

OBITUARIES

Delmer O. Crawford

April 29, 1924 — Oct. 4, 2021

Hermiston

Delmer O. Crawford of Hermiston, was born April 29, 1924, outside of Ione, on the Oregon Trail to parents, Wate and Mabel (Phillips) Crawford. He died Oct. 4, 2021, in Hermiston at the age of 97 years. Delmer was raised and attended school in Ione before joining the United States Navy. He served during WWII until his honorable discharge and returned home and married Francine Ely April 22, 1949.



Crawford

They owned the Shell Oil Bulk Plant in Hermiston and Pendleton along with several Shell service stations,

following their retirement from the oil business, Delmer worked security at various agriculture plants in the area for several years. He enjoyed traveling, farming and time spent with his family. Delmer was an active member of the Elks Lodge #1845, holding several offices, the Eagles Lodge and the Ione American Legion Post.

He is survived by his daughters, Marlene Bush, Hermiston, and Anita Kongsle, Kennewick; nine grandchildren, Jonathan Bush, Kennewick, Justin (Susan) Bush, Elko, Nevada, Jocelle (Bert) Quinn and Jenee Bush, Hermiston, Jacki (Darral) Moore and Loni Kong-

slie, Kennewick, Jeffrey (Jean-Pierre) Correa, Brooklyn, New York, Jerid (Tonisha) Falconer, Vancouver, Washington, and Jana (Mike) Topf, Pasco; 17 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Delmer was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Francine Crawford; a daughter, Cyndee Falconer; his parents; and seven siblings, Vernon, Sam, Rollo, Margaret, Melba, Harlan and Ruth.

We would like to give thanks to the Good Shepherd Medical Center staff for the kindness and compassion shown not only to Delmer but to our family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Vange John Memorial Hospice Education Fund c/o Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston. A private burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston.

Please share memories of Delmer with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Minerva Leticia Bethel

Jan. 25, 1942 — Oct. 3, 2021

Hermiston

Minerva Leticia Little and husband, Bob, John Guel and wife, Beatrice, Jason Bethel and wife, Claudia, Thomas Bethel and Richard "Ricky" Bethel; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



Bethel

Minerva was raised in Texas and Grandview, Washington, graduating from Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Washington, as a licensed practical nurse. She worked at the Othello Hospital, Good Shepherd and Regency in Hermiston. Minerva was united in marriage to Lynn Bethel Aug. 5, 1977, in Hermiston.

She enjoyed gardening, animals, sewing, music and cherished family gatherings.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Lynn Bethel; children, Leticia "Letty"

was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Elizabeth "Betsy" Miles.

A graveside service will be held Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Those who wish may make contributions in Minerva's memory to Fuzz Ball or St Jude's Hospital for Children.

Please share memories of Minerva with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

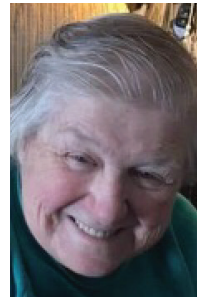
Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Myrla Elaine Cox

Feb. 2, 1939 — Oct. 3, 2021

Irrigon

Myrla Elaine Cox of Irrigon was born Feb. 2, 1939, in Selma, California, the daughter of Chester and



Cox

Mardette (Williams) Kleinhammer. She passed away in Richland, Washington, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at the age of 82.

Myrla grew up in Fresno County, California, attending school in Fowler, California. She graduated from Fowler High School in the late 1950s. She then joined the Air Force where she served for a short time. After her honorable discharge, she returned to Fresno County where she resided for several years. She moved to western Washington for a couple of years before settling in Eastern Oregon in 1968. She has been a resident of the Irrigon community for many years.

Myrla loved raising her Irish wolfhounds. She enjoyed horses, crocheting

and working on ancestry. Myrla married Arlie B. Tompkins in the late 1950s and from this union four children were born, Arlie, Adam, Allen and Dawn. The couple later divorced. She married John C. Cox in 1965. The couple divorced many years later.

She is survived by three sons, Arlie and wife, Diana Tompkins, Adam and wife, Jana Tompkins, Allen Tompkins; daughter, Dawn

and husband, Mike Samson; eight grandchildren, several great-grandchildren; and brother, Keith Kleinhammer.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Danny Kleinhammer.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later time. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

To leave an online condolence for the family please go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Hermiston chamber of commerce unveils its new digs

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Hermiston Herald

Even while wearing masks Monday morning, Oct. 11, you could see the excitement on the faces of Val Hoxie, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce executive assistant, and Kris Bennett, board of directors chair. Anticipating an upcoming open house, the two women were putting finishing touches on the chamber's new office space. Everyone is invited to drop in Friday, Oct. 15, between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 630 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

Hoxie, who has been with the chamber since July 30, moved to Hermiston in October 2020. After Kristina Olivas, the chamber's chief executive officer since March, recently returned to her previous employer, Hoxie has been busy moving forward with chamber programs and planning for the transition to the newly remodeled space at the former Pioneer Title building. And she couldn't be more excited.

"This community is so welcoming," Hoxie said. "I've truly fallen in love with it."

Following Olivas' departure, the

chamber board immediately launched a search for her replacement. Bennett said the board will make an announcement and introduce its new executive at 4:30 p.m. during the open house.

For nearly two decades, the chamber had been housed in the Hermiston Community Center. However, in January 2018, the city of Hermiston ended its contract with the chamber and moved its parks and recreation program into the center.

Several months after moving its office to the Cornerstone Plaza, the chamber received a \$1 million allocation from the state to build a new

workforce development center. After purchasing property on South Highway 395 across from New Hope Community Church and drafting plans for the project, a fundraising drive has been delayed because of the global pandemic.

Although those plans are on hold, the chamber still wanted to move forward with providing workforce development and have meeting space available for its membership. The former Pioneer Title building offers that — plus, Hoxie and Bennett said the location's visibility is very appealing.

"In just the few weeks that we've

been here, we have a lot more walk-in traffic," Hoxie said. "And the phone is ringing off the hook."

Entering the building, people are immediately greeted with a large mural-type canvas created by Lisa Peppard of Artful Virgo. The colorful piece features various logos and designs that depict all things Hermiston and beyond.

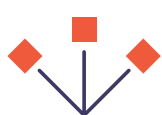
Bennett, who owns KRISantheums, is especially excited about the opportunity to help other local businesses thrive — whether it's through offering resources and training or space and networking.

"We give to help kids experience the outdoors, music and art they would otherwise miss in rural communities."

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