George Fenton honored by Oregon House

By JADE MCDOWELL **NEWS EDITOR**

A former Umatilla superintendent and city councilor was honored in the Oregon House of Representatives

The House voted unanimously to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 13, honoring George I. Fenton, who died in November 2019 at the age of 88. The resolution is headed to the Senate for a vote there.

Kristle Wyant, Fenton's daughter, said it meant a lot to her to hear state legislators praise her father's life work on the House floor.

"It's nice knowing people held him in such great respect," she said.

The resolution states Fenton "will be forever remembered as a dedicated educator and a gentleman statesman who touched countless lives and made his community a better place.'

Wyant said that after her father passed away, many teachers in Umatilla School District told her stories about his kindness during their job interview, or how he let them stay with the family while they tried to find housing, or even gave them a loan when they were struggling financially.



George Fenton, Umatilla former school superintendent, honored by the state House of Representatives.

"There was so much I learned about my dad after he passed away, that I had no idea because I went off to college and left," she said.

According to Wyant and the resolution, Fenton was born in 1931 in Harper, Oregon, and graduated from the nearby high school in Ontario. He lost both his parents by the age of 14 and worked hard from a young age, doing everything from shining shoes to digging

He attended one term at the University of Oregon before being drafted into the Korean War, serving in the Army, mostly in France, for about two years. Afterward, he used his GI Bill benefits to go to what is now Eastern Oregon University. He met his wife, Joyce Kroenlien, who was also majoring in education at the college.

They both taught school in Halfway until moving to Umatilla in 1978 after Fenton was hired as principal of the high school and junior high. He eventually became superintendent, from 1978 to 1996, and after retirement Fenton served on the Umatilla City Council from 1997 to 2015.

Wyant said that before and after his retirement, her father was heavily involved in the surrounding communities, through the VFW, United Methodist church, Elks Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club and other organizations. He was also known as a snappy dresser, she said, who used to have contests with other men at church about who could dress the best

"You didn't see him without a suit and tie very often," she said.

Wyant, who still lives in Umatilla, ended up going into education and was hired by her father to teach in Umatilla six years before his retirement. Her sister also eventually became a teacher, although neither had originally planned to follow in their parents'

'Mom would come home and tell stories and I would say, 'I never want to do that!' "Wyant said.

Her family set up a scholarship at Eastern Oregon University in memory of Fenton.

Wyant's son, Jacob Vandever, works for Rep. Christine Drazen, R-Canby, who introduced the resolution.

"Strong communities are the backbone of our society and strong leaders are built by leaders like George Fenton Jr.," Dranzen told representatives before the vote.

Representatives Smith, R-Heppner, and Bobby Levy, R-Echo, both testified in favor of the resolution as well, sharing their memories of Fenton. Smith said Fenton will go down in history as a "statesman, a visionary and a leader of Umatilla.'

Levy said she went to church with Fenton for a time, and she appreciated the advice and encouragement he gave her before she got married and his kind note of condolence he sent her when her ex-husband died.



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald, File

Ease of getting around town was one of the top answers people marked when asked about Hermiston's strengths.

Local residents provide feedback on city projects

By JADE MCDOWELL **NEWS EDITOR**

Hermiston's lack of traffic is one of its top strengths, according to a recent survey.

The survey was part of the regular "flash" surveys the city emails to residents who have signed up for the program. The recent survey had 217 participants.

The first question on the survey offered eight options in answering the question, "Which of the following do you think is a strength for Hermiston?" Ease of getting around the city was the most commonly chosen answer, at 46.5% of respondents marking it as a strength, followed by physical safety/security and availability of jobs. The least-chosen answer was shopping and restaurant options, at only 5.8%.

When asked what is most important to residents, 69.1% of residents said safety and security was one of their top four most important concerns, followed by shopping and restaurant options, and housing availability and affordability. Least chosen was the appearance of public property, at 22.4%.

A third question mentioned the \$3.6 million the city expects to receive from **MORE IDEAS**

The city also asked people to write in suggestions of projects under \$10,000 they would most like to see the city complete. The 93 write-in answers included these ideas: · Add a dog drinking fountain to the dog

- Add bike paths or more pedestrian trails • Turn grass at Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center into a lacrosse field
- Put historic murals or statues downtown
- Add benches at bus stops
- Fix potholes and repaint lines on roads
- · Increase water pressure in town
- Plant fruit trees around town that people could pick

the American Rescue Plan over the next two years. and asked if that money was represented by \$100. how residents would spend it. Grants for local businesses was the top answer. with an average of \$27.15. Next was investing in infrastructure, such as roads and

water lines, at \$22.65.

