

OBITUARIES

Alice Mae (McCann) Alexander

Hermiston

March 6, 1937-December 15, 2016

Alice Mae (McCann) Alexander, 79, of Hermiston died Dec. 15, 2016, in Hermiston.

Alice Mae McCann was born on March 6, 1937, in New Rockford, North Dakota, to Parley and Agnes McCann. Her father worked for the railroad and mother as a teacher and childcare provider. Alice was the middle child, with older brothers Jim and Gerald, a younger sister Martha, and a younger brother John. Their home was modest, but full of love, good food, a full bookcase and many discussions of ideas — and even a pet rabbit.

Alice attended a couple of terms of college before taking her first teaching job at 19. It was a challenging but enjoyable one, teaching grades 1-6 in a one-room schoolhouse in a township a few miles from home. She later returned to college, graduating from Mayville State College in June of 1960 with a bachelor of science degree in education, and a minor in library science. She also participated in drama and speech clubs.

Alice's next adventure was teaching in the "Iron Range" of Minnesota. She spoke wistfully of those years, living in an old brick apartment with adjoining rooms with some other young teachers who became her friends.

She later moved to Casper, Wyoming, where she met Dick Alexander through mutual friends. They married and moved to Cheyenne, where they had three daughters, Alexis, Angie and Allison. Dick then transferred to Villisca, Iowa, where they both worked for the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, with Dick as the administrator and Alice as a social worker. A few years later, Dick accepted a position as the administrator at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Hermiston, Oregon, where they made their final home.

Alice obtained her master's degree in education through Eastern Oregon University, and returned to her passion, teaching. She worked as a substitute teacher for several years before accepting the position as teacher for the alternative school with the ESD, where she met her good friend Terry Palmer, who she remained close with throughout the years. Alice later transferred to the alternative school in Umatilla before retiring in

2001. She felt well-suited to the unconventional structure of the alternative program, expressing that the smaller class sizes enabled her to make more of a difference in her students' lives. Alice was always delighted to run into her former students around town.

When her daughters were little she chaperoned various school field trips, and assisted with numerous school science projects and plays. Over the years she was active at the United Methodist Church and generously donated her time and resources to causes such as Agape House, Habitat for Humanity, Open Table, Hospice and the Humane Society.

She loved the great outdoors, folk music, tending to her garden, and valued quiet moments of contemplation. She appreciated the "dry desert air" of Eastern Oregon, and was drawn to architecture — old churches and castles in particular. She was also a storyteller. When her daughters were little, the Alexanders held annual Halloween parties that were well-known among all of the kids on the street, where Alice would tell the ghost story of "Lavender" while the kids gathered around. She also loved Christmas carols and was known for her delicious homemade bread she would make for communion and gifts. She always had a soft spot for animals, living with an assortment of cats and dogs throughout most of her life. She often joked that people sooner or later began to look like their pets, and vice-versa. She will be dearly missed by many.

Alice is survived by daughters Angie Shepard and Allison Alexander; brothers Jim and John McCann; grandchildren Reese, Stephen, Matthew and Maressa Shepard; several great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews Cindy Tag Nygord, Tim McCann, Dan McCann, Steve McCann, Mike McCann, Joan McCann Bechtold, Denise McCann Hays David McCann.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Dick Alexander, and daughter Alexis.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 11, at 11 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Hermiston.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.



Alexander

Earl Eugene 'Gene' Wells

Hermiston

September 16, 1922-February 15, 2017

Earl Eugene "Gene" Wells passed peacefully in his sleep on Feb. 15, 2017, at his home in Hermiston, Ore. He was born Sept. 16, 1922, to Orbie and Erma (Dupuis) Wells at Nolin, Ore.

He grew up in the Hermiston area, attending the Columbia School and Hermiston High School. He played football for Hermiston High. Al Buell, his lifelong best friend, introduced Gene to Fay Dodge. In June of 1942 Gene and Fay were married.

Gene was drafted into the Army in 1943. He served in the Pacific. He was injured during his service and spent 11 months in a military hospital. He was honorably discharged in the fall of 1945.

Gene and Fay had eight children together. He worked for the state highway department in Hermiston and then at Ukiah, Ore. In 1966 he moved his family back to Hermiston and bought Hermiston Taxi. It was a family business run from their home and all family members worked in the business in some manner. They sold the taxi business in 1979. Within a few years Gene and Fay divorced. He moved to Newport, Wash.

In 1985 he married Frances Turner. She brought three daughters to the marriage and Gene loved and treated them as his own. About 20 years later that marriage ended.

Gene moved back to Hermiston to be near family. He kept active with daily walks, woodworking and

lawn care. In August of 2016 Gene moved into Brookdale Assisted Living facility. He said he didn't know how he got so lucky to end up there because they "treated me like a king."

