

Hermiston resident finds artistic outlet in painting

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Donna Anderson, of Hermiston, experienced back pain so intense she thought she would never be able to do anything interesting ever again.

Then she discovered an artistic outlet. Now a painter, and the owner of her painting business, Acrylics by Donna, she is creating and selling her works.

Anderson, who was married to the late Andy Anderson, a former Hermiston chief of police, said her back pain was excruciating. She had a 12-hour surgery, and there was little she could do afterwards, she said.

Two years ago, she started painting on a whim, first watching videos on the subject and then practicing. Now, after a couple of years of making pictures, her home is crowded with paintings.

At a Saturday, Dec. 11, Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church Christmas bazaar, as she stood at a booth where she sold her paintings, she explained her situation. She said she was running out of room in her house. Her children had been telling her to sell them, she said, but she never felt that she was good enough. She lacked confidence that people would want to buy her paintings.

After some thought, however, she decided to sell paintings at another recent bazaar. She sold 10 paintings. That encouraged her to plan appearances at other bazaars, including the one at the Catholic church, she said.



Donna Anderson, of Hermiston, discusses an angel painting on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021. It was one of many paintings that she made and brought to a bazaar at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston.

Early Dec. 11, she already had sold paintings, she said. She had brought 50 paintings, and though she said she did not expect to sell them all, she said she would be happy to sell some of them. She also was pleased, she said, to have received a lot of compliments on her work.

"It's stroking my ego, making me feel good," she said.

Anderson said her style is varied, though she tends toward abstract styles. Realism is not of much interest to her, as she said it resembles photography too much. When one is painting abstract works, they can convey something special and unique, she said. Also, she explained that her mood comes across in her paintings.

"Sometimes you can tell my attitude at the time. If the painting is bold, you can

guess that I was stressed. If I'm painting something nice, like a nice, sweet flower, I'm feeling good. It just comes out that way," Anderson said.

She added she often gets caught up in her work. One day, she recalled, she was painting and thinking about grocery shopping. After painting for some time and thinking about apples, she looked down at her painting and noticed a big apple in the center of the canvas.

This made her laugh, she said. She had not intended to paint an apple, yet there one was.

Painting is unlike other art she has done, she said. For a while, she was making fairy houses. But no one was interested in her little houses, she said. In contrast, she said, people are showing excitement for her painting.

"I can see myself doing this for a long while," she said.

OBITUARY

Eugene LeRoy 'Gene' Puckett

March 25, 1942 — Nov. 12, 2021

Hermiston

Eugene LeRoy "Gene" Puckett, age 79, of Hermiston, Oregon, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021. Gene was born on March 25, 1942, in McMinnville, Oregon, to Vernon and Lois (Shively) Puckett. He spent his years growing up in several small towns around the state of Oregon and graduated from Scappoose High School in 1961.

Gene worked many years as a diesel mechanic at Willamette Industries in Dallas, Oregon. He also did freelance mechanic work and enjoyed helping anyone with a project.

Everyone who knew him, knew that he loved each of his six children; he bragged about his grandchildren as well. He loved to tell stories, talk about the good ole' days, and liked to make people laugh as much as he liked to make them think. Most of all, he wanted to pass along sensible values to help people become their best.

He is preceded in death by his father, Vernon Edward; mother, Elona Lois Shively; his sister, Jennie Pugh; and his brothers, Arrol and Jerry. He is survived by his four brothers, Vernon (Lucky), Jim, Wilbur (Smokie),

and sister, Fairy Teal.

Gene will remain fondly in the hearts of his children, grandchildren and great-grandson. Terri, her husband, Greg Taylor, her children, Jordan and Zachary, her grandson, Lawrence. Patti Senger, her children, Mitchell and Kaitlyn. Eddie Puckett, his wife, Barbara, and his children, Michael, Evan, Ethan and Emily. Suzie, her husband, Sam Collins, her children, Ellie and Jake. Angela Puckett, her fiancé, Cody Bass, her children, Warren, Madalyn and Evelyn. Corina, her husband, Gary Brown, her children, Mckenzie, Jackson, Elizabeth and Clare.

Gene was laid to rest at the Dallas Cemetery, in Dallas, Oregon. The private burial service was held on Dec. 3, 2021.

A celebration of life service will be held on what would be Gene's 80th birthday, in McMinnville, the town where he was born.