Mosquito control program underway

Efforts target areas of standing water where mosquito larvae thrive HERMISTON HERALD

The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District has

started implementing its 2021 mosquito control program, according to a press release.

The district serves a 525-square-mile area in western Umatilla County, including the towns of Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo, and will target areas of standing water where mosquito larvae thrive. Large water bodies will be sprayed with a helicopter, while smaller areas will be treated by hand. To control adult mosquitoes, the district plans to make using mounted ultra low volume sprayers, which will be done after sunset in areas of the district that have large populations of adult mosquitoes.

In rural areas, the district



A helicopter is used to disperse the larvicide VectoBac G over wetlands in the Power City Wildlife Area to control mosquito populations in 2018 north of Hermiston. The helicopter is contracted by the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District.

tions indicate the need for large scale spraying. Aerial spraying for adult mosquitoes will be done in the early evening hours just after sunset, the release said.

Of the 45 species of mos-

will begin aerial spraying quitoes found in Oregon, to control adult mosquitoes the district commonly sees when mosquito trap collec- 12 species of mosquitoes, including two that are possible carriers of West Nile

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the district is continuing to take measures to keep the public

and its employees as safe as possible while achieving its goal of protecting the pubdisease.

If residents do not wish to have their property sprayed, call the district at 541-567-5201 and ask to be placed on the no-spray list.

Pregnancy clinic fundraiser underway

TruCare is asking people to fill baby bottles with cash donations

HERMISTON HERALD

A Baby Bottle Campaign continues through mid-June to help raise money for Tru-Care Pregnancy Clinic.

TruCare is celebrating moms and mother figures throughout the month of May. People are invited to fill baby bottles with cash in honor or memory of someone special. Honored recipients will receive personalized notes and recognition on social media. The campaign will run through Father's Day, which is June

People can also "fill" a bottle virtually online via www.myegiving.com/App/ Giving/tcpc by making a \$25 donation for one bottle, \$50 for two or other custom amounts. Financial contributions provide help in funding pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and pregnancy support in the community.

A nonprofit organization, TruCare was originally founded as Pregnancy Care Services in 1993 in Pendleton, opening a Hermiston office in May 2011. In early 2018, Tru-Care became an independent entity from the center in Pendleton.

TruCare provides free and confidential services in English and Spanish. It provides options counseling, community referrals and parenting classes. Parents also can obtain needed baby supplies through the

The facility is located at 140 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-567-2393, kristi@trucareprc.com or visit www.trucareprc.com.





80489 Hwy 395 N Hermiston www.oregontrailvet.com To advertise in the Church Directory, animal in need. please contact Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email aworkman@eastoregonian.com If interested please go to fuzzballrescue.com and fill out an application. If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Worship Service 10:30 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Pastor J.C. Barnett

Children's Church & Nursery Available 700 West Orchard Avenue P.O. Box 933 Hermiston, Oregon

541-567-8441

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE.

..English 5:00pn ...English 9:00am .Spanish 11:00ar

Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los ÁngelesEspañol 6:00pm

Seventh-day

Adventist Church

Saturdays

Sabbath School......9:30 a.m.

Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.

English & Spanish Services

541-567-8241

855 W. Highland Ave.

Hermiston, OR 97838

....Español 7:00pm

...Español 11:00am ..Español 1:00pm

...Español 6:00pm

..541-567-5812

Hermiston Christian Center & School Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM

This gathering is also livestreamed on our Facebook page. Nursery care is available 3 years & under Kids Club available 4 years-5th grade

Sunday Prayer Gathering: 6:00 PM **NEED PRAYER? CONTACT US!**

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Join Us On Our Journey

With Jesus. Join us on ZOOM 9:00 AM Sunday Email: chuckb@eotnet.net for link N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston PH: 567-6672 We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all. First Christian Church "Grow Your Faith Through God" Sunday School...9:00 am

Worship Service...10:30 am 567-3013

775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

LANDMARK BAPTIST

CHURCH 125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232 Pastor David Dever

Sun. Bible Classes.. Sun. Worship Service.. Sun. Evening Worship Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm

www.hermistonlmbc.com