

**OBITUARIES**

**Charles Alfred 'Chuck' Nelson**

Lexington

August 8, 1950 — April 17, 2019

Charles "Chuck" Alfred Nelson, farmer, husband and grandfather, was called home on April 17, 2019. He was born August 8, 1950, to the proud parents of Norman and Jean (McElhinny) Nelson. Knowing how to make an entrance, he was one of the first babies born in the newly built Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Hepner, Oregon.



Nelson

Being ever-present in the community, Chuck was an active member of the local 4-H chapter, Lexington Grange, and the United Church of Christ (Ione Community Church). He was an unforgettable friend within his small close-knit class of 12. After graduating from Ione High School in 1968, Chuck pursued higher education at Oregon State University. While in college he continued his passion for community involvement. Chuck was a member of the agricultural honorary Alpha Zeta and the sophomore honorary Thanes and Talons. He also played alto sax for the OSU Marching Band and the OSU Dixieland Pep Band. In the spring of 1972, Chuck graduated college with a B.A. in agronomical crop science and began his next adventure.

Following college he joined the U.S. Army, where he was trained in artillery computers. He was stationed at Headquarters, 5th Corps Artillery, Darmstadt, West Germany, where he met his future wife, Ann Lisa Maness. Chuck loved to say, "Where would a boy from Oregon meet a girl from North Carolina but in Germany." He would retell how they met hundreds of times over the years, always with a twinkle in his eye and a glowing smile.

Following his tour in the Army, Chuck returned to Morrow County to join the family farm with his father on property outside of Lexington and Ione. Chuck married the love of his life, Ann Lisa Maness, in the Ione United Church of Christ on June 19, 1976.

While running the farm, Chuck worked extensively with the Oregon Wheat Growers Association. He served on the board of directors for six years as well as the Morrow County Wheat League president. One of the proudest moments was winning the State Conservation Farmer of the Year award in 1992. He also continued to be an active

Oregon State University alumni. In 1983, Chuck helped found the OSU Agricultural Alumni Association. He also helped form the OSU Alumni Marching Band, which was a great joy for the whole family. Many fall afternoons were spent watching football games, and marching in the alumni band through the tailgate section near Reser Stadium.

Chuck had many hobbies, from traveling with his family, to collecting WWII artifacts, but one of his first loves was classic cars. He became interested in classic cars while stationed in Germany, where he bought his first project car, a 1976 TR6. He later rebuilt a 1964 Impala SS known affectionately as Tabasco Red, as well as a 1965 Mustang with his son Justin and a 1974 VW Beetle with his daughter Courtney. With a love for both community and cars, in 1997 Chuck started the Ione Blues Cruise to help support the newly created 4th of July Blues Festival.

Chuck enjoyed spending time with his wife Lisa on their many travels. He loved the Oregon coast as well as more far-flung adventures to Australia and Europe. He also enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. Chuck was always in attendance at music concerts, games, plays, graduations and birthday parties. Whether it was making Swedish pancakes on Christmas Eve, taking the grandkids to the pool or assisting with a project, he was always there with a smiling face and helping hand.

Charles is survived by his wife Lisa of Lexington, Ore.; son Justin (Andrea) of Lexington, Ore.; daughter Courtney (Andrew) of Albany, Ore.; grandchildren Lita and Charles of Lexington, Ore.; sister Kristin Nelson-Graham of Salem, Ore.; and his many friends and family around the world.

The memorial service is at the Ione Community Church on Saturday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. There will be a luncheon afterwards. Attendees are encouraged to bring their classic cars and stories to share.

The family has designated the Ione Community Church and Oregon State University Alumni Band for memorial contributions.

You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweenymortuary.com](http://www.sweenymortuary.com).

**Muriel Pearl (Cherry) Brainard**

Coos Bay

October 5, 1932 — April 12, 2019

Muriel Pearl (Cherry) Brainard was born in St. John, N.D., on Oct. 5, 1932, and passed away April 12, 2019, at the age of 86.

As a child, she moved to the Ordinance Depot and then to Hermiston. She graduated as Valedictorian from Hermiston High School in 1950 and from Good Samaritan School of Nursing in 1953.

After a semi-whirlwind courtship, she married Bill Brainard on Nov. 15, 1953, moved to Coos Bay and began a 44-year career in the nursing profession. She had lived in Coos Bay for the past 66 years.

