

# On The Record

## OBITUARY

**GATES**—James Crockett Gates, dedicated father, grandfather and friend, passed away Dec. 17, 2020, from complications related to COVID-19, in Tigard, Ore.

He was born April 10, 1936, in Springfield, Ore., to Frank and Hazel Gates.

In 1963, he married Linda Roche and started a family, moving several times within western Oregon for work opportunities, ultimately settling in Florence in the summer of

1980.

He worked for his dear friend, Ray Wells, for several years at Viking Redi-mix before taking it over and running the business himself until the mid 1990s at which time he sold it.

He then started P&G Trucking and worked in the field of concrete pumping for several more years until he finally retired.

At that point, he helped his family open up the children's clothing store, Mother May I, in August of 2003.

James, or better known as "Jim" to his friends, had many loves. He loved golf, despite it not always loving him back. He loved his model Christmas Vil-

lage — which grew from a few pieces on the mantel to an enormous city which spanned the entire length and width of his workshop.

He loved sports, specifically the Dodgers and the Ducks. But most of all, the love he had for his family was nothing short of immense. No matter what, he was a husband and father first and foremost, no matter the circumstances.

Jim had the rare ability of making people feel special. He truly and genuinely cared about everyone he came into contact with. He would take the time to sit down and talk about anything and everything in a way that made you feel like you were the only one

he cared about in that moment.

This ability never wavered.

He may not have had much energy in his final months, but his intent and spirit allowed him to continue to make people feel special.

He is survived by Linda, his wife of 57 years; four children: son Cameron and daughters Shannon, Alicia and Quinn; and 11 grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on a date to be determined later due to the ongoing pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County.



James Gates

## Possible contaminants found in wastewater stream

Over the past couple of days, Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators have discovered possible contaminants in the wastewater stream. The biological process of wastewater treatment has changed and is not performing as expected. This has caused the possibility of not meeting our DEQ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and may result in higher levels of enterococcus bacteria being discharged into the Siuslaw River than as stated in our NPDES permit.

The wastewater treatment staff is working hard to restore the biological balance in order for the plant can quickly return to normal operations. Staff have contacted an outside laboratory to process special samples in our investigative process to help determine the chemical contaminate or level of toxicity of an unknown agent that is causing the

plant upset. Whatever the chemical or other contaminate is, it is not hampering the facility's ability to deactivate fecal coliforms, but it is creating a situation where it is interfering with the ability to accurately test for enterococcus bacteria.

Out of an abundance of caution, City staff have taken water quality samples in the affected area, upstream on the Siuslaw River and downstream on the Siuslaw River. Notices have been posted to advise the public of the potential hazards and to avoid contact with the water. The public is highly advised to thoroughly cook any shellfish harvested in the immediate vicinity of the Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant and to take universal precautions by washing hands with soap and clean water.

For more information, contact Florence Public Works at 541-997-4106.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**BRAYDON THORNTON**  
 JUNIOR BASKETBALL

**HIGHLIGHT:**  
 The Sports Club, the Siuslaw News and Coast Radio Sports congratulate junior Siuslaw basketball player **Braydon Thornton**. Braydon led all scorers in the Vikings three wins last week culminating in an 18 point game on Friday night in the 64-48 win against North Bend.

**Honorable Mention:** Brea Blankenship- Siuslaw Track and Field

Honorable mention goes to senior Track and Field stand out Brea Blankenship who finished first in the 800 meters and helped lift the Viking girls to a second place finish in the state.

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