

DEATH NOTICES

Paula M. Crowell

Oct. 27, 1940 — Dec. 16, 2021
Stanfield

Paula M. Crowell, 81, of Stanfield, died Dec. 16, 2021, at her home. She was born Oct. 27, 1940, in Le Mars, Iowa. A memorial service will be Jan. 8, 11 a.m. at Westside Church of Christ, 2185 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Burial will be at a later date at Pleasant View Cemetery, Stanfield. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Robert Lee 'Bob' Fowler

Sept. 16, 1952 — Nov. 29, 2021
Walla Walla

Robert Lee "Bob" Fowler, 69, of Walla Walla, died Nov. 29, 2021, in Walla Walla. He was born Sept. 16, 1952, in Boise. A family gathering will be held. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Kim A. Huff

Dec. 17, 1954 — Dec. 13, 2021
Hermiston

Kim A. Huff, 66, of Hermiston, died Dec. 13, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born Dec. 17, 1954, in Pendleton. A private family gathering was held. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Charlotte Marie Johnson

Oct. 11, 1952 — Dec. 13, 2021
Hermiston

Charlotte Marie Johnson, 69, of Hermiston, died Dec. 13, 2021, in Portland. She was born Oct. 11, 1952, in Newport, Washington. Services are pending. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Autumn Rose Jones

Oct. 20, 1999 — Dec. 18, 2021
Boardman

Autumn Rose Jones, 22, of Boardman, died Dec. 18, 2021, in Condon. She was born Oct. 20, 1999, in Walnut Creek, California. Services are pending. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Anthony P. 'Tony' Loveday

Sept. 20, 1966 — Dec. 16, 2021
Hermiston

Anthony P. "Tony" Loveday, 55, of Hermiston, died Dec. 16, 2021, at his home. He was born Sept. 20, 1966, in Pendleton. A funeral service will be Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston. Burial will follow at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Irrigon. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Cynthia Marie 'Cyndi' Martuscelli

Oct. 26, 1951 — Dec. 18, 2021
Stanfield

Cynthia Marie "Cyndi" Martuscelli, 70, of Stanfield, died Dec. 18, 2021, at her home. She was born Oct. 26, 1951, in Walla Walla. Services are pending. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Robert James Powell

Dec. 14, 1934 — Dec. 18, 2021
Umatilla

Robert James Powell, 87, of Umatilla, died Dec. 18, 2021, in Richland, Oregon. He was born Dec. 14, 1934, in Adrian. A graveside service will be held at a later date at Wilder Cemetery, Wilder, Idaho. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Lester Steven 'Steve' Reece

Feb. 6, 1951 — Dec. 15, 2021
Boardman

Lester Steven "Steve" Reece, 70, of Boardman, died Dec. 15, 2021, at his home. He was born Feb. 6, 1951, in Nyssa. Services are pending. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Share memories at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Theodore L. 'Teddy' Williams

April 18, 1984 — Nov. 30, 2021
Hermiston

Theodore L. "Teddy" Williams, 37, of Hermiston, died Nov. 30, 2021, in Paterson, Washington. He was born April 18, 1984, in Tacoma, Washington, the son of Theodore Prater and Angela Williams. A memorial service will be Dec. 20, 1 p.m. at the Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Leave an online condolence at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

OBITUARY

Donald Lee Bennett

May 8, 1933 — Nov. 16, 2021
Echo

Donald Lee Bennett, of Echo, passed away on Nov. 16, 2021, at the age of 88. Don was born on May 8, 1933, to J.W. and Marie Bennett and lived the earliest years of his life on the family cattle and wheat ranch near Winona, Washington. He had many fond memories of growing up with his three brothers in the Palouse wheat country.



Bennett



Don's parents relocated their family farming business to Oakville, Washington, when he was a sophomore in high school. He participated on several sports teams and graduated in 1951.

Don served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 as a unit clerk in Korea. After his honorable discharge, Don returned to the family farm. In September 1956, Don married Phyllis Neace and together they raised two sons, Darryl and Dwayne.

