

Seattle man takes over Hayward Ford

Davenport plans to invest in facilities, dealership, now named Capital Ford

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Selling cars wasn't Jeff Davenport's first career choice.

The new owner of Capital Ford in Dallas, formerly Joe Hayward Ford, aspired to be an opera singer growing up.

"I learned from a very young age to sing. I studied music. It was something that came to me," Davenport said. "Then I looked at the economics of it. To be very successful, you have to be in the top 0.2 percent in the world."

Those discouraging odds forced him to look elsewhere for gainful employment. A friend recommended the automotive industry, and there, Davenport found a second dream job.

"I tried it out and I excelled at it, enjoyed it," he said. "It's probably the one job that I've been able to get up and look forward to going to each day. There's never two days that are the same. That's what really makes it exciting."

Davenport spent the majority of his career in the Seattle area, working in all aspects of the industry, from sales to finance, since the



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Jeff Davenport runs the new Capital Ford in Dallas.

1980s.

When Joe Hayward, wanting to retire after more than 40 years, put his business on the market, Davenport and his wife, Dee, decided to make the move to Dallas. They took over the business on Aug. 28.

"This opportunity presented itself and we had to take advantage of it," Davenport said. "This is an outstanding group of people that's here. When we looked at the opportunity and talked to a few of the people involved in the process ... everybody knows these guys. There's an outstanding

foundation of employees here at the dealership already. Nothing but opportunity."

For now, the only difference in the business is the name. Davenport is keeping the team of employees Joe Hayward had on board.

"These people are assets to the community," he said.

Changes will be coming, though, mostly at the dealership's facilities and service department.

"We are going to make some substantial investments into the facilities," Davenport said. "We are looking to enhance the exte-

rior of the facilities and the showroom."

The service department's equipment will be upgraded to "state-of-the-art tools," he added.

"I'm hoping in the next 90 days, people will see some visible changes here and know that this isn't just a blip in the pan," Davenport said. "This is a real investment into Dallas, Ore., and the surrounding communities."

Once settled — Davenport and his wife are still in the process of moving — the couple plans to get to know their new home.

"What is most important is investing in the community here," he said. "We want to be a community partner and do what we can to support initiatives to move Dallas ahead."

He may even decide to sing again. In 2011, 30 years after leaving the possibility of a career in opera behind him, Davenport auditioned for and joined the Kirkland Choral Society.

"It's strictly a hobby thing. I might find something in the area once we get the organization moving in the right direction," Davenport said.

Workshop to help business

Connect 2 Oregon event aims to get local businesses in touch with agencies

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — When a government agency needs a service — catering or landscaping, for example — employees use a preferred provider list.

That list is lacking in businesses from Polk County.

Government employees must open a phone book or open bidding, said Chelsea Metcalfe, director of the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce.

"They'd rather work with a business who's already a preferred provider," she said.

Metcalfe and Jean Love, director of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, have teamed up to provide a free open house where businesses throughout the county may come and learn how to get on one of those lists.

The event, Connect 2 Oregon, is at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Independence Event Center, 555 S.

Main St., Independence.

"It's a great way for businesses, (chamber) members or not, to get connected beyond here, Polk County," Love said. "There's a system to get on the approved contract list. This event will explain how that process works."

The hope is that the event, which features wine tastings from area vineyards as well as light appetizers, will be both fun and expand the reach of local business owners, Love said.

"It's a new concept for people to think beyond a certain target audience," Love noted.

Metcalfe said more workshops on how to work with state and federal agencies could follow this one.

"I can't impress how not complicated it really is for our small businesses wanting to go through the process," she said.

For more information: micc-or.org or dallasuregon.org.

OBITUARIES

Lynn Chester Cook

Aug. 27, 1946 – Sept. 14, 2015
Lynn Chester Cook, 69, of Monmouth, died Sept. 14 in Salem.

He was born to Chester and Lola Cook in Kalispell, Mont.

Lynn served in the Army and Oregon Army National Guard for more than 34 years.

He married Verna Jean Rowton in Independence on Jan. 16, 1985.

Lynn enjoyed hiking, art work and reading.

Survivors include his wife, Verna Jean Cook, of Monmouth; children, Michelle Poole and Hope Guenther, both of Dallas, Jeremy Wright, of Falls City, Jason Wright and Cassandra

Rooke, both of Monmouth, and Jennifer Urwin, of Ephrata, Wash.; 23 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Celebration of life was Saturday at Cornerstone Church of God in Independence.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Ina Mae Penney

Sept. 20, 1926 – Sept. 13, 2015
Ina Mae Penney, 88, of Dallas, died Sept. 13 in Dallas.

She was born in Ree Heights, S.D., to Walter and Hulda Lowrie.

Ina grew up in Hubbard and graduated from Hubbard High School in 1944. She worked for her uncle, who started Lowrie's Market in Aurora.

