

## OBITUARIES

## Richard Ernest 'Rich' Betz

Hermiston

January 17, 1943 — November 26, 2019

Richard Ernest Betz (Rich) was born January 17, 1943, in Bremerton, Washington, to Ernest and Edna Betz.

Rich's youngest years were spent in the lower Yakima valley, eventually ending up and graduating from high school in Quincy, Washington, in 1961. Rich was a multiple sport athlete and state champion wrestler. Rich was active in 4-H, FFA and had a passion for raising and showing cattle around the state. After high school, Rich attended Washington State University, graduating in 1965 with a B.S. degree in agricultural economics.

While in college Rich was enrolled in ROTC, after graduating Rich served his country in the Vietnam War as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army infantry/airborne division. While serving, Rich was recognized for his willingness to go "above and beyond" the call of duty, receiving two Bronze Stars to commemorate his efforts.

In 1969 Rich married Theresa Faulk in Grandview, Washington. Shortly after marriage, the couple followed Rich's parents to Hermiston with the idea of trying center pivot irrigation to produce potatoes for a fresh pack facility that Ernest was in the process of building known as Royal Pak. Rich called upon his college roommate and long-time friend Walt "Bud" McDevitt to move to Hermiston and help get the operation started. Rich and Walt ended up forming a business partnership, buying the packing facility from Rich's parents (now known as Bud-Rich Potato), and developing an irrigated farm along the Columbia River known as Royale Columbia Farms. Rich and Walt remained loyal business partners and best of friends through the tumultuous cycles of agriculture, well known for their honesty, integrity and charitable spirit.

Rich and Theresa had two children, son Troy born in 1970 and daughter Tricia born in 1974. Both children graduated from Hermiston High School as well as Washington State University. Rich and Theresa were very devoted parents, seeing to it that there was always at least one of them in the stands for every game, recital, horse show or any other event that Troy and Tricia might be involved with along the way.

Rich served on numerous boards and committees

including Hermiston School Board, Oregon Potato Commission and National Potato Board, where Rich traveled extensively and was proud of the accomplishments towards opening up foreign trade borders for U.S. potato products. In 1985 Rich was recognized as Hermiston's businessman of the year. Most recently Rich was very proud to be presented the Diamond Pioneer award by Oregon State University.

Rich ended up stepping away from the business somewhat in early 2000 to spend more time with Theresa, who had fought several bouts of cancer, which eventually took her life in 2008. Up until his own death, however, Rich stayed up to date with all of the dealings of the packing shed and farming operations being run by his son Troy and his business partner Greg Juul (McDevitt's nephew), and always made himself available for his perspective and opinion regarding strategic decisions and direction of the businesses.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents, wife Theresa, and brother John. Left behind to carry on his relentless sense of personal values, integrity and kindness to others are his loving companion and fiancé Patty Matheny; sister Kathryn Niessner; son Troy (Lisa) Betz; daughter Tricia (Todd) Vallie; grandchildren Taylor Betz, 21, Blake Betz, 17, Tyson Fenley, 18, Ashlee Fenley, 13, Kristina Cagle, 27, and Jacob Vallie, 18; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request that memorial contributions be sent in Rich's honor to Made To Thrive, Meadowood Speech Camp, Trinity Lutheran Church or any other charity of personal preference.

Visitation will be on Thursday, December 5, 2019, from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Burns Mortuary chapel, Hermiston, Oregon. A celebration of life service will be held on Friday, December 6, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston, Oregon. A private family burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please share memories of Rich at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon.

## Patricia F. 'Pat' Brown

Hermiston

August 16, 1942 — November 27, 2019

Patricia F. "Pat" Brown of Hermiston, Oregon, was born on August 16, 1942, in Ava, Missouri, to parents George and Rachel Privett Rowe. She died on November 27, 2019, in Hermiston, Oregon, at the age of 77 years.

Pat was raised and attended school in Ordinance before graduating from Hermiston High School in the class of 1960. She was united in marriage to Norman "Norm" Brown on January 24, 1967, in Lewiston, Idaho. They made their home in Hermiston.

While for the majority of her life she was a stay at home mom, raising their five children, she also served in the cafeteria for the Hermiston School District.

She enjoyed reading, cooking, baking, singing, puzzles and sewing.

Pat's joy was her family and she loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and other family members.

One of the ways that she expressed her love was through cooking, and if you were fortunate enough to be in her family or circle of friends you were always well fed.

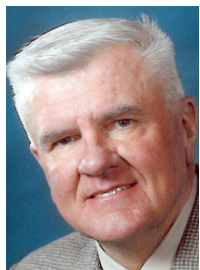
She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Norm Brown, Hermiston, Ore.; sons Roger Brown and wife Tina, Jeremiah Brown, and Joshua Brown and wife Heather, and daughters Dawna Martin and husband Todd, and Robin Surber and husband Dug, all of Hermiston, Ore.; sister Vickie Clark, La Grande, Ore.; nine grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents.