Gene is survived by his sons Chuck Wells of Emmett, Idaho, Tom Wells of Hermiston, and George Wells of Pendleton; daughters Judi Merry of Hermiston, Barbara Cole of Shasta Lake, California, Wendy Evans of Stanfield, and Suzi Bradshaw of Hermiston; stepdaughters Crystal Killian of Copper Center, Alaska, and Suzi Ahlers of Priest River, Idaho; brother Orbie E. Wells of Spirit Lake, Idaho; sister Naomi Futch, of Orlando, Florida; 25 grandchildren; 56 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Charles Wells; sisters Juanita Flora and Jo Eleanor Autry; infant son Robert Earl; Fay Wells; stepdaughter Linda Wells; Frances Wells; grandson Brian Best; and his lifelong best friend Al Buell.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838. Burial with military honors will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Please sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.



Wells

Earl Falconer

Milton-Freewater

June 23, 1931-February 18, 2017

Earl Falconer of Milton-Freewater passed away on February 18, 2017, at Providence St. Mary Medical in Walla Walla at the age of 85 years. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, March 3, at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Milton-Freewater with Pastor Roland Shanks officiating. Inurnment will follow at the Milton-Freewater Cemetery. The family suggest any donations be made to the charity of your choice that would help the homeless.

Earl was born in Corn- ing, Iowa, the son of Charles (Charlie) Falconer and Velma (Corbin) Falconer. His early childhood was spent on the farms of Iowa, particularly his grandfather's and namesake, he loved him so. The family moved to Oregon in 1941, moving first to Lostine and in 1943 to Boardman. Earl on his mandolin and sister Reba on her guitar would perform for the troops stationed at the Umatilla Army Depot as well as performing in the Lostine area. The family moved back to Walla- walla County in 1945 when Earl's father Charlie herded sheep with his cousin Fred Falconer.

Earl graduated from Enterprise High School in 1949, then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, serving in the 18th Fighter Wing. He married Arthene Rose in 1953 and added three children to the family, Melinda, Terria and Bernard.

For many years he was in business with his brother-in-law Elmer Storm, with the Richfield/Arco service station in Enterprise. Earl married Phyllis Kirkland in 1967 and we added Lori to our sibling family, later moving to Pendleton working for the state of Oregon.

In 1981 he met his match when he was married to

Marilyn (Zigman) Krein and with this union added Zane, Shelli, Kim, Lisa and CJ to the sibling family. All nine of his kids can agree, as said by daughter Lisa, "He was quick to give advice, sometimes you didn't want to hear it, but in the end he was usually right."

Earl started working as a guard at the Umatilla Army Depot in 1981 and remained there until his retirement. He and Marilyn opened an antique store in Hermiston as he loved refinishing old furniture. They spent many wonderful times traveling for their business and enjoying their life together, living in Hermiston for 23 years before moving to Milton-Freewater in 2004.

Earl took up painting on saws, particularly painting pictures of old barns, he enjoyed this as long as his health allowed. Earl belonged to the VFW, Eagles, Elks and attended the First Baptist Church in Milton-Freewater.

Earl is survived by his wife of 35 years, Marilyn Falconer of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; children Melinda (Falconer) Whittimore of Meridian, Idaho, Terria (Falconer) Wallace of Pacific City, Oregon, Bernard Falconer of Vancouver, Washington, Lori Ferris of Texas, Zane Krein of Van Nuys, California, Shelli Fullen of Walla Walla, Washington, Kim Perry of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, Lisa Partney of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, and CJ Krein of Las Vegas, Nevada; sister Norma Clough of Milton-Freewater, Oregon; sister-in-law Lou Mae Falconer of Milton-Freewater; 19 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Earl was predeceased by sister Reba Falconer Storm and brother Otto Falconer, and grandsons Adam McNeilly and Jeremy Fullen.



Falconer



Falconer

Arlene Claire Sorenson

Hermiston

April 1, 1934-February 20, 2017

Arlene Claire Sorenson passed away on Feb. 20, 2017.

Arlene was born to Eldon (Shorty) and Goldie Jaeger on April 1, 1934, in Kellogg, Idaho, one of five children. She grew up and attended schools in Kellogg, graduating from Kellogg High School in 1952. In 1954, she married the love of her life, William (Bill) Sorenson, and together they raised three children: Marc, Bonnie and Steve. Arlene's family was the center of her life. Their goal was to rear their children to become compassionate, educated and contributing citizens.

Arlene lived her first 50 years in Kellogg, where she developed a love for golf. Always competitive, she honed her golf skills, winning numerous tournaments and several club championships over the years. She also loved playing cards with friends and sharing a laugh with friends and family.

She and Bill moved to Hermiston in 1983 and spent the next 15 years working side-by-side at their namesake store, Arlene's Hallmark, before retiring in 1998. She and Bill greatly enjoyed their retirement years together, which included many memorable trips with family and friends.

