

DEATH NOTICES

Gladys E. Bennett

Echo

March 31, 1935 — April 5, 2020

Gladys E. Bennett, 85, of Echo, died Sunday, April 5, 2020, in Hermiston. She was born March 31, 1935, in Sanders, Montana. Services will be announced later. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Kathryn Phyllis Heaton

Hermiston

Feb. 24, 1926 — April 3, 2020

Kathryn Phyllis Heaton, 94, of Hermiston, died Friday, April 3, 2020, in Hermiston. She was born Feb. 24, 1926, in Eugene. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Lawrence C. 'Larry' Benson

Hermiston

Jan. 28, 1948 — April 2, 2020

Lawrence C. "Larry" Benson, 72, of Hermiston, died Thursday, April 2, 2020, at his home. He was born Jan. 28, 1948, in Newberg, Oregon. Services will be announced later. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Fred I. Otis

Hermiston

May 8, 1944 — March 31, 2020

Fred I. Otis, 75, of Hermiston, died Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at his home. He was born May 8, 1944, in Hood River. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Joyce Martha Rollins

Richland, Washington

April 14, 1937 — March 31, 2020

Joyce Martha Rollins, 82, of Richland, Washington, died Tuesday, March 31, 2020, in Richland. She was born April 14, 1937, in Poplar, Minnesota. Arrangements are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Margaret F. Bunten-Pieper

Hermiston

May 22, 1929 — April 6, 2020

Margaret F. Bunten-Pieper, 90, of Hermiston, died Monday, April 6, 2020, in Hermiston. She was born May 22, 1929, in Heppner. A memorial mass will be announced at a later date. A private burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

MARCH 26, 2020

PHILLIPS TOWN — Jordan Phillips Town of Hermiston: a boy, James Lee Phillips Town.

POLICE LOG

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

2:49 a.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on West Orchard Avenue.
5:04 a.m. — A fight was reported on West Highland Avenue.
3:16 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on Southwest 13th Place.
3:28 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on Northeast Aspen Drive.
9:56 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on Northeast Aspen Drive.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

10:22 a.m. — A woman reported she was almost scammed into renting a house from someone on Craigslist who didn't own it.
5:03 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Northeast Stockton Street.
8:26 p.m. — A hit and run was reported on East Ridgeway Avenue.
11:32 p.m. — A prowler who was violating a restraining order was reported on Southwest 11th Street.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

12:46 p.m. — A disturbance was reported at Martha's House on Southeast Fourth Street.
3:21 p.m. — A woman reported while she was sick in the hospital her dogs were given to the animal shelter and adopted out, but she would like them back.
7:29 p.m. — A hit and run was reported on North First Street.
10:04 p.m. — A caller reported their daughter was causing a domestic disturbance on West Hermiston Avenue.
10:26 p.m. — Someone reported a verbal domestic disturbance between a father and son on Northwest 11th Street.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

7:05 p.m. — A fight was reported on West Fulton Avenue.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

1:51 a.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on West Fulton Avenue.
5:43 a.m. — A caller reported she was in the basement of a building on Northwest 11th Street and could not find her way out.
1:15 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Northwest Second Street and Hermiston Avenue.
6:24 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Northeast Fourth Street.
9:42 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Northwest 11th Street.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:30 a.m. — A hit and run was reported on East Main Street.
2:15 p.m. — A fight was reported on East Pine Avenue.
9:51 p.m. — A burglary was reported on West Division Avenue.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

8:08 a.m. — Police completed a death investigation on West Highland Avenue.
3:28 p.m. — Someone reported that a person in a silver Volkswagen was selling drugs on Northeast Fourth Street.
6:05 p.m. — A hit and run was reported on Southwest Ninth Street.

COURTS

SENTENCES

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

•Carson Dain Rawe, 21, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to two counts of Unlawful Use of Weapon: sentenced to 60 months Oregon Dept. of Corrections (DOC) and restitution to be determined for each count; pleaded guilty to Attempt to Commit Class B Felony: sentenced to 30 months Oregon DOC, 30 months post-prison supervision and restitution to be determined; sentenced to a second count of Attempt to Commit Class B Felony: sentenced to 31 months Oregon DOC, 29 months post-prison supervision and restitution to be determined..

SUITS FILED

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

•LVNV Funding LLC vs. Eric Peterman of Hermiston: seeks \$1,051.67.
•LVNV Funding LLC vs. Rosa Castaneda of Hermiston: seeks \$1,631.17.
•LVNV Funding LLC vs. Christopher Foreman of Hermiston: seeks \$2,075.77.
•Citibank vs. Juan D. Viveros: seeks \$2,585.82.
•Good Shepherd Health Care System of Hermiston and Proselect Insurance Company vs. Pro-Cut Concrete Cutting and Breaking Inc. and Pro-Cut Concrete Cutting Inc.: seeks \$1,784,271.19.