Muriel worked as a nurse at a local clinic and two hospitals, and as health director for the Confederated Tribes. She was a lifetime member of Beta Sigma Phi and supported many local service organizations with her time

and money. Her favorite hobbies were traveling and reading. She and Bill visited many states and several foreign countries. Hawaii was her favorite.

She is survived by her children, Skip (Susan) of Coos Bay and Brenda (Joe) of Eugene, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and her brother Jim Cherry (Loretta) of Albany.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bill, parents Glenn and Pearl Cherry, and two siblings, Bill and Ruth.

At her request, no services are planned.

Education was her passion and, if you would like, a remembrance can be made in her name to the Bill Brainard Scholarship Fund, c/o Brenda Brainard, 2106 Elysium Ave., Eugene, OR 97401.



Brainard

**Bert W. Curtis**

Hermiston

November 14, 1942 — April 10, 2019

Bert W. Curtis of Hermiston was born November 14, 1942, in Eugene, Oregon, the son of Bert and Arlene (Jackson) Curtis.

He passed away in Hermiston on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at the age of 76.

Bert grew up in Brownsville, Oregon, and graduated from Central Linn High School in 1960. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a helicopter mechanic. After his honorable discharge, he returned to his position at the Oregon State Highway Department in Grants Pass.

In 1976, he moved to Hermiston, Oregon, where he has resided since. While living in Hermiston he worked as a building inspector for the state of Oregon and later the city of Hermiston. He was instrumental in the community as a member of Northeast Oregon Homebuilders Association with notable involvement on the Hermiston Library and Sunset House projects. He retired after 30+ years of public service in 1991. Bert continued working as a commercial truck driver hauling concrete materials and var-

ious agricultural products.

Bert was an avid hunter, aviator, farmer, and outdoorsman. He loved airplanes, building, boating, classic cars, motorcycles, mules, and operating heavy machinery.

He married Mary Jo Rapp in Roseburg, Ore., in April of 1964. She preceded him in death in 2008. He was also preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by brother Jay Curtis; sisters Laurel Christopher and Marlene Sloan; companion of 10 years, June Rosenberg; son Patrick Curtis; daughter-in-law Timmi (Bailey) Curtis; daughter Beth Curtis; grandsons Russell Curtis, Clinton Mathers and Zachary Christensen; granddaughters Amanda Barns and Tanner Christensen; great-grandson Blaine Barns; and his beloved dachshund Maddie.

A celebration of life will be held May 18, 2019, at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston, Ore., from 1-4 p.m.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of final arrangements.



Curtis

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Francine M. 'Fran' Baisley**

Hermiston

May 4, 1948 — April 20, 2019

Francine M. "Fran" Baisley, 70, of Hermiston, died Saturday, April 20, 2019, in Hermiston. She was born May 4, 1948, in Pendleton. A graveside funeral service will be held Friday, April 26 at 1 p.m. at the Echo Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

**Rickie Lee 'Ric' Carr**

Umatilla

Dec. 2, 1962 — March 10, 2019

Rickie Lee "Ric" Carr, 56, of Umatilla died Sunday, March 10, 2019, at his home. He was born Dec. 2, 1962, in Hermiston. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. at Coho Gazebo at the McNary Ponds beneath the McNary Dam. Bring memories to share, and a fishing pole if you wish. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

**BIRTHS**

**Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston**  
APRIL 3, 2019

**CYR** — Amanda Cazares and Joseph Cyr of Hermiston: a boy, Amanda & Joey Kiaeo Cyr.

APRIL 10, 2019

**PARKER** — Sandra A. Bethel of Hermiston: a boy, Blake Parker.

APRIL 12, 2019

**TAYLOR** — Justine Taylor and Sam Taylor of Hermiston: a boy, Beau Michael Taylor.

**St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton**

APRIL 10, 2019

**NAVARRO** — Alejandra Zuniga and Roberto Navarro of Boardman: a girl, Lexliie Alicia Navarro.



Watson

**Vincent Joseph Watson**

Milwaukie

August 1, 1932 — April 15, 2019

Vincent Joseph Watson was born August 1, 1932, to Elmer L. Watson and Beryl Maybelle (Cellers) Watson in Drain, Oregon. He passed away April 15, 2019, in Milwaukie, Oregon, at age 86.

Vince's family moved to Hermiston, Oregon, in 1936. He attended Hermiston Grade School and graduated from Hermiston High School in 1951. Vince married Joy S. Estle in 1951 in Hermiston, Oregon. They raised three sons in Hermiston until moving to Umatilla in 1973. They divorced in 1979.

