in Hermiston at the age of 62 on Monday, March 28, 2022, after a brief battle with cancer.

Nancy was an "Air Force brat," born on Oct. 16, 1959, in Goldsboro, North Carolina, to Robert and Mary Ann Miller, and was the second of three children. When her father retired from the Air Force in 1968, the family moved to a small farm located west of Hermiston. She attended Hermiston High School for two years (class of 1978) and subsequently earned her GED.

After high school, Nancy worked at Simplot in Hermiston and then moved to Spokane, where she bought and sold antiques and collectibles for many years while working at antique and thrift stores. Antiques, home furnishings and collectibles were Nancy's lifelong passions. She loved to shop and decorate and show off her latest acquisitions to friends and family.

In her mid-20s, Nancy was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and years later, with bipolar disorder. Despite her mental health challenges, Nancy lived independently and productively, continuing to live and work on her own in Spokane until she moved back to the farm in 2001 to care for her mother, who was fighting her own battle with cancer. Nancy provided invaluable support to the family over the years with her presence, particularly during her mother's illness.

Nancy did not marry or have children or have a wide circle of friends, but those of us who knew her loved her for her sweet disposition, generous spirit, sense of humor and (unflinching) honesty.

Nancy was preceded in death by her father, Robert, in 2001 and mother, Mary Ann, in 2015, and is survived by her older brother, Robert; younger brother, James; nephew, Caden; aunt, Lana Edmiston; uncle, Monte Schiller; and many cousins. She will be deeply missed by those who knew her, particularly her brothers, whom she doted upon all her life.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Nancy's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) or National Alliance for Mental Health (www.nami.org/Home).

Please share memories of Nancy with her family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



## DEATH NOTICES

## Gordon Earl Clayton

Pendleton  
Oct. 10, 1934 — Feb. 7, 2022

Gordon Earl Clayton, 87, of Pendleton, died Feb. 7, 2022, at CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. He was born Oct. 10, 1934, in North Bend. A celebration of life will be April 16, 2 p.m. at the Athena Christian Church, Fifth Street, Athena. Ashes will be laid to rest at Helix Cemetery at a later date.

## Donald Orville Leighton

Hermiston  
Oct. 8, 1935 — March 31, 2022

Donald Orville Leighton, 86, of Hermiston, died March 31, 2022, at his home. He was born Oct. 8, 1935, in Bend. No services will be planned. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Gresham. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

## Nancy Luanne Miller

Hermiston  
Oct. 16, 1959 — March 28, 2022

Nancy Luanne Miller, 62, of Hermiston, died March 28, 2022. She was born Oct. 16, 1959, in Goldsboro, North Carolina. A graveside service will be April 7, 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

## Judith L. Rew

Pendleton  
Sept. 8, 1936 — March 31, 2022

Judith L. Rew, 85, of Pendleton, died March 31, 2022, at her home. She was born Sept. 8, 1936. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneerchapel.com.

## Benjamin W. 'Ben' Smith

Hermiston  
Nov. 13, 1954 — March 26, 2022

Benjamin W. "Ben" Smith, 67, of Hermiston, died March 26, 2022, at his home. He was born Nov. 13, 1954, in Walla Walla. A family gathering will be held. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

## Zya Divine Scott-Thompson

Pendleton  
Feb. 19, 2021 — March 28, 2022

Zya Divine Scott-Thompson, 1, of Pendleton, died March 28, 2022, at her home. She was born Feb. 19, 2021, in Portland. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to www.pioneerchapel.com.

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www.EastOregonian.com



## Gordon Earl Clayton

October 10, 1934 - February 7, 2022



This is the story of the life of Gordon E. Clayton, who was also known as "Coach Clayton" or "Mountain Man." Gordon was a wonderful man who was loved, who is dearly missed, and will always be cherished.

Gordon's story starts on Oct. 10, 1934, the oldest child to Melvin and Mabel Clayton. Gordon was born in North Bend, Oregon. When Gordon and his brother, Gary Clayton, were children their father Melvin Clayton was a logger and farmhand, which meant the family did a lot of moving around when they were younger.

During Gordon's second grade years (yes, I said years) three to be exact, he went to 36 different schools. On the last move, they ended up in Reedsport, Oregon, where a teacher worked with him and by the time, he was to enter sixth grade, he was completely caught up. We are uncertain if he spent the rest of his time in Reedsport but what we are sure of as the brothers got closer to high school, Gordon and his brother, Gary, told their parents that Reedsport is where they wanted to finish school.

Gordon met the love of his life, Barbara Ann Peterson, and they married three years after meeting her during his senior year at Reedsport. They were married in Reno, Nevada, on Aug. 15, 1955. After they were married, Gordon returned to Camp Pendleton as a Marine corporal and Barbara returned to Reedsport to finish her senior year of high school.