JUDGMENTS

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

•Quick Collect Inc. vs. Shandi Paris of Hermiston: judgment for \$209.94.
•Midland Funding LLC vs. Kenneth Kautz of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,761.44.

DIVORCES

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

Sheena L. Sager of Hermiston and Eric I. Sanchez of Umatilla; Margaret Mary Ashbeck Arthur of Echo and William Austin Arthur of Cottage Grove; Christopher Jay Gibbons of Umatilla and Brenda Ann Gibbons of Pendleton.

MARRIAGES

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

Brian Nlyic Lewis, 77, and Janet Marie Taylor, 66, both of Hermiston.
Nickolas James Meeks, 29, and Olivia Dawn Banda, 26, both of Hermiston.
Phillip Alfred Dunn, 47, and Marlene Renee Prather, 46, both of Hermiston.
Zachary Alan McAllister, 22, of Hermiston, and Sarah Naomi Hubbard, 23, of Pendleton.

Funeral rituals, grieving death face changes

By **KATHY ANEY**
STAFF WRITER

COVID-19 is changing how we say goodbye.

Instead of holding hands and hugging, family and friends must grieve differently in a time of social distancing. With restrictions on gatherings, many families opt to delay memorials. Some forge ahead with services using live feeds and webcasting.

On March 7, Heppner lost Father Gerald Condon, a beloved retired priest who served at St. Patrick and St. William parishes in Heppner and Condon. Because gatherings were restricted to 10 people or less at the time, what would have been a well-attended service was live streamed to far-flung mourners in their homes.

"There were six casket bearers, the people doing the music, the priest and one close friend from Ireland," said funeral director Patrick Sweeney, who owns Sweeney Mortuary in Heppner.

The option to watch via technology was appreciated, he said. Viewers sent positive feedback.

Funeral directors in the time of COVID-19 must have difficult conversations with family members about arrangements. Albany funeral director/embalmer Wally Ordeman, executive director of the Oregon Funeral Directors Association, said most funeral directors are finding themselves in uncharted waters.

"Funeral directors aren't wired to say no," he said. "They are accommodating and compassionate. They want families to memorialize the way they want."

Many are choosing to put off services indefinitely.

"It's troublesome when (families) have to hit the pause button," Ordeman said.

Ron Martin, of Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, said families are reacting to state mandates on gathering size with disappointment, but also understanding. Some have opted to postpone while others go ahead despite social distancing and radically reduced guest lists. Martin did his first live streaming of a rosary, and then a service on Friday. He said the service reached 1,175 people and the rosary had 29 views. On Tuesday, he planned to live stream a graveside service.

Martin said he marvels at how many family members worry about him.

"I am touched by people wanting to make sure they do the right thing so I don't get in trouble," he said, adding, "we checked with the Oregon Funeral Director Association to make sure we do everything right."

Ordeman said many are choosing cremation to give the option of scheduling memorials at a later date, but that a tightened economy is

"THE COMMUNITY KIND OF SUFFERS. SERVICES ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE."

Ron Martin, of Pendleton Pioneer Chapel

also a factor since cremation is more affordable than burial.

"If we take lessons from 2008," he said, "when people who are watching their wallets are on the fence about burial or cremation, they may choose cremation."

He speculated that between 75% and 85% of all Oregonians who die are cremated, though the percentage is lower in rural areas.

The three veteran funeral director/embalmers said they haven't yet treated the body of a person who died of COVID-19, but they know



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Ron Martin, of Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, poses for a portrait in the empty funeral chapel on Tuesday afternoon. Martin has been finding different ways to involve people in funerals as a result of COVID-19, including live streaming and postponement of funerals until summer.

what to do. The procedure is already in place and they've been abiding by it for years.

"Most funeral directors are pretty aware of what we have to do," Sweeney said. "It's standard practice and procedure."

Martin, in his 49th year as a funeral director, said anyone could have a serious contagious disease. He uses protective equipment during body transport and embalming.

"Funeral directors and embalmers are trained in universal precautions," Ordeman said. "We're geared up and trained to deal with really ugly, contagious diseases."

All three look forward to a time when people can gather for memorials complete with hugs and closure.

"The community kind of suffers," Martin said. "Services are really important to people."



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, and other funeral homes throughout the country, have been finding ways to celebrate life amid closures and gathering restrictions.