Celebration of Life:
Eugene LeRoy Puckett
March 25, 2022
2-4 p.m.
1700 S.W. Old Sheridan Road
McMinnville, Oregon 97128



Puckett

Hermiston gym owner returns to her roots with a smaller location

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Higher Power Fitness in Hermiston is up and running right where the owner wants it — in a small building next to her home.

That's where Cindee Henderson began her physical training business eight years ago. After some success, she opened other locations, which she has since closed. Henderson said she could not be happier to return to where she started.

"There seemed to be a market for larger group training, which I thought we could grow into," Henderson said, explaining why she moved into a couple of different locations — first the Cornerstone Building in Hermiston for a couple of years and then the 2120 Building off of Highway 395 in Hermiston for another five years. She said she found it easier at the time to get insured in the building rather than in her home, but she has solved that problem, too.

While in 2120, she had seven staff trainers and offered fitness classes, but the business did not grow the way she wanted, she said.

"The large classes that we wanted to do just didn't take off with our client base," she said.

She said she mostly works with older women who don't want to be in a



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Cindee Henderson picks up some equipment in her training studio, Nov. 24, 2021, in a small building next to her home in Hermiston.

large gym and prefer the "close camaraderie" encouraged by a smaller, less industrial space.

This suits Henderson just fine, because she also likes smaller settings and smaller groups more. In her current location, available by appointment only, she has one-on-one sessions and group workouts of up to six people.

"A lot of them have been with me for six or seven years, or I know them really well," she said.

She described her classes as "functional fitness," with unique routines based on the needs of her clients, her observation and their feedback. They use resistance bands, dumbbells, barbells and kettlebells.

Her gym in the 2120

Building closed in March 2020, just as the pandemic was starting, she said. Then she opened for a few weeks in June 2020 and a few weeks in July. When she was open, she said, she had people wear masks and "followed all the rules" to protect herself and her older clients. Meanwhile, trainers came and went, she said.

She said the closings and uncertainty gave her a chance to step back and ask if it was really what she wanted. At 65 years old, she decided she did not want to spend the time and effort it would take to build a large gym.

"This is it," she said, motioning around toward her small location and its equipment. "My clients and I love it."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Bistro welcomes Dallin Puzey

Local musician Dallin Puzey will perform in Umatilla. The free show is Saturday, Dec. 18, 7-9 p.m. at The Bridge Bistro & Brews, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla.

The mostly self-taught musician plays guitar, piano and harmonica. In addition to his original tunes, including "U-Co. Blues," Puzey plays familiar hits of Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Tom Petty, Creedence Clearwater Revival and more.

For more information about the event, call 541-922-4112.

Altrusa seeks children's book donations

Altrusa International of Hermiston is hosting a book collection event. Held in conjunction with the opening day of the animated movie "Sing 2" — Wednesday, Dec. 22 — at the Hermiston Cinema, 355 W. Theater Lane. Members of the service club will be available in the lobby during the afternoon matinees. Families attending the movie are encouraged to donate a new or gently used children's book.

Books collected during the event will help stock three Little Free Libraries that Altrusa maintains in Hermiston neighborhoods.

"We look forward to seeing you and to gathering wonderful books that will be shared with all of the community's children," Altrusa member Nancy Lauck said in a press release.

A nonprofit organization, Altrusa works toward making local communities better



Tammy Malgesini/Hermiston Herald, File

Dallin Puzey performs Oct. 5, 2019, at the Morrow County Harvest Festival in Boardman. The local musician will play a free show Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, at The Bridge Bistro & Brews, Umatilla.

through leadership, partnership and service. Clubs undertake a variety of service, literacy, fundraising and international projects each year.

For more information, email Lauck at nancylauck1@gmail.com.

— Hermiston Herald

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.....Spanish 7:00pm
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Hermiston Christian Center & School
Sunday Gathering: 10:00 AM
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PET OF THE WEEK
MEET MURPHY!
He is a very sensitive dog about 8 years old. Very clingy, loves his person. Needs someone home with him and not just left all day alone. He would do best in a home with no other dogs

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal shelters need our help more than ever. Please donate to your local shelter, or offer to foster an animal in need.

If interested please go to fuzzleballrescue.com and fill out an application.
If you are not able to adopt, but would like to foster or donate, visit fuzzleballrescue.com or you can mail in donations to Fuzzle Ball Animal Rescue, PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838

To advertise in the Church Directory, please contact
Audra Workman 541-564-4538 or email aworkman@eastoregonian.com