

HERMISTON



East Oregonian, File

“Guardian” by Chris Huffman sits on display May 7, 2016, during a past art festival in Hermiston. The Hermiston Downtown District is hosting the 2022 Art Festival on May 14 in downtown Hermiston.

Downtown district hosts art event

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — People are encouraged to mark their calendars for the 2022 Art Festival.

Presented by the Hermiston Downtown District, the event is Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to booths on Festival Street, artists will be set up in a number of Main Street businesses. People are invited to take a stroll along the Art Walk to view and shop for a variety of artwork.

As space is available, professional artists still can register to show and sell their work. All media, two or

three dimensional is eligible, including paintings, sculpture, jewelry, woodcarving, airbrush, mixed media, drawings, photography, printmaking, metal sculpture and ceramics. Also, special space is reserved for student art.

There is a \$25 registration fee for artists. Forms may be delivered or mailed to Lucky Endz Gifts, 239 E. Main St., Hermiston.

Professional artists will be judged based on their body of work presented during the Art Festival. Cash prizes will be awarded, including a Gold Award (\$250), Silver Award (\$100) and Bronze Award (\$50). A People’s Choice Award of \$50 also will be presented. Student art

(kindergarten through 12th grade) will be judged separately and five awards of \$20 each, along with other prizes, will be awarded.

The event also features live entertainment on Festival Street, a storytime presented by The Next Chapter Bookstore, balloon art and a gift basket drawing. Also, adults and kids inspired by the event can participate in a painting class offered by Michelle Walchli — registration and payment is available onsite.

For more information, including a link to the artist registration form, search www.hermistonchamber.com/hermiston-live. For questions, email Mary Corp at mary.corp@oregonstate.edu.

Lorraine Brown

Jan. 24, 1929 - April 27, 2022

Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Lorraine Adele Brown, 93, passed away April 27, 2022, at Wheatland Village in Walla Walla, Washington.

Lorraine and her twin sister, Lavelle, were born prematurely to their parents, Leonard and Bertha Lorenzen, on Jan. 24, 1929, at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon. Each weighed around 2 pounds at birth and 12 days later, Lavelle passed away. Lorraine spent the first months of her life in the hospital, in a shoebox on top of the radiator. The nuns who cared for her considered her their miracle baby.

Lorraine’s family farmed wheat west of Pendleton in the Stage Gulch area. She and younger brother, Leonard, spent hours riding horseback through the wheatfields. Lorraine helped her mom with household chores and feeding many farmhands each summer. During the school year, the family lived in Pendleton. It was there her grandma, Adele Kupers, taught her how to make her famous fruit pies, and Lorraine’s children spent decades trying to convince her to start a pie-baking business.

After graduating from Pendleton High School in 1947, she attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, for two years, then returned home to work at First Interstate Bank.

Her life changed when her brother brought home friends from Oregon State College after Christmas in 1949. She met Earl Eugene Brown, the man she would later marry at Peace Lutheran Church in Pendleton on Nov. 4, 1950. When Earl passed away in 2019, at age 92, they had been married 68 years. He will forever be the love of her life.

After marriage, they moved to Hermiston, and in 1952 to Milton-Freewater, where Earl worked for the Oregon State Extension Service. Lorraine was a stay-at-home mom for their four children, Nancy, Ron, Leonard and Bob. It was more than a full-time job, especially when the normal household chores involved with a family of six were multiplied by farm chores, including helping the kids change sprinkler pipes and chauffeuring them to and from work at the family’s packing houses in the College Place, Wash., area.

The couple eventually founded Earl Brown and Sons, Inc., Growing and Packing in Milton-Freewater in 1977. They, along with their children, some of their children’s spouses, and many of their grandchildren worked alongside each other to grow the business into what it is today.

Over time, all nine grandchildren worked in the business, some as a career and others as a summer job.

When Lorraine’s grandchildren were growing up, she was always there for them and their parents. When kids were sick,

Grandma Lorraine always had open arms, an empty couch, lots of chicken and board games to play. She and Earl were also the fun grandparents, who put in an above-ground pool for them. On swim breaks, the grandkids could always pop into the garage, where she kept a freezer stocked with root beer popsicles and homemade cookies.

Lorraine and Earl loved taking the grandkids on motorhome trips around the Northwest, and the grandkids loved it even more!

Lorraine and Earl were so proud to be charter members of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Milton-Freewater, where she remained active in church functions until late in her life. Her faith in God and family were the most important things in her life.

She also cherished the many friends she made over the years at church, in her community, at Wheatland Village, and around the country as she and Earl traveled with family and friends. She considered the loving staff who cared for her at Wheatland among her friends.

Her family, immediate and extended, say she made each of them feel he or she was her favorite. She always had a big smile and a hug to share.

