

OBITUARIES

Martha Sylvia Conklin Montez

Hermiston
December 23, 1949 — May 16, 2020

Martha Sylvia Conklin Montez was born on December 23, 1949, to Carlos and Carolina Conklin in San Felipe, B.C., Mexico. She passed away on May 16, 2020, at the age of 70 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.



Conklin Montez

At this time there will be no services because of current state and federal restrictions. Martha moved to the U.S. at the age of 25 where she resided in California with her four oldest children (Cesar, Minerva, Diana and Carlos) for a short period of time. She later moved to Plymouth, Washington, before settling in Hermiston, Oregon, in 1981 where she married Hector Montez Sr. They had two more children (Hector Jr. and Lawrence).

For many years she worked at UNI in Boardman, Oregon, and Budrich in Hermiston, Oregon. Later in life she had her own cleaning business: M&M Janitorial Cleaning Services.

Martha was a member of the Hermiston Eagles. She was a kind spirit who loved others more than herself. She had a smile that lit up a room and an infectious laugh that was like no other! Her hugs made you feel safe and loved ... instantly.

Her hobbies included cooking, cleaning, taking care of others, traveling (especially back to Mexico to visit loved ones) and her biggest love, BINGO with her best friends Oralia and Justina. She enjoyed being with her friends and family more than anything else in the world. She was a supporter, mother, sister, friend, comedian, cook,

cleaner, and many other things ... but she wore the title of "Grandma" best.

She is survived by her sons Cesar (Claudia) Flores, San Felipe, B.C., Mexico, Carlos (Rosa) Flores, Salem, Oregon, Hector Montez Jr., Hermiston, Oregon, and Lawrence Montez, Hermiston, Oregon; daughters Minerva (Marcelino) Flores, Hermiston, Oregon, and Diana (Saul) Castro, Stanfield, Oregon; brothers Carlos Conklin, Enrique Conklin, Irineo (Carla) Conklin and Arturo Conklin, all of San Felipe, B.C., Mexico; sisters Erika Conklin, Mexicali, B.C., Mexico, Ramona Conklin, Happy Valley, Oregon, Mayra (Hector) Medelez, Hermiston, Oregon, and Lili-ana Conklin, Mexicali, B.C., Mexico; grandchildren Ashlee, CJ, Chancellor, Marla, Genesis, Brissa, Yanahi, Nohemy, Taylor, Emilio, Candice, Brandon, Isaiah, Steven, Diego, Efrain, Victoria, Ariam, Damian, Chloe, Emma and Kain; three great-grandchildren, Kitana, TJ and Jayden; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Hector Montez Sr.; parents Carlos and Carolina Conklin; brother Ruben Conklin; and sister Maria Elena Conklin. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in Martha's memory to Burns Mortuary in Hermiston to help with expenses. Please share memories of Martha with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.

James Edward Hennings

Baker City
April 17, 1989 — May 19, 2020

James Edward Hennings of Baker City, Oregon, 31, passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in Baker City, Oregon. James was born on April 17, 1989, in Hermiston, Oregon, to Nanette Johnson and Jerry Hennings.



Hennings

He spent his early years in Oklahoma and then moved to Union, Oregon, where he graduated from Union High School in 2007. James grew up camping and fishing. He loved to swim the local rivers and hang out on the beaches. One could also find him at the local skate park. James was an avid gamer and volunteered at the Blue Mountain Humane Association in La Grande, Oregon.

He had a big heart and always lent a hand to those in need. James was greatly loved and will be truly missed by those chosen to cross his path. James is survived by his mother Nanette Gregory, Burns Flat, Oklahoma, and stepdad Kenny Gregory, Cordell, Oklahoma; his dad Jerry (Arlene) Hennings, Hermiston, Oregon; two brothers, Jesse Gregory, Baker City, Oregon, and Travis Gregory, Burns Flat, Oklahoma;

two sisters, Katie and Annie Hennings of Hermiston, Oregon; grandma Esther Johnson, Elgin, Oregon; grandma Lenora (George) Houser, Bend, Oregon; grandma Shirley Burkeen (Mamo), Cordell, Oklahoma; many aunts and uncles, and numerous cousins and extended family. He was preceded in death by his grandpas Harlan Johnson, Jerry Hennings Sr., Roy Burkeen (Papo) and Jesse K. Gregory. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date after COVID-19 mandates have been lifted. Memorial contributions can be made in his name to the American Diabetes Association or the Animal Rescue & Adoption Center of La Grande. Grays West & Co. Pioneer Chapel of Baker City is handling arrangements. Please leave stories and tributes at grayswestco.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is handling a private family burial at the Hermiston Cemetery. Please share memories of James and sign the guest book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

