



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JUDD NOLAND

Jason Blankenship, left, with his son Makiah, nephew Jordan, and brother-in-law Ben Cook.

Loss of coach shakes community

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

Of the many ways Jason Blankenship was woven into the Stanfield community, perhaps the most significant was his love for his home team.

Blankenship, 40, died on Tuesday, March 20 when his motorcycle was rolled over by a semi truck on the Stanfield-Echo overpass. He was on his way to watch his daughter's softball game.

Blankenship's longtime boss at Noland Doors, Ron Noland, said the community is still trying to process the loss.

"Everybody leaned on Jason," Noland said last week. "He was Mr. Everything to everybody."

Noland recalled Blankenship's mechanical ability, and his willingness to help anyone in the community. He recalled his love of hunting and motorcycles, and memories of Blankenship from when he was a child.

"He started kindergarten with my oldest son," Noland said. "We have pictures of him and my son jumping motorcycles over ditches, stuff you shouldn't even try to do."

Judd Noland, Ron's son, was Blankenship's best friend, and said from childhood on, the two spent much of their time together.

"The only thing we could really disagree on were the Seahawks," Judd said.

He said recalling the many happy times the two shared "takes the pain away."

"That's what he was good at doing," Judd said. "He always found a way to make good out of hard times."

But Ron Noland said Blankenship's greatest legacy would be his work with the young athletes of Stanfield.

"There wasn't any sport he wasn't right there in the middle of," he said.

Kent Barnes, a Hermiston teacher who taught and

coached Blankenship when he was a student in Stanfield, recalled his dedication as a parent and coach.

"He coached junior baseball and Little League, he coached my daughter in softball," Barnes said. "A lot of people put time into his athletics, and he was willing to give it back."

He said while many parents find it hard to make it to away games, Blankenship was rarely absent.

"We put a lot of miles on our Suburbans together," he said.

Curtis Blankenship recalled his brother's love for his children, and said he took a lot of pride in coaching and supporting them.

"He just gave them every opportunity, tried to give them the life any child should have," Curtis said.

Noland said his friend's life was not without challenges. When he hired him 15 years ago, he said Blankenship had recently gotten clean after some problems

with drug use.

"He was a great kid growing up, and he made a couple of mistakes. When he came back, he just hit it out of the park," Noland said. "That was big to me. After he'd wrecked and gotten back on track, he was such a positive influence to these kids."

Curtis said his brother found that opportunity as a coach, and always told the kids that if they were struggling in life, they could overcome their issues and be successful.

Curtis said his brother had a deep love of hunting and fishing, which he enjoyed sharing with his children. The two brothers, their father and a friend had also just started a company, Outback Customs, which builds custom motorcycles.

"We're absolutely going to keep it going," he said. "We're supposed to have a bike built by Pendleton Bike Week, and we're sure going to try."

POLICE LOG

Tuesday, March 27

12:13 a.m. — Four people were fighting, with no weapons, at North First Street, Hermiston.

4:58 p.m. — Police responded to a woman at Umpqua Bank who said a male in her car had forced her to take him to the bank to get money out. Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the incident was a woman with dementia, and the man in the car was her husband. She recognized him when she came out of the bank, but didn't recognize his voice.

8:27 p.m. — There was a fight at Newport Park on East Newport Avenue. There were three males in a car, and one male in an SUV. One of the males from the car broke out the window of the SUV with a bat, and the male in the SUV fired a gun at the car several times. The three males fled. Officers are still investigating the incident.

Wednesday, March 28

9:32 a.m. — A drunk driver was reported at East Newport Avenue, Hermiston.

4:36 p.m. — The driver of a blue Ford Explorer was drinking at West Ridgeway Avenue and Northwest Seventh Street, Hermiston.

Thursday, March 29

1:57 p.m. — A male customer came into a store on West Highland Avenue and tried to start a fight.

10:47 p.m. — Someone reported a drunk driver at North First Street and East Beebe Avenue.

Friday, March 30

12:34 p.m. — On East Francolin Avenue, a caller said his daughter was being harassed over the phone.

3:08 p.m. — Three 14-15 year-old males were reported tagging a house on West June Avenue.

9:03 p.m. — Someone was arrested for theft at the customer service counter of a store on North First Street.

Saturday, March 31

4:55 a.m. — A suicidal subject was reported at Southeast Fourth Street, Hermiston.

7:05 p.m. — On West Highland Avenue, a caller said their girlfriend's sister is intoxicated and trying to take the girlfriend's kids.

Sunday, April 1

2:50 p.m. — An intoxicated male was harrasing someone at West Joseph Avenue and Southwest 11th Street, Hermiston.

9:08 p.m. — Child abuse or neglect was reported at East Newport Avenue, Hermiston.

Monday, April 2

11:57 a.m. — A fight was reported at Northeast 10th Street, Hermiston.

2:11 p.m. — A woman reported that someone cut off her lock on her storage unit and put another one on.

WORSHIP COMMUNITY

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH

125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232
Pastor David Dever
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

The Full Gospel Home Church

235 SW 3rd
Phone 567-7678
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker
Sunday:
Sunday School.....10:00 am
Worship.....11:00 am
Evening Service.....7:00 pm
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Pet. 5:7

Grace Baptist Church

555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 PM
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

HermNaz

the best thing about Sundays
1520 W ORCHARD AVE
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Classes for Kids @ 9:15 am
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE, SERVING PEOPLE
www.hermistonnazarene.org

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church

565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday
.....English 7:00 am
Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am
.....Bilingual 11:00 am
.....Spanish 1:00 pm
Office.....567-5812

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor J.C. Barnett
Children's Church & Nursery Available
700 West Orchard Avenue
P.O. Box 933
Hermiston, Oregon
541-567-8441

First Christian Church

"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"
Sunday School 9:15am
Worship Gathering 10:30 am
Children's Church 10:30 am
567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

First United Methodist Church Hermiston

191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston OR
Sunday Worship 11am • 541-567-3002
Nursery available Check us out on Face Book
Worship Livestream at herfumc.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
English & Spanish Services
567-8241
855 W. Highland • Hermiston



To share your worship times call
541-278-2678

Umatilla County Year of Wellness

First Quarter: April - June 2018

YOW MISSION

The Year of Wellness strives to increase community engagement at health related events and programs throughout the county in an effort to educate and promote healthy lifestyle choices that can be easily adapted by all county residents.

WIN A PRIZE!

Attend any YOW event to enter into a raffle to be chosen at the end of the quarter. The more events you attend the more chances you have to win!

1st Draw - \$200 Echo Bike & Board Gift Certificate, Pendleton
2nd & 3rd Draw - \$50 Scott's Cycle & Sports Gift Certificate, Hermiston

MONTH'S THEMES

April Environmental Health
May Physical Health
June Nutrition

THIS QUARTER'S EVENTS

FREE Passport to Wellness Health Fair
April 14th • 9 AM - 2 PM
Pendleton Convention Center
.....
Community Clean-Up Day
May 3 • 12 PM - 3 PM
Pilot Rock
.....
Cinco de Mayo Celebration
May 5th & 6th
EOTEC, Hermiston
.....
May Madness 3v3 Tournament
May 19th • Saturday
Downtown Pendleton
.....
Landing Day
June 22nd & 23rd
Umatilla City
.....
Farmers Market
First Friday of the month, Pendleton
Last Wednesday of the month, Milton-Freewater

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www.sahpendleton.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Email: meghan.field@umatillacounty.net