

OBITUARIES

Dixie L. Banker
Hermiston

March 17, 1944 — December 14, 2019

Dixie L. Banker of Hermiston, Oregon, was born on March 17, 1944, in Hermiston, Oregon, to parents Bruce and Mary Burnham Giddens. She died on December 14, 2019, in Hermiston, Oregon, at the age of 75 years.

Dixie was raised and attended school in Hermiston, Oregon. She was united in marriage to Carl Banker in March of 1961 in Lewiston, Idaho. They moved to Provo, Utah, in 1962 and later to Eugene, Oregon, before moving to Portland in 1966.

They returned to Hermiston, Oregon, in 1980 where they operated Burnham's Department Store for several years. Dixie later worked in Dr. Thomas Farney's office for several years.

She enjoyed horseback riding in her younger years, traveling, genealogy, cooking and time with her family. Dixie was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She is survived by her husband Carl Banker, Hermiston, Ore.; sons Greg

Banker and wife Laurie Lester-Banker, Asotin, Wash., Jon Banker and wife Teresa, Umatilla, Ore., and Ryan Banker and wife Jen, Chandler, Ariz.; daughter Patricia Simon and husband Shawn, West Richland, Wash.; grandchildren Tyson, Tiffnie, Kristopher, Taylor, Jessica, Jennifer and Ashley; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Dixie was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service was held on Friday, December 20, 2019, at 1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1035 S.E. Ninth St., Hermiston, Oregon. Burial followed at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Those who wish may make contributions in Dixie's memory to Shriners Hospital at www.shriners-hospitalsforchildren.org.

Please share memories of Dixie with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon.



Banker

Leon Francis Powell

Hermiston

July 22, 1931 — December 22, 2019

Leon Francis Powell of Hermiston was born July 22, 1931, in Grand Island, Nebraska, the son of Raymond and Vera (Coe) Powell. He passed away in Hermiston on December 22, 2019, at the age of 88.

Leon lived in Grand Island, Neb., throughout his childhood where he attended school and graduated from high school. After high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force for over three years.

After his military service he moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he began working for Pacific Bell Telephone as an information systems specialist. In 1970, he transferred to Hermiston, Ore., where he continued his work and has resided since. He retired from AT&T after 29 years of employment in 1984. He then worked for the Hermiston School District for an additional nine years.

Leon enjoyed fishing, metal detecting, camping and RVing. He was a member of the Good Sam RV Club and the Eagles Lodge.



Powell



Leon married Evelyn Jane Horner on July 29, 1950, in North Long Branch, New Jersey.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Evelyn; daughters Barbara Powell and Patricia Powell Chard; sons Robert Powell and Donald Powell; seven grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Marlyn Powell.

Viewing will be held from 3-6 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019, at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston, Ore. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 28, 2019, at Burns Mortuary chapel. Burial will follow in Hermiston Cemetery.

Family suggest memorial contributions in Leon's memory be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

To leave an online condolence for the family please go to www.burnsmortuary-hermiston.com.

Charlotte L. Dack

Hermiston

March 1, 1923 — Dec. 19, 2019

Charlotte L. Dack, 96, of Hermiston, died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, in Hermiston. She was born March 1, 1923, in Hereford, South Dakota. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Martha Jane 'Marty' Rock

Irrigon

Oct. 10, 1934 — Dec. 10, 2019

Martha Jane "Marty" Rock, 85, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, in Richland, Washington. She was born Oct. 10, 1934. A funeral service was held Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at Burns Mortuary chapel in Hermiston. Burial followed at the Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

George Schuster

Hermiston

March 1, 1938 — Dec. 16, 2019

George Schuster, 81, of Hermiston, died Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, at his home. He was born March 1, 1938, in Sendorf, Romania. At his request, no services will be held. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuary-hermiston.com.

Shirley Ann Wells

Hermiston

Nov. 28 1930 — Dec. 22, 2019

Shirley Ann Wells, 89, of Hermiston, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019, in Hermiston. She was born Nov. 28, 1930, in St. Louis, Missouri. Arrangements are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston
DEC. 13, 2019

MENDOZA — Crystal S. Gomez and Teodoro Parra Mendoza of Umatilla: a girl, Ariela Rosa-Linda Mendoza.

