

OBITUARY

Verla M. (Lindsey) Thompson Stanfield
June 27, 1934 — Dec. 27, 2019

Verla M. (Lindsey) Thompson was born June 27, 1934, in La Grande, Oregon, to parents, Curtis and Edith (Carper) Lindsey. She died December 27, 2019, at her home in Stanfield, Oregon, at the age of 85.



Thompson

Verla started her life in La Grande, but moved to Pendleton when she was still a little girl. She graduated from Pendleton High School in the class of 1952. She was united in marriage to Fred Thompson on August 1, 1954, in Pendleton, Oregon. The couple lived in Pendleton until the mid-1960's when they built their own home in Stanfield, Oregon. Their daughter Linda was born 1968.

Verla was a stay-at-home mom until her daughter was in school, then she went to work as a secretary at West Grade School in Stanfield. She managed the office and fixed many a scraped knee and hugged away tears of many an elementary school student. She retired around 1999.

Verla enjoyed doing crafty things, like crocheting, cross stitching, and flower arranging until her fingers told her it was time to find a new hobby. In her later life, she enjoyed doing puzzles and decorating her

house. One of her favorite activities was to go to Goodwill and find "treasures" to help with her decorating ideas. Verla was also a member of "The Pollyanna's." She spent many a Saturday laughing and telling stories with her lady friends.

Verla's favorite time spent was with her daughter and granddaughter. She was the best wife, mom, and nana, and will be forever missed. She brightened the lives of all that met her through her sense of humor and smile. Heaven gained a very special angel on Dec. 27th.

Verla is survived by her husband of 65 years, Fred Thompson, Stanfield, Oregon; her daughter, Linda Thompson, Pendleton, Oregon; and her granddaughter, Maddie Thompson, Pendleton, Oregon.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at 10 a.m. at The Pleasant View Cemetery on Stanfield, Oregon. Friends and family are invited to attend.

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

POLICE LOGS

Tuesday, December 24

12:21 p.m.— A woman reported that on East Gladys Avenue, someone tried breaking into her garage earlier in the week. The person allegedly tried to open the door and started cursing.
 12:24 p.m.— After a reported series of weekend break-ins on Punkin Center Road, a man reported that nothing in his own vehicle was stolen but a black bag was found in the back of his car.
 12:57 p.m.— On West Sunland Avenue, a domestic disturbance was reported.
 6:39 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on Northeast Fourth Street.
 9:28 p.m.— On Southeast Sixth Street, a domestic disturbance between a male and female was reported.

Wednesday, December 25

1:35 a.m.— A person was reported missing on East Cherry Avenue.
 9:11 a.m.— On Northwest 11th Street and West Hermiston Avenue a domestic disturbance was reported.

Thursday, December 26

3:52 p.m.— A woman is concerned that her grandchildren could be abusing elderly people.
 4:26 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on Southeast Crestline Place.
 7:07 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on Southeast 10th Court.
 7:50 p.m.— On North First Street another domestic disturbance was reported.
 8:26 p.m.— On Northeast Quail Court, another domestic disturbance disturbance was reported.

Friday, December 27

1:15 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Marie Avenue.
 4:14 p.m.— Someone requested an officer following an assault on Northwest 12th Place.

Saturday, December 28

1:35 a.m.— On East Main Street, a domestic disturbance was reported.
 3:40 p.m.— Police took a report for a burglary on East Main Street.
 6:48 p.m.— Police made an arrest following a domestic disturbance on Southeast Sixth Street.
 8:20 p.m.— On East Newport Avenue, a domestic disturbance was reported.

Sunday, December 29

1:49 a.m.— Police responded to reports of a drunk driver on North First Street.
 9:42 p.m.— A domestic disturbance was reported on West Madrona Avenue.

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston
DEC. 19, 2019

REYES OJEDA — Elisa Reyes Ojeda and Daniel Ojeda Alvarez of Hermiston: a girl, Isla Yasmine Reyes Ojeda.

DEC. 21, 2019

DICKENSON — Melissa R. Littrell and Randy L. Dickenson of Hermiston: a boy, Samuel James Dickenson.

COURTS

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

FELONY
 •Melanie Elaine Tarter, 46, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Forgery I: sentenced to 18 months probation, 90 sanction units, 30 maximum jail units, 80 hours community service, \$200 fine, \$1,800 fine-suspended and restitution to be determined; pleaded guilty to Theft II: sentenced to 18 months probation and \$2,000 fine-suspended, plus court costs and fees.
MISDEMEANOR
 •Jose Saturnino Calvillo, 38, Irrigon, pleaded no contest to DUI: sentenced to 2 days jail, 178 days jail-suspended, 2 years probation, 80 hours community service, \$1,000 fine, \$5,250 fine-suspended and 1 year driver's license suspension, plus court costs and fees (Diversion Program terminated).

Suits Filed
PENDLETON — The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):
 •OneMain Financial Group LLC vs. Alger P. Brigham: seeks \$9,383.86.
 •Rochelle Sturgeon vs. Samantha Terri Tompkins and Taliah Grace St. Hilaire: seeks \$50,000.
 •Westlake Services LLC dba Westlake Financial Services vs. Kalyn N. and James D. Anderson: seeks \$9,542.53.
 •Citibank N.A. vs. Jessamyn Allen of Umatilla: seeks \$2,719.53.
 •Nationwide Recovery Service Inc. vs. Juliana Canchola of Umatilla: seeks \$2,395.43.
 •Roger K. Simmons of Hermiston vs. Denise E. Dohman

(Simmons) of Hermiston: seeks \$5,802.82.

•Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Pedro Garcia of Hermiston: seeks \$1,396.67.
 •Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Kevin Cordell of Hermiston: seeks \$2,227.87.
 •Discover Bank vs. Blair W. Sarmiento: seeks \$13,414.76.
 •Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Marcus A. Longoria of Hermiston: seeks \$2,491.39.
 •Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Alex Gutierrez of Hermiston: seeks \$1,645.45.
 •Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Kimberly Wilson of Umatilla: seeks \$1,192.64.
 •Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Richard T. Curtis of Hermiston: seeks \$4,394.51.
 •Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Jocelyn Guardado of Umatilla: seeks \$2,567.33.

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

•Credit Corp Solutions Inc. vs. Mary Melton of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,864.22.

Divorces
PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:
 Mary Jane Hall of Stanfield and Ernie A. Hall of Great Falls, Mont.

Marriages
PENDLETON — Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:
 Marcelino Rodriguez Prado, 30, and Michelle Mendoza, 27, both of Umatilla.
 Kiani Alohani Hopkins, 31, and Jesus Adrian Jimenez, 31, both of Hermiston.

DEATH NOTICES

Joseph A. 'Joe' Luggie Irrigon

Oct. 28, 1954 — Dec. 24, 2019

Joseph A. "Joe" Luggie, 65, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019, at his home. He was born Oct. 28, 1954, in Fairfax, Virginia. Services are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Gerald D. "Jerry" Wright Hermiston

July 29, 1931 — Dec. 29, 2019

Gerald D. "Jerry" Wright, 88, of Hermiston died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019, in Kennewick, Washington. He was was

born July 29, 1931. A graveside funeral service with military honors will be held Friday, Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories of Jerry with his family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Gregory C. "Greg" Martin Sr. Hermiston

July 27, 1950 — Dec. 27, 2019

Gregory C. "Greg" Martin Sr., 69, of Hermiston died Friday, Dec. 27, 2019, in Richland, Washington. He was born July 27, 1950, in Hermiston. At his request there will be no service. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories of Greg with his family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

FoodCorps member enjoys her taste of Umatilla

By **JESSICA POLLARD**
 STAFF WRITER

The best is yet to come for Ellie Dutcher.

Dutcher, who recently graduated from Southern Oregon University, moved to Umatilla this summer to serve as one of nine FoodCorps service members across Oregon.

Being part of FoodCorps — an AmeriCorps offshoot — means whipping up snacks and serving nutritious lesson plans at McNary Heights Elementary all year long.

During their one-year terms, service members like Dutcher aim to connect kids to healthy food.

But what she's really excited for is growing a garden — which will likely house herbs, as well as all the makings for salsa — with the students this spring.

"We'll plant the seeds, and we'll grow them together," she said. "And in the spring, we'll get to eat them together. That's where I think the magic will happen. When kids are that connected to the food, you see some minds change."

Because part of her role is introducing foods that will be in the cafeteria to Umatilla's elementary-schoolers via taste tests, Dutcher knows that kids can be critics when it comes to cuisine.

"Kids will look at me like, 'Oh, that's gross,'" she said. "I slowly convince them to try something, and their face will light up."

Earlier in the year, she taste-tested pluots — a member of the stone fruit family — for the kids and



Ellie Dutcher serves banana bread to students at McNary Heights Elementary School in Umatilla on Dec. 19, 2019. Dutcher is one of nine FoodCorps members in Oregon and will be located in Umatilla County until the end of the school year.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

she said they're now a staple at the salad bar.

And while Dutcher seems at ease in the Umatilla community, she never thought she'd move to Oregon in the first place. Born in Napa Valley, Calif., she said Southern Oregon University was last on her list during the college application process years ago.

"But then I saw Ashland and fell in love. Wow, I am in love with Oregon," she said.

But before getting her interdisciplinary degree cen-

tered around environmental science, Spanish, outdoor leadership and sustainability, Dutcher took a solo trip abroad to Southeast Asia and South America right after high school.

"It was a lot of being uncomfortable most of the time and not knowing where you're going to be sleeping one night or not knowing people," she said. "Letting that discomfort in and realizing it's what you chose."

The journey introduced her to many things she'd

never tried before, including rock climbing.

"I haven't stopped since," she said.

An outdoor enthusiast, she's still trying to find her footing in the sage desert landscape of Eastern Oregon.

"The environment is pretty different out here, and that was big for me," she said.

But that hasn't stopped her from trying new things. She said she enjoyed walking nature trails over the summer, and she recently

signed up for a ceramics class in the area. She's also taking time to learn a little bit more about plants in Oregon.

Dutcher said that just a few weeks ago, she found the perfect word to describe Umatilla — accepting.

"No matter where anyone has come from or what they've experienced, people are so accepting in this community. It's blown me away," she said.

But her job and new surroundings aren't without challenges. Dutcher said it's

EDITOR'S NOTE

This story is part of an annual series by the East Oregonian called "Our New Neighbors," which introduces the community to people who have moved here in the past year.

been difficult to transition from a college atmosphere where friends live nearby, to living alone in the new place.

"I'm really grateful for this time, and I'm hoping to come out of the job, and this place without many people I am close to, more comfortable with myself," she said.

And when it comes to teaching kids about how to make healthy food choices, there can be a disconnect between the dream and the reality of the job.

"Sometimes the healthier option is way more expensive than what I'm trying to steer kids away from," she said. "It's been rough trying to battle that. I'm trying to figure out a happy medium of what's doable."

She's not sure yet where her adventures will find her this time next year, but Dutcher seems glad she came.

"I feel really grateful I was put in this community in particular," she said. "It's allowed me to know a part of Oregon that I didn't know beforehand. I'm finding so many beautiful things about it. If you'd just driven through to stop for gas, you'd never know."