Vince was a jeweler and watch repairman. He founded Watson's Jewelry in 1965 at 138 East Main, Hermiston, and he was a Main Street fixture for decades.

He served on the Hermiston Baseball Commission when Weber Field was built and coached the American Legion baseball team for three years.

Vince was a "car person" and enjoyed driving, restoring and collecting cars. He

was a member of the Meyers Professional Racing team for several years.

He was a member of the Umatilla School District Budget Committee in the 1980s. A member of the Kiwanis Club, Vince received the Hermiston 1988 Kiwanian of the Year Award for his leadership on many club projects. By October 1988, Vince had a record of 17 years of perfect attendance at Kiwanis club meetings.

On August 5, 1995, he married Claudell Metzger in Gresham, Oregon. They traveled through much of the Pacific Northwest, but their most extensive trip was a photo safari in Africa. Vince and Claudell divorced in 2004.

Vince is survived by his siblings, Norma Bergstahler and Elmer Duane Watson; his sons, Vince Jr. (Annette Reese), Terry D. (Anne) and Jeffrey D. (Debi) Watson; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There will not be a memorial service.

**POLICE LOG**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16**

8:45 p.m. — There was an assault on East Ridgeway Avenue.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**

2:16 a.m. — Shots fired were reported on West Hermiston Avenue.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18**

12:18 p.m. — On South Street, the caller came into the HPD lobby to report that her high school class lost a black and white Australian Shepherd dog they were using for a science class. The dog was last seen near the post office.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

8:06 a.m. — There was a domestic incident at Rodeway Inn on South Highway 395.

12:55 p.m. — There was a suicidal subject on South First Street.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

8:44 a.m. — There was a domestic disturbance between a man and a woman at Southeast Sixth Street.

8:08 p.m. — There was a missing person reported at West Ridgeway Avenue.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

10:34 a.m. — There was a man causing a disturbance at Southwest 10th Street.

10:42 p.m. — A caller said a male resident at Regency on West Juniper Avenue has

become combative and is a danger to himself, the staff, and the elderly.

**MONDAY, APRIL 22**

8:25 a.m. — A business on South Highway 395 reported two men were threatening employees near the entrance.

9:40 a.m. — A caller advised a woman who had never lived at their address has begun using the address for correspondence with courts and lawyers.

2:17 p.m. — A possible drunk driver was reported at North First Street and Hermiston Avenue after red Honda Civic ran two stop signs and two red lights.

4:06 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on West Juniper Avenue.

Monday afternoon — The Umatilla County Fire District's HazMat team responded to Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla after an employee in the prison's mail room said he opened an envelope, smelled a substance, and began to feel ill. He was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center for evaluation. The HazMat team responded and did a thorough check of the building, but could not find anything. He said they also inspected all the mail that the employee had handled that day.

**Barbara Ladene (Brown) Gilleese**

Hermiston

May 21, 1940 — November 22, 2018

Barbara Ladene (Brown) Gilleese was born May 21, 1940, in Yakima, Washington, the second of four children born to Lawrence Wilfred Brown and Gladys N. (Ritchie) Brown, of Zillah, Washington. She passed away November 22, 2018, in Richland, Washington, at Kadlec Medical Center.



Gilleese

She lived and loved her life in the Pacific Northwest — in her younger years on the eastern side of Washington, and then on the western side of Oregon. She raised her five children mostly in the Portland, Oregon, area.

She was an accomplished saleswoman in the floral industry, and later was a great bartender. Upon her retirement she moved to Hermiston, Oregon, where she met and married her last husband, Tim Gilleese.

Barb, as she is known to those who knew and loved her, enjoyed hunting, camping, the outdoors, the ocean, her kitties, her family and friends, and being a volun-

teer to those who needed help. She was an Eagles Auxiliary member for many years and was always around to help when someone needed it.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Larry Grant in 1976 and William Arthur in 2017, and son Craig. Those who survive and will miss her include her husband Tim, her sons and daughter Silas, Susan, Bruce and Alex, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, her sister Judy, and numerous nieces and nephews — not to mention her many "adopted" kids that she gathered throughout her lifetime.

A memorial gathering will be held at Barbara's nephew's residence Saturday, May 4 from 1-5 p.m. It's located off Highway 730 across from McNary (east of Umatilla). Look for signage, "Gilleese Memorial."

Disposition was by cremation, with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston in care of arrangements.

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**PRIORITIES**  
A hundred years from now it will not matter what My bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the Life of a Child.