Lorraine is survived by her children: Nancy and Larry Kezele, Ron and Gretchen Brown, all of Milton-Freewater; Leonard and Leslie Brown of College Place; and Bob and Lana Brown of Walla Walla; grandchildren, Eric and Becca Brown of Tacoma, Wash., Dan and Sierra Kezele, Jared and Jamie Brown, Andrew and Stephanie Brown, all of Milton-Freewater; Jenny Kezele of College Place, Wash., Celeste and Chad Buchaklian, of Waterford, Wis., Marcus and Jo Jo Brown, of Chapel Hill, N.C., Stephanie Brown of Vancouver, Wash., and Christopher Brown of Tigard, Ore.; 13 great-grandchildren; sister-in-laws, Betty Brown, of Walla Walla, and Ila Lorenzen, of Pendleton; dear family friend, Virginia Hays, of Yakima, Wash.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Earl; sister, Lavelle Lorenzen; and brother, Leonard Lorenzen.

A private family graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 9, at the Milton-Freewater Cemetery, followed by a family luncheon. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Milton-Freewater, with a chocolate-chip cookie (her favorite) reception to follow. Visitation will be on Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 3-5:00 pm at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Lutheran Church or a charity of the donor’s choice.

To leave a online condolence visit www.munsellerhodes.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Faith community hosts prayer event

HERMISTON — An ecumenical effort to pray for local, state and national leaders as well as school board members, chamber of commerce board members and to lift up the many concerns facing our nation is planned in Hermiston.

Held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, people of all faiths are invited to join together for the event. The all-day gathering is Thursday, May 5, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Living Faith Church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. Everyone is welcome to drop in at any time and join the prayer.

For more information, including the schedule, visit winacity.com/dayofprayer. For questions, contact Amy Palmer, event coordinator, at amy.palmer500@gmail.com or 509-201-2481.

Lexington celebrates May Day

LEXINGTON — A full slate of activities is planned during the May Day Celebration in Lexington.

The event gets to a sizzling start Saturday, May 7, with a breakfast 8-10 a.m. at the Lexington Fire Hall. A fun run/walk starts at 9 a.m. and a May Day parade gets rolling at 11 a.m. Vendor booths will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rebekah Lodge. Also, a soup/rolls lunch is available for purchase.

Other activities include a cornhole tournament, bouncy houses, food trucks, a raffle, a silent auction and a car show. Some of the activities include a participation fee. For more information, search www.facebook.com/lexingtonoregon.

Republican women welcome Bridget Barton

PENDLETON — Republican gubernatorial candidate Bridget Barton is the guest speaker for the upcoming meeting of the Roundup Republican Women.

The no-host gathering is Thursday May 12, 5:30 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. A dinner is available for \$17. To RSVP, email rounduprw@gmail.com or text 541-310-8582.

—EO Media Group

Carroll William ‘Ole’ Olsen

August 29, 1926 - April 17, 2022

Carroll William “Ole” Olsen finished out his days on his 140-year-old family farm at Olex, Oregon, on April 17, 2022.

Carroll was born on Aug. 29, 1926, to Axel Neil Olsen and Elsie Grace Ries Olsen at Condon, Oregon. He lived all of his 95 years in Gilliam County except during the tail end of World War II and 13 years he lived in Spokane.

Carroll attended Olex grade school where his own mother, Elsie, her two brothers and sister had also attended, as well as Carroll’s two brothers, Manley, and Truman. It was during these years Carroll enjoyed following his granddad William Reis around at his grandparents’ farm in the old established city of Olex. His grandpa would butcher calves and take them to the grocery store in Arlington and he used to watch this complete process. His dad sold meat to the local farmers before the harvest and his mom and dad sold eggs to the store at Olex plus stores in Condon and later to the restaurant in Arlington. The cream that was separated from the milk was put on the train at Arlington where it would make its way to Portland and made into butter.

While it was his mother who named him Carroll William at birth, his granddad William called him “Billy” and his uncles called him “Doc.” Growing up between his parents’ home and his grandparents’ home, his fond memories were swimming during the summers with his brothers, uncles and aunt and the Bethold children in Rock Creek. In the winter they would wax their sleds, trying every steep hill they could find. It was in the living room of his grandparents’ four-roomed home where he enjoyed a favorite memory of listening to the radio. In his later years, his favorite activities were playing baseball, hunting and fishing. His favorite sports teams were the Dallas Cowboys and the Portland Trail Blazers. He was an avid fan of women’s sports too.