A private burial will be at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please share memories of Pat with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon.



Betz



## POLICE LOG

Tuesday, Nov. 26

4:25 p.m.— Someone called the Hermiston Police Department to report that three small children were sitting alone inside a parked vehicle on North First Street.

5:03 p.m.— Hermiston police were unable to locate a reportedly intoxicated driver on East Newport Avenue.

5:21 p.m.— A fight was reported on West Ridgeway Avenue.

5:35 p.m.— On North First Street, a domestic disturbance was reported.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

12:36 p.m.— An assault was reported on West Madrona Avenue.

1:09 p.m.— An assault was reported on Southeast Second Street.

2:00 p.m.— Some people were reportedly peeking into a man's windows on West Orchard Avenue.

8:54 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Ridgeway Avenue.

9:22 p.m.— Police again responded to West Ridge-

way Avenue for a domestic disturbance.

Thursday, Nov. 28

2:40 a.m.— On East Beebe Avenue, a domestic disturbance was reported.

9:18 p.m.— A man on East Gladys Avenue was throwing things out of his car at another car.

Saturday, Nov. 30

9:44 a.m.— A burglary was reported on Northeast North Street.

3:03 p.m.— A fight was reported on West Highland Avenue.

Sunday, Dec. 1

11:44 a.m.— A fight was reported on North First Street.

1:53 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on Southeast Sixth Street.

Monday, Dec. 2

1:11 p.m.— A woman asked to speak to a police officer about someone who has been trespassing on her property on East Pine Avenue.

6:11 p.m.— Child abuse/neglect was reported on East Beebe Avenue.

## COURTS

## Sentences

**PENDLETON — The following sentences have been imposed in Umatilla County courts:**

## FELONY

•Kimberlie Denise Tickerhoff, 47, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Possession of Methamphetamine: sentenced to 18 months probation, 90 sanction units and 30 maximum jail units.

•Justin Curtis Knapp, 24, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Possession of Stolen Vehicle: sentenced to 18 months Oregon Dept. of Corrections (DOC), 1 year post-prison supervision and \$200 fine.

•Matthew Alvin Dale Johnson, 29, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Strangulation: sentenced to 3 years probation, 180 sanction units, 90 maximum jail units, 40 hours community service, \$500 fine and \$1,000 fine-suspended.

•John Dario Godinez, 61, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Driving While Suspended/Revoked: sentenced to 3 years probation, 180 sanction units, 90 maximum jail units, \$2,000 fine and \$3,000 fine-suspended; pleaded guilty to Criminal Mischief II: sentenced to \$100 fine and \$654.20 restitution.

## MISDEMEANOR

•Gulmaro Coria Hernandez, 35, Umatilla, pleaded guilty to DUII: sentenced to 30 days jail, 150 days jail-suspended, 2 years probation, 80 hours community service, \$900 fine, \$1,600 fine-suspended and 1 year driver's license suspension, plus court costs and fees.

## Suits Filed

**PENDLETON — The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):**

•Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Carol Jones: seeks \$13,717.17.

•Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Jeffrey McLaren: seeks \$6,288.70.

•Bank of America N.A. vs. Elizabeth Mari Low of Hermiston: seeks \$9,603.06.

•Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Marla Cabral: seeks \$1,160.20.

•Discover Bank vs. Clyde A. Perkins of Hermiston: seeks \$10,201.24.

•Barclays Bank Delaware vs. Juan M. Ruiz of Hermiston: seeks \$3,157.24.

•U.S. Bank N.A. vs. the unknown heirs and devisees of Leo L. Haskett; unknown heirs and devisees of Lawanda Haskett; the unknown heirs and devisees of Leo Haskett Jr.; Donna Haskett; David Haskett; Cyrus Haskett; Trevia Groesbeck; the unknown heirs of Parley Haskett; Twyla Haskett; the unknown heirs and devisees of Darlene M. Twidwell; State of Oregon, and occupants of the premises: seeks \$15,262.31.

•Midland Funding LLC vs. Carol Jones of Umatilla: seeks \$14,296.72.

•Joanna C. Hayden vs. Brooke C. Richardson: seeks \$49,500.

•The Bluffs Owners Association Inc. vs. Katherine Allyn Pifer: seeks \$1,483.63.

•Absolute Resolutions Invest-

ments LLC s. Chris Wallace of Hermiston: seeks \$5,340.15.

•Midland Funding Inc. vs. Benjamin Taylor: seeks \$821.79.

•Credits Inc. vs. Tyler D. Minton of Hermiston: seeks \$2,005.45.

•Credits Inc. vs. Roger D. Pullen of Umatilla: seeks \$1,379.97.

•Credits Inc. vs. Maria Lezama of Boardman: seeks \$3,490.52.

•Credits Inc. vs. Lukas J. Hamner of Irrigon: seeks \$2,627.39.