ROGERS — Justyce Cox and Kyle Strong/Rogers of Boardman: a girl, Alyson Louise Rogers.

DEC. 14, 2019

NISBET — Makayla L. Nisbet and Matthew W. Nisbet of Hermiston: a boy, James Roy Nisbet.

DEC. 16, 2019

NUÑO — Selina Abris-Mendoza and Victor Nuño Estrada of Hermiston: a girl, Viviana Nuño.

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton
DEC. 17, 2019

FRANCO — Olivia D. Pedro and Enrique Franco Salas of Hermiston: a girl, Lively Alicia Franco.

POLICE LOG

Tuesday, December 17
1:21 p.m.— Hermiston police issued a citation to a minor in possession of alcohol or tobacco.

11:56 p.m.— A domestic disturbance occurred on Southwest Fourth Street. Hermiston police issued a warning.

Wednesday, December 18
12:10 a.m.— A burglary was reported on Southwest 13th Place.

4:59 a.m.— On Highway 395, a woman was yelling at herself.

8:06 a.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Madrona Avenue.

4:58 p.m.— A man reported his nephew took off with his car after an argument at Good Shepherd Medical Center.

5:07 p.m.— A burglary was reported on Northwest 11th Street.

Thursday, December 19
1:00 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Highland Avenue.

5:43 p.m.— A burglary was reported on West Ridgeway Avenue.

8:31 p.m.— On Northwest Third Avenue, a domestic disturbance was reported.

Friday, December 20

7:27 a.m.— Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle occurred on West Elm Avenue.

8:54 a.m.— A fight occurred on Southwest Seventh Street.

3:19 p.m.— On West Linda Avenue, a woman reported being followed by a man in a parking lot.

5:08 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on East Jennie Avenue.

5:18 p.m.— On North First Street, a possible drunk driver left the area before police could locate them.

Saturday, December 21

2:32 a.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Sunland Avenue.

2:44 a.m.— On North First Street, a drunk driver was reported.

12:19 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on South Highway 395.

Sunday, December 22

9:32 a.m.— Someone's pickup truck was egged Saturday night on Southwest River Hill Drive.

COURTS

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

- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Russel G. Weber of Hermiston: seeks \$8,911.79.
- Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Bousay Khathavong: seeks \$1,152.34.
- Jefferson Capital Systems LLC vs. Pedro Valdez: seeks \$843.09.
- West Extension Irrigation District vs. Peter Hotrum of Irrigon, Mann Mortgage LLC dba Direct Home Loan Center, Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, Umatilla County and all unknown occupants: seeks \$1,641.08.
- Bank of America N.A. vs. Michael Low of Hermiston: seeks \$7,081.38.

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•Kenneth Reid Withers of Irrigon vs. Esteban and Cynthia Rodarte of Umatilla: seeks \$50,764.09.

•Credits Inc. vs. Alma Delia Torres Galarza of Hermiston: seeks \$1,850.05.

•Credits Inc. vs. Irma R. Iniguez Galvez of Stanfield: seeks \$1,781.38.

•Credits Inc. vs. Mao San (Gettmann) of Hermiston: seeks \$3,453.90.

•Credits Inc. vs. Amy Gomez of Hermiston: seeks \$1,957.71.

•Credits Inc. vs. Daisy Palomino of Hermiston: seeks \$885.70.

•Credits Inc. vs. Michael Reese of Hermiston: seeks \$1,583.28.

•Credits Inc. vs. Lily Ringe (nka Gilstrap) of Hermiston: seeks \$1,452.91.

•Credits Inc. vs. Gretchan and James Varady of Hermiston: seeks \$2,630.40.

•Bonneville Billing & Collections Inc. vs. Colton McKenney of Hermiston: seeks \$208.13.

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

•Credits Inc. vs. Carlos Mendoza of Hermiston: judgment for \$6,298.48.

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

Crystal LeAnne Curtis of Hermiston and Timothy Patrick Curtis Jr. of Irrigon.

Marriages
PENDLETON — Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:

Douglas Milton Minton, 51, and Ann Marie Richards, 45, both of Hermiston.