Gordon and Barbara Clayton were married over 67 wonderful years. Gordon and Barbara lived on Weston Mountain in an A-frame house and 5 acres. During their time on the mountain, they spent many hours riding their snowmobiles, cross country skiing and snowshoeing all over the mountain. They shared many loved and blessed years together.

Gordon loved sports in high school he played football, basketball, and track and field. He was on the small side his freshmen year, so the coach had him line up to be the tackling dummy for football. Gordon played different sports throughout high school, with track being the one he excelled in the most.

During his freshmen year at the University of Oregon, he ran track for Bill Bowerman, something he talked about all time. He also ran track for Southern Oregon now University of Southern Oregon. Gordon would tell us about what he excelled in while at Southern Oregon, running the 100-yard dash and long jumping. What he never talked about was he also threw the javelin and did it very well.

Gordon left college before he had a degree and did many jobs working up to management positions, however, he would leave when the job demanded he spent too much time away from his family. When Gordon was in his 30s, he decided he wanted to be a teacher and coach. Over the next couple of years, he worked for a mill full-time and went to school full-time.

When Gordon graduated from college, his first teaching job was for Days Creek, Oregon. Gordon was the varsity basketball, track, and cross country coach, and assisted with football. Gordon then moved



to a small town in Eastern Oregon called Monument, where he taught PE, health and history. Gordon was the head coach for cross country, basketball, and track while he was there. He also helped start an 8-man football team while at Monument.

After Monument, he moved to Helix, Oregon, and taught history, PE, health, and later became a counselor. He coached cross country and basketball for the first couple of years and then track. After leaving Helix, he coached cross country and track at Athena-Weston for several more years. He also taught at Pendleton Middle School working with at-risk students until he retired.

When his grandchildren started to play football for Athena-Weston he became an assistant football coach until his last grandchild was

done playing football. Gordon was loved and admired by his students and made a difference in many kids' lives.

Gordon was a man of faith and attended church no matter what town he was in. After retiring from teaching, he became very involved with the Athena Christian Church in Athena, Oregon, and became an elder for several years. Gordon and his wife, Barbara, would reach out to members who could not attend church, giving them communion and spiritual guidance in the word of God.

Gordon Earl Clayton, (Coach, Mountain Man) passed away Feb. 7, 2022, at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon. Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin James Clayton and Mable May Clayton; brother, Gary Clayton; brothers-in-law, Johnny Geraghty and Rod Brandon.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Diana Saily and husband Bill Saily of Myrtle Creek, Oregon; Michael Clayton and wife Shelley Clayton of McMinnville, Oregon; Elizabeth Smith and husband Jim Smith of Helix, Oregon; Jennifer Clayton Richardson and husband John Richardson of Enumclaw, Washington; grandchildren, Cassi Saily, 39, Stephany Saily, 35, Joshua Smith, 40, Jenny Van Wechel, Michael T-W Clayton, 37, Anthony Clayton, 33, Jakob M-D Clayton, 14; great-grandchildren, Jaxx Clayton, 13, Gage Clayton, 10, Blake Clayton, 8, Wyatt Van Wechel, 15, Ebony Van Wechel 13, Brodey Van Wechel 11, Landen Van Wechel, 9, Sawyer Van Wechel, 7, Mabel Smith 9, Ellie Smith, 6, and Judah Smith 3; nephews, Eric Clayton, Todd Clayton and Micky Clayton; niece, Melissa Easterbrook; brothers-in-law, Richard Geraghty and Allen Brandon.

Gordon's celebration of life will be held April 16, 2022, 2 p.m. at the Athena Christian Church. There will be a reception to follow in the basement of Athena Christian Church. The ashes will be laid to rest at Helix Cemetery on a later date.

In honor of Gordon's love for teaching, a memorial fund has been set up under the name "Gordon Clayton Memorial Scholarship Fund" at First Community Bank in Pendleton, Oregon. The donations will be set up as a scholarship fund towards a local student with a \$500 scholarship towards achieving a degree in education.

Three words that sum up Gordons's life are God, family, friends.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2

**Hermanns, Karen** — Memorial service, 11 a.m. at the Boardman Community Church, 300 Second St. N.W.

**Thompson, Bob** — Celebration of life, 3 p.m. in the Roy Raley Room at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave.

**Haugsted, Roscoe** — Celebration of life, 2 p.m. at the Pendleton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1401 S.W. Goodwin Place.

**Spike, Steve** — Funeral service, 1 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Burial will follow at Echo Cemetery.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 7

**Miller, Nancy** — Graveside service, 1 p.m. at Hermiston Cemetery.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8

**Payne, Rick** — Celebration of life, 3 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Burial with military honors will follow at Hermiston Cemetery.



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