POLICE LOG

TUESDAY, MAY 19

5:28 a.m. — A vehicle theft was reported on Southeast 10th Street. 11 a.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on North First Street. 11:51 a.m. — A caller reported he was fighting with his brother on East Montana Avenue. 2:34 p.m. — A "minor" motor vehicle accident was reported in a parking lot on Geer Road. 2:51 p.m. — A noninjury motor vehicle accident was reported in a parking lot on North First Street. 3:01 p.m. — An assault was reported on West Elm Avenue. 3:21 p.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on West Highland Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

9:37 a.m. — A disturbance was reported on West Hermiston Avenue. 1:37 p.m. — A caller on East Ridgeway Avenue reported that her daughter's friend had been staying over at their house too much and she didn't want her there anymore, and she didn't want the friend to come to their property to pick up her belongings. 2:09 p.m. — A caller reported she was trying to pick up her belongings from a home where she had been staying, but the other party was refusing to let her come over and threatening to get physical if she tries. 6:40 p.m. — A drunken driver was reported on North First Street.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

3:19 a.m. — An assault was reported on Sixth Street. 5:37 a.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on South First Street. 7:19 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on East Francolin Avenue.

COURTS

SUITS FILED

PENDLETON — The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed): Financial Assistance Inc. vs. Stuart and Deborah Harris: seeks \$8,646.32. Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Michelle R. Getchell of Hermiston: seeks \$1,602.03.

JUDGMENTS

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

FRIDAY, MAY 22

12:46 p.m. — A caller reported that someone had used their information to make a fraudulent unemployment claim. 2:18 p.m. — A caller reported that she had left an envelope with \$1,400 on the seat of her vehicle in the Safeway parking lot and she must have forgotten to lock her vehicle because when she came back the money was gone. 8:49 p.m. — A caller reported they were involved in a motor vehicle accident at 8 p.m. on North First Street with more than \$3,500 in damage. 11:17 p.m. — A disturbance was reported on Southeast Sixth Street.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

6:28 a.m. — A vehicle theft was reported on Southwest Ninth Street. 6:54 a.m. — A vehicle theft was reported on West Orchard Avenue. 12:52 p.m. — A vehicle theft was reported on West Eskimo Avenue. 1:20 p.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on North First Street. 5:04 p.m. — Police conducted a death investigation on West Oak Avenue. 7:24 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on Northeast Second Street. 9 p.m. — A hit-and-run was reported on Northwest 11th Street.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

2:22 a.m. — A disturbance was reported on West Sunland Avenue. 4:55 a.m. — A motor vehicle accident involving a driver hitting a parked car was reported on Northwest 11th Street. 12:28 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on East Autumn Avenue. 6:21 p.m. — A burglary was reported on South Highway 395.

Capital One Bank vs. Kaley Lankford of Hermiston: judgment for \$3,514.78.

DIVORCES

PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for: Steve George Cline and Angeline Carol Merkt-Cline of Hermiston.

MARRIAGES

PENDLETON — Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for: Travis Joseph Beck, 28, and Breana Renee Tolar, 29, both of Hermiston.

Hermiston woman falls victim to scam

By KATY NESBITT FOR THE HERMISTON HERALD

One woman's retirement dream turned into a nightmare this month when she lost her life savings and her home to wire fraud.

Karen Cranford has been in Hermiston nearly 40 years, raising two sons and working as an emergency dispatcher for both Umatilla County and the city of Hermiston. Her retirement plan was to sell her older house, in need of much repair, and buy a bigger one that could accommodate visiting family. With three great-grandchildren close by, she expected her new house to be a hub of activity.

Cranford's daughter-in-law, Jennifer Dorsey, said Cranford's dream was dashed the day before she was to close on the sale of her new home when she discovered the down payment she wired to the title company in fact disappeared into a fraudulent account.