•Credits Inc. vs. Veronica Gonzalez of Stanfield: seeks \$1,219.12.

•Credits Inc. vs. Ebelin Orozco Banuelos of Hermiston: seeks \$2,686.99.

•Merchants Acceptance Corp. vs. Jeffery and Cassandra Evens of Hermiston: seeks \$2,862.85.

•Ray Klein Inc. dba Professional Credit Service vs. Stevan Desjadon of Umatilla: seeks \$467.14.

•Jeffrey and Jennifer Lowry of Hermiston vs. Joe Griffin dba Griffin Motorsports of Hermiston: seeks \$9,682.

## Judgments

**PENDLETON — The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):**

•Ray Klein Inc. vs. Gwyneth Franklin of Hermiston: judgment for \$948.89.

•Credits Inc. vs. Carmen L. and Exodus M. Ramos of Echo: judgment for \$1,162.61.

## Divorces

**PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:**

Esmeralda Abigail Horn an Casey Emmett Horn of Umatilla; Lorena Barraza of Hermiston and Cesar Barraza of Lompoc, Calif.; Jamie D. Murray of Boardman and Joseph D. Murray of Pendleton; Leonardo Garcilazo Barrera of Hermiston and Cristina Garcia Mendoza of Paterson, Wash.

## BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

NOV. 20, 2019

**JIMENEZ HERNANDEZ** — Yaneli Hernandez Neri and Victor H.N. Honesto Jimenez of Hermiston: a boy, Leonardo Noé Jimenez Hernandez.

## DEATH NOTICE

Kathleen Joyce Trott

Umatilla

May 27, 1953 — Nov. 29, 2019

Kathleen Joyce Trott, 66, of Umatilla, died Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, in Umatilla. She was born May 27, 1953, in Astoria. Services will be announced at a later time. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

## Why Oregon's Independent Party is opening its primary

By JAKE THOMAS  
OREGON CAPITAL BUREAU

SALEM — As the number of Oregon voters unaffiliated with a political party rises, so has the number of voters locked out of a key part of the electoral process. Oregon's third-largest political party sees an opportunity in that.

The Independent Party of Oregon, the state's largest third party, is opening its primary to the state's 948,697 voters not registered with a party — a third of the state's electorate.

"They're the largest group of voters and the most disenfranchised group of voters and they deserve to be heard," said Sal Peralta, the party's secretary.

Under current law, the two major parties could let unaffiliated voters participate in their primary elections but don't do so.

The number of voters who chose not to pick a party for voting purposes has grown since Oregon enacted its Motor Voter Act in 2016. The law automatically registers eligible Oregonians to vote when they renew a driver's license or ID card. Voters are automatically registered as unaffiliated with the option to later select party.

In December 2015, there were 527,302 unaffiliated voters — about a quarter of the state's 2.17 million voters at the time. Now, there are 2.8 million registered voters and a greater proportion are unaffiliated.

The Independent Party lost its major party status earlier this year when less than 5% of voters picked the party. The result was it no longer was qualified to conduct primary elections at public expense.

But Peralta said the party is comfortable with its return to a minor party because it means the party has free rein in how it conducts its primary.

"We want to use it as an

opportunity to build coalitions and promote alternative voting systems," he said. "It's a great organizing tool."

The Democratic and Republican parties hold their taxpayer-funded primaries in May. The Independent Party, which now has 124,777 registered voters, expects to conduct its primary in March using the internet to deliver ballots.

Oregon allows for "fusion voting" where candidates can be the nominee for several parties. One candidate, for instance, can be the nominee for both the Republican and Independent parties. Peralta said his party's nomination holds sway in competitive elections, and that more than 60 legislators, both Democratic and Republican, are backed by the Independent Party.

The party intends to conduct its primary using alternative voting designed to factor in the second and third choices of voters. The party's primary will feature candidates for statewide offices and president and allow any unaffiliated voter to participate.

The party will still use a caucus, restricted to its voters, to select candidates for legislative offices.

Peralta said that notifying the state's 948,697 unaffiliated voters will be a challenge and the party will use paid social media to reach them.

The Democrats and Republicans have both tried open primaries.

The Republican Party opened its primary in 2012 for races for secretary of state, attorney general and treasurer. Kevin Hoar, spokesman for the state Republican Party, said that there are no plans to open the party's primary.

Molly Woon, spokeswoman for the Democratic Party of Oregon, said the party's central committee earlier this month decided not to open its primary.

## PET OF THE WEEK

MEET CODY

Cody is a sweet timid senior who is sight impaired. Once he gets to know you, he isn't timid. He likes to go outside for short periods, but prefers to be cozy indoors. He does fine with cats and submissive dogs, but because of his sight issues, he will defend himself if a dog charges him. Also because of his sight issues no young children. He takes Rimadyl for arthritis. He is neutered, chipped and vaccinated.

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