Arlene is survived by her devoted husband of 62 years, Bill; son Marc

(Becky), daughter Bonnie Gracia (Dave) and son Steve (Maureen); sisters Jean Bellamy, Carol Poulson and Winnie DeJanevich; brother Jim Jaeger; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arlene was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Arlene's family wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Jones, nurses, volunteers and the entire staff of the Chaplaincy Hospice House in Kennewick, Wash., to the Brookdale Torbet memory care facility in Richland, Wash., and to Dr. Joseph Gifford of Hermiston for their exceptionally kind treatment and professionalism.

Arlene's memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, Hermiston, on March 18, 2017 at 11 a.m. Inurnment will be held later in Kellogg, Idaho.

In lieu of flowers those who wish may make contributions in Arlene's memory to Chaplaincy Hospice, Shriners Hospital, or Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church.

Please sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.



Sorenson

COURT REPORT

SENTENCES

The following sentences have been imposed in Umatilla County courts:

FELONY

•Diane Rochelle Berez, 44, Umatilla, pleaded guilty to Delivery of Methamphetamine: sentenced to 3 years probation, 180 sanction units, 90 maximum jail units, \$500 fine and 6 months driver's license suspension, plus court costs and fees; pleaded guilty to Falsifying Drug Test Results: sentenced to 30 days jail and \$100 fine, plus court costs and fees; pleaded guilty to Driving While Suspended/Revoked: sentenced to 10 days jail and \$1,000 fine, plus court costs and fees.

MISDEMEANOR

•Cody Duane Wise, 29, Culbertson, Mont., pleaded guilty to DUI: sentenced to 180 days jail-suspended, 364 days probation, 160 hours community service, \$2,255 fine and 1 year driver's license suspension, plus court costs and fees.

•Brandi Bartell Reiber, 41, Long Creek, pleaded guilty to two counts of Driving While Suspended/Revoked and one count each of Giving False Information for Issuance/Service of Citation/Warrant and Giving False Information to Police: sentenced to 180 days jail-suspended, 2 years probation, 50 hours community service, \$200 fine and \$1,300 fine-suspended for each count, plus court costs and fees.

•Erasmus Adame Meras Ortiz Jr., 28, Wapato, Wash., pleaded guilty to Unlawful Possession of Firearm: sentenced to 180 days jail-suspended, 2

years probation, 80 hours community service and \$100 fine, plus court costs and fees.

DIVORCES

Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:

Blanca Ortiz Martinez and Alfredo Perez Barreto; Deanna M. Messer and Ronald Lloyd Messer; Teri Lee Aldrich and Mark Alen Niederwerfer; Christine Diane Hewlett and Corey Thomas Hewlett; Zac Wiseman and Kelli Wiseman.

MARRIAGES

Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:

Ryan Anthony Forkey, 30, and Rachel Leann Braaten, 28, both of Umatilla.

SUITS FILED

The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts:

•Linda Mills (fka Linda R. Terry) vs. H. Richard Snow: seeks \$3,800 plus costs and fees.

•Credits Inc. vs. Adriana V. Artega-Hernand: seeks \$1,531.40 plus interest, costs and fees.

•Les's Pump and Electrical Inc. vs. Lynne Chamberlin and Chad Derstine: seeks \$36,686.52 plus interest, costs and fees.

See **COURTS, A6**

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

FEB. 16, 2017

CHOREY — Chelsey D. Colpitts and Daniel J. Longhorn of Hermiston: a boy, Jaxon Eugene Chorey.

FEB. 17, 2017

BRUNING — Jennifer L. Bruning and Steven A. Bruning of Pendleton: a boy, Tanner Robert Filmore Bruning.

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton

FEB. 16, 2017

NICHOLS — Heather M. Nichols and Alan R. Nichols of Hermiston: a girl, Elizabeth Ann Nichols.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

4:22 p.m. - A caller reported a man who is always asking for money from adult and high school customers at the AT&T Retail Store on South Highway 395, Hermiston.

5:54 p.m. - Some boys were harassing some girls at Victory Square Park, Southwest 10th Street, Hermiston.

9:02 p.m. - A woman reported that a juvenile male was sending suicidal Snapchats to her daughter.

Chance Tavern, Southwest 11th Street, Hermiston.

12:52 p.m. - A caller at McDonalds on North 1st Street, Hermiston, reported a juvenile who is the victim of assault.

1:01 p.m. - A caller reported a prowler climbing into a window at the back of a house on East Main Street,

See **SAFETY, A6**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

12:09 a.m. - Two males tried to break into the Dollar Tree on South Highway 395, Hermiston.

8:38 a.m. - A caller at Hacienda West Apartments, Southwest 13th Place, Hermiston, reported that a man assaulted his daughter when she returned home as a runaway Sunday.

10:08 a.m. - A woman on the Most Wanted List was reported to be seen playing video poker inside Last

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