Dorsey said Cranford got an email two days before she was to close on the new house. The email, allegedly from the title company, instructed Cranford to wire the down payment and closing cost to a bank account included in the message and not to call her contact at the title company — he would be too busy to talk to her by phone, she was to communicate only by email. "The email from the title company looked authentic. It had the company's logo and the name of the employee she had been talking to, and a correct signature line, but on second glance my husband and I could tell it was a scam," Dorsey said.

The red flag was that the email came from a Gmail account, not the title company's account, nor was the title company employ-

ee's name part of the email address. These details weren't noticed right away because the hacker did know the title contact's name and the exact amount of the down payment. The police were contacted, as well as the FBI, but in cases like these the money is typically wired to a U.S. account, and then to an overseas bank and is gone.

"WE GOT ACCESS TO THEIR GMAIL ACCOUNT TO SEE HOW THEY OPERATED. THIS GROUP HAD OVER 30 ATTACKS THAT WERE ONGOING"

— Jason Jacobson, senior vice president and chief information officer of AmeriTitle

With no down payment and no home, Cranford will have to move to Olympia, Washington, to live with Dorsey and her husband. They now have to find a bigger home to accommodate Cranford and her three dogs. Dorsey wants her family's story to be a cautionary tale. "They ruined her life and now all of our lives are upside down," Dorsey said. "If we make one person stop and question something, hopefully it wasn't all for naught."

Greg Galloway of Stearns Home Loans said Cranford's story is a textbook case of real estate wire fraud. "There has been a significant increase as we have moved into a more digital environment — documents are shared via email or other electronic uses," he said. "If you can break into it, the information can be used in an illegal way."

Title companies in small communities are often targeted because they don't have data security or encryption and are easier to access.

"It's easier to break into a small office than a large corporation," Galloway said. To ward off attacks, Galloway said Stearns has moved to a secured, digital portal or encrypted website instead of using email with clients. When email is used, an extra step is necessary, like entering a password. Spying on realtors is often how hackers gain

now the primary target compared to 10 years ago when banks and title companies were the targets.

"More financial institutions are investing money into securing their environment: he said.

Often the hackers get information from the client through an email offering a free gift card. The receiver clicks the link for the card and a screen pops up that looks like a Google login. Once a password is entered, the hacker can access an email account and spy on conversations and pick up on closing dates and down-

payment amounts. Jacobson said hackers are usually from Nigeria or the United Arab Emirates. He said two months ago, his company hacked a hacker after 23 days embedded with the FBI. "We got access to their Gmail account to see how they operated. This group had over 30 attacks that were ongoing," he said.

To help clients avoid fraud, Jacobson said AmeriTitle provides information upfront, letting customers know agents never email changes in wiring instructions. He said two-factor authentication is also used, like having a one-time password texted to the client to access the account.

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11 THINGS TO DO DURING QUARANTINE. MOVE TO SUN TERRACE - HERMISTON. 1. Call Pam at 541-564-2595. 2. Discuss apartment options. 3. Learn about amenities. 4. Book tour (virtual or in person). 5. Take tour. 6. Choose apartment. 7. Reserve apartment. 8. Schedule assessment. 9. Schedule movers. 10. Pack up. 11. Move in. Sun Terrace Hermiston A Retirement and Assisted Living Community A REGENCY PACIFIC COMMUNITY Bringing independence to living and quality to life.

DEATH NOTICE

Darrell Wayne Solomon

Hermiston
Aug. 28, 1940 — May 22, 2020

Darrell Wayne Solomon, 79, of Hermiston, died Friday, May 22, 2020, in Hermiston. He was born Aug. 28, 1940, in North Platte, Nebraska. Arrangements are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories with the family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston

MAY 13, 2020

MURRAY — Delene A. Murray and Jacob T. Murray of Hermiston: a girl, Gracie Marie Murray.

MAY 14, 2020

SEGURA HERNANDEZ — Otilia Hernandez and Victor Segura of Hermiston: a girl, Genesis Daleila Segura Hernandez.

MAY 19, 2020

DOYLE — Kira Doyle and Justin Doyle of Hermiston: a girl, Cece- lia Sunu Grace Doyle.