Josie Rhea Erickson, 23, of Pilot Rock, and Rhyce Cole Pruitt, 24, of Irrigon.

Cesar David Huizar de los Santos, 30, and Alejandrina Camacho Garcia, 29, both of Stanfield.

Sarah Ann Stafford-Richards, 32, and Andrew Mitchell Proffitt, 30, both of Boardman.

Nabor Murguia Mejia, 43, and Maria de Jesus Ortega Davalos, 43, both of Irrigon.

Monte W. Johnson, 41, and Stacie Marie Brasher, 36, both of Irrigon.

Armando Contreras Leal, 22, of Hermiston, and Yakima Guzman Espinoza, 20, of Stanfield. Lindsey Mae Cabral, 24, and Michael LaFay Blais Jr., 25, both of Hermiston.

Umatilla County residents get into the holiday spirit

By JESSICA POLLARD
STAFF WRITER

It was only natural that Ron Bunch would spice up his home with a couple knick-knacks here and there during Christmas. After all, his mother always decorated during the holiday season.

"And then it kind of exploded," he said.

The outside of the home Ron shares with his wife, Linda, is adorned with a 24-hour light display. It glows more brightly than the displays of the other homes in the cul-de-sac on West Sandpiper Avenue. But the real magic is inside the home.

"My friend tells me it looks like Christmas puked in our house," Ron jokes.

The common area of the home is stocked, and it takes three days total for Ron to get the decorations unpacked.

There are 32 Christmas stockings hung throughout the home, four artificial Christmas trees, one of which is fiber optic, another which is adorned only in Oregon State University ornaments, and more than 30, 18-gallon totes of decor to boot.

There's a stocking that Ron's mom knitted when he was just a baby. A fleet of reindeer welded out of horseshoes. And atop an entryway shelf sits an unsettling-looking elf with unseemly long legs.

"When we find something with a lot of character, we get it," Ron said. "If you can find it at Walmart, we won't have a lot of it here."

They said operating their outdoor display has become less costly since they purchased LED lights. The pair, two former postmasters with the U.S. Postal Service, said that having a Christmas display from the end of November till New Year's costs just \$6 extra a month on their utility bill.

"It's negligible," Linda said.

Ron and Linda are one of a few locals who take holiday decorating to the next level, much to the delight of passersby and neighbors.

Ron West in Umatilla, for instance,



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The Bunch house near Desert View Elementary School features a 14-foot illuminated reindeer that towers over the yard, as well as a variety of lighted orbs. Despite the outdoor display, the real magic of the Bunch House lies in the Christmas decorations that adorn every inch of the interior of the house.

has been honing his handcrafted display for the last two decades. Glowing 10,000 lights strong, the display is visible from Highway 395.

There's a sign attached to the chimney of his home, which reads "SANTA HERE."

"That's so he knows where to go," West said.

West is the maintenance director at the Umatilla County School District. He starts setting up his Brownell Boulevard Christmas display in September, and everything — from a towering tree made of lights to the moving Snoopy display — is handmade.

"Each year, I add something more," he said. "Next year, it'll be the Island of Misfit Toys from 'Rudolph.'"

West, who grew up in Hermiston, started decorating his home around 20 years ago when his kids were little. When his wife passed away, he considered stopping, but continued the tradition on each year with his kids.

"I probably wouldn't do it at this age," he said. "But the whole neigh-

borhood loves it."

West joked that his decorations take him "too long" to make. Karen and Mike Montegna on West Utah Avenue in Irrigon could say the same. Their vast front yard is jam-packed with all sorts of moving and stationary displays.

"Christmas is our favorite time of year," Karen said. "We've always had a little bit of something, and it just grew."

The pair has lived in Irrigon for 26 years, and retired from life in the U.S. Navy.

In the front part of the yard sits a rotating ferris wheel with hand-painted characters that took three years to make, and a group of woodcut elves packing gifts on Santa's sleigh. Santa himself is stuck on the chimney, his legs poking out.

It was only very recently that the pair opted to stuff the back portion of their yard with store-bought inflatable decorations. It wasn't an easy decision.

"I am anti-blowup," Karen said. "But they're the only things that are visible back there."

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