She married George Penney on July 18, 1948, in Hubbard. They moved to Mon-

mouth and later settled on a small farm north of Dallas.

Ina was a seasonal worker for Schellenberg Prune Dryer. She also was a baby sitter caring for children. Ina and George raised five sons.

Ina was a member of the Dallas First Christian Church.

She also belonged to the Rickreall Grange and enjoyed the Thursday potluck dinners.

Ina was an avid sports fan and followed the Portland Trail Blazers, Seahawks, and Seattle Mariners.

She especially enjoyed following her nephew, Jed Lowrie, a professional baseball player who plays for the Houston Astros.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George, on June 24, 2010; son, Douglas Shane Penney on Aug. 18, 2015; and nine siblings.

Survivors include her children, David, Steve, Calvin and Ross Penney.

Service was Saturday at the Dallas First Christian Church, and interment was

at Restlawn Memory Gardens.

Contributions are suggested to Ross Penney for the Ina Penney Memorial Fund in care of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, which handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Lorraine Kelley Lorenz

July 25, 1921 – Sept. 18, 2015
Lorraine Kelley Lorenz, 94, of Waxhaw, N.C., formerly of Dallas, died Friday in Waxhaw.

She was born in Putnam County, Mo., to Emery Kelley and Faye Wilkins.

Lorraine and her family moved from Iowa to Dallas in 1959, where she resided with husband, John. She moved to Waxhaw in 2004.

Lorraine loved gardening, line dancing, and had won several ribbons for her flowers and baking at the Polk County Fair.

She was preceded in death by her brother and her husband, John.

Survivors include her son, Craig (Gabriele) Keeler, of Amity; daughter, Cheryl (Frank) Walling, of Waxhaw; four grandchildren; seven

great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside service is Thursday at 2 p.m. at Dallas Cemetery.

Gordon Funeral Service in Monroe, N.C., and Dallas Mortuary Tribute handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Connie Marion Zinzer

Aug. 21, 1931 – Sept. 14, 2015
Connie Marion Zinzer, 84, of Dallas, died Sept. 14 in Salem of an aortic arch aneurysm.

She was born in Buhl, Idaho, to Harold and Marion Hamby.

At the age of 13, the family moved to Milwaukie and later to Wheeler. Connie graduated from Wheeler High School in 1949, and married Jasper Wilmarth.

Connie worked as a waitress to help her husband through college. They lived in Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco; and had three children, Vincent, Rebecca, and Phillip. After divorcing

in 1958, Connie moved back to Wheeler and later married Art Zinzer. They owned a dairy farm in Nehalem and had a daughter, Linda.

In addition to being a farm wife, Connie was a certified nursing assistant and worked at the hospital in Wheeler. She was later a veterinary assistant in Nehalem.

She liked styling hair, giving perms, and ran a beauty parlor in Wheeler for a few years.

They sold the dairy farm and moved to Dallas in 1977. Connie completed her degree in cosmetology and worked briefly at Meier and Frank Beauty Salon in Salem. She helped train many cosmetologists at the Dallas Beauty School.

Connie separated from Art and shared a house with her daughter, Linda, for her remaining years.

She had been a support staff member for Partnerships in Community Living Inc., providing compassionate care to their clients until she retired. Connie loved to cook, vacuum, rearrange furniture, and kept a beautiful home inside and out. She loved taking care of her kids, grandkids, and great-grand-

kids and being involved in their lives. She liked animals and had many pets over the years.

Survivors include her sister, Jeannine Howard; children, Vincent Wilmarth, Rebecca Glaus, Phillip Wilmarth, and Linda Brown; stepdaughters, Kay Dean and Colleen Hager; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a large extended family.

Celebration of Connie's life is Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Dee Ann Michelle Sunde

July 14, 1969 – Sept. 10, 2015
Dee Ann Michelle Sunde, 46, of Monmouth, died Sept. 10 in Salem.

She was born in Portland to Tee Jay and Diane Mae Buser Sunde.

Dee Ann's favorite things were country music concerts, people watching, family meals, all holidays — especially Thanksgiving, and being with friends and family. Her favorite song was, "You Are My Sunshine."

Survivors include her mother and stepfather, Diane and Gary Witcher; father, Tee Jay Sunde; and best friend, Danelle.

Memorial service is Friday at 11 a.m. at the Partnerships in Community Living Inc., main office, 480 Main St. E., Monmouth.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Joseph R. Birdsong

Dec. 31, 1965 – Sept. 17, 2015
Joseph R. Birdsong, 49, of Dallas, died Thursday.

He was preceded in death by his son, Mathew Pearse, on July 15, 2015.

Loved by many, he is survived by his mother, Patsy Hutton; brother, Patrick R. Birdsong; children, Tyler Elias, Megan Dryden, Emelie Duh, Amanda Keys, and Brenden Birdsong; and six grandchildren.

Celebration of his life is Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Dallas City Park.

Crown Memorial in Salem handled arrangements.

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