As a young boy, Carroll attended the one-room Methodist Church at Olex. There was no running water or electricity with an outhouse near the building. This building was later sold to Stanley Houden who later tore the church down for its lumber. Carroll’s dad worked for Ed Irby driving cat. He worked three to four years at the Condon Grain Growers at Mikkalo and later for Dick Steinke and Snell Weatherford. It was all of these jobs that Carroll watched his dad labor at that piqued his interest in farming.

Carroll’s mother was the Olex School Clerk for many years. He grew up learning how to raise sheep for their meat and wool. Later his folks raised cattle. No doubt growing up on the family farm was a fulfilling young life for Carroll as a child. As a youngster, Carroll missed a test day at Olex, so his mom took him into Arlington where he attended school and played both football and basketball.

Carroll’s very first job was shocking hay for Mr. Howden, earning 25 cents an hour. Following in his dad’s footsteps, his second job was at 13 and 1 driving combine during harvest for Herman and Dick Steinke. During the summer of his sophomore year, Carroll tended header for Earl Drake and helped in harvest for the Ryans at their wheat ranch at Gwendolyn. In the spring of 1942 and 1943, Carroll went to work for Newell Reed at Mikkalo and then worked at the Condon Grain Growers elevator at Mikkalo before it caught fire and burned to the ground.

Carroll’s parents, Axel and Elsie, purchased the old Ries home at Olex from Ivan Gilbert in 1942. Carroll signed into active duty on Sept. 29, 1944, to the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion where he served at the tail end of World War II in the Navy as a Seabee. He considered his service as the “mop-up crew.” Carroll was honorably discharged as Seaman First Class in June of 1946.

Carroll met and dated Shirley Lorenna Carr and proposed to his then girlfriend on Sept. 14, 1947, on her 20th birthday.

Carroll and Shirley were married on Sept. 19, 1948, at the Arlington Church of the Nazarene, in a “rainbow colored” wedding, officiated by Reverend Twist. The newly married couple celebrated their honeymoon night at the Columbia River Gorge Hotel in Hood River, Oregon, and their wedding trip consisted of a visit to Yellowstone Park and on down to Turlock, California, to visit Shirley’s sister, Helen, and her husband, Frank. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary again at the Columbia River Gorge Hotel.

Their first home together was in the bank apartments at old Arlington where Carroll was employed by Braden Bell as a truck driver and then later as a heavy equipment mechanic. The couple later purchased the old Wetherell house in the spring of 1950. Their oldest daughter, Dianna Lee, was born in 1951 while they lived in this home. The following year in April of 1952, Carroll became employed by Floyd and Martha Anderson. They moved out to the Anderson ranch where they greeted their last three children, Pamela in 1954, Richard in 1956 and Vickie in 1959. It was here where Carroll picked up the nickname of “Ole,” given to him by his employer, Floyd Anderson.

Carroll was a member of the Elks Lodge No. 1869 in Condon, Oregon.

After the death of his wife, Shirley, in 2002, Carroll moved to Spokane, Washington. At Spokane, in July of 2018, Carroll joined the Department of Washington Seabees that originally started in 2001 with only 14 members and has now grown to 113 members. Patrick Shaw is the Commander of Island 6, Seabees Veterans of America. Carroll and one other fellow still living, were the only two members from World War II in this group of survivors. Both he and his fellow WWII veteran used to get in the head of the line at all their gatherings because of their military status serving in WWII, and Carroll did not mind being teased about being in the front lines again. While living in Spokane, Carroll was a senior member of the local YWCA where he enjoyed exercising with other seniors.

In March of 2022, Carroll’s health began to decline, and he signed into Pioneer Memorial Health and Hospice for his home care planning that he would die on his family farm at Olex. His hospice nurse asked him how long he had lived in the area. His reply: “Since I was knee high to a grasshopper.”

Carroll was preceded in death by his grandparents, Nicholas William and Lillian Druicilla Ries. Carroll’s father, Axel Neil, died in 1975 and his mother, Elsie Grace, died in 1980. Carroll was the eldest of four children. His sister Lovella F. died at birth in 1928, and his two brothers preceded him in death, Manley Winton who died in 1997 and Truman Stanley who died in 2002, both in Washington State. His beloved wife, Shirley Lorena, died that same year as well, and his daughter, Pamela Helen Nelsen, died in 2011.

Carroll is survived by his daughter, Diana Lee Ramirez of San Antonio, Texas; his son, Richard Carroll Olsen of Olex, Oregon; and his youngest daughter, Vickie Lyn Olsen of Echo, Oregon. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Happy is the man whose quiver is full.

A celebration of life and burial of ashes for Ole will be May 7, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Arlington Masonic Cemetery, with a potluck to follow in the basement of the United Methodist Church at 150 Hemlock St. in Arlington, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations in Carroll’s memory be made to Pioneer Memorial Health and Hospice in Heppner, Oregon.

Please share memories of Ole with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.