Don spent five years living in Wallowa, Oregon, operating a commercial ranch until 1976 when he relocated his family to Hermiston, where he would live and work the remainder of his life. Don and his twin brother, Doug, went into business together, founding the Oregon Hereford Ranch, a purebred Hereford cattle and farming operation. The ranch was located just south of Hermiston on Buttercreek, where it thrived for over 40 years.

Don had been involved in several cattle organizations throughout his life, including the Shorthorn, Hereford and Black Angus Associations. Don had a passion for farming the land and looked forward to each new season of crops and harvests. Don was honored in 2007 by Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences for his lifetime achievement in Oregon agriculture.

Don is survived by his wife, Phyllis, of 65 years; twin brother, Doug of Echo; sons, Darryl of Hermiston and Dwayne of Kennewick; four grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by two older brothers, Bill and Jack.

A private family graveside service was held at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Don's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

Please share memories of Don with his family at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.

Faith community celebrates reason for season

By TAMMY MALGESINI
Hermiston Herald

Brightly wrapped presents tucked under a tree is the hallmark of Christmas.

Members of the faith-based community enjoy the tradition of exchanging gifts, however, the holiday has much deeper meaning. While competing with Santa Claus, Black Friday sales or light displays like Clark Griswold's in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," several area church leaders and members of local congregations describe Christmas as a celebration of their faith.

Barb Wattenburger, who attends New Hope Community Church in Hermiston, acknowledges that exchanging gifts is exciting and fun. The Hermiston woman also helps with Operation Christmas Child, a faith-based outreach ministry that distributes gifts to disadvantaged children across the globe.

However, it's more than just Christmas presents — she said the project is wrapped up as an opportunity to share God's love in a tangible way, providing a "touch of hope." And for Wattenburger, it all comes back to her central focus.

"All the other traditions and fun activities add to the celebration, but they can never compete with the true meaning, for me," she said. "The true meaning of Christmas impacts my life every day of the year."

Pastor Patty Nance of the Hermiston First United Methodist Church, Pastor Terry Haight of Herm-



Tammy Malgesini/Hermiston Herald

Chris Early and Phil Hector sing a duet of "O Come All Ye Faithful" at the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship service Dec. 19, 2021, at the First United Methodist Church, Hermiston.

istons' ZEAL Church and Jeff Snell, former Hermiston stake president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, agree that an important factor is carving out a way of life that highlights the meaning of Christmas each day.

"There are a lot of people saying, 'What about the day after Christmas, then what?' They want to know what happens after the excitement is over," Haight said. "That's when people need to have a genuine encounter with God, where he's celebrated all year round."

Nance said grumbling about the glossing over of the true meaning of Christmas has been a part of the holiday landscape her entire life. Snell agreed, saying for a while he was greatly disturbed with the commercialization of Christmas.

"I used to be pretty 'grinchy' when it came to Christmas. I finally had to realize that I was the one allowing Christmas to be commercialized," he said.

Wrapped up in traditions
Continuing traditions

from her childhood, Carol Greene of Hermiston enjoys gathering with family. Activities can include something as simple as watching old Christmas movies, making crafts or sitting around a bonfire drinking hot cocoa. And Nance has fond memories of digging to the bottom of her Christmas stocking to find an orange nestled deep down in its toe.

Greene, who attends ZEAL Church, also seeks opportunities to share about the blessings in her life, praying with others and helping people build their faith and hope.

"Christmas is a day of celebrating the birth of Jesus," she said.

For David Florea, who attends Oasis Vineyard Church, it's important to accept invitations to dinners, parties and gatherings with family and friends. He said reaching out to others can be helpful and healing.

After becoming homeless earlier this year, Florea expressed gratitude to dear friends who opened their home to him. Based on his feelings of sadness and bro-

kness, Florea could have easily bypassed Christmas, but he said doing so would dishonor God, his friends and himself.

Instead, he's trying to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and how that affects his destiny. Watching "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Carol" are among his favored activities, along with attending a Christmas Eve service to worship, sing and pray. Snell, too, likes to incorporate music and movies, which he said "brings a warmth and peace to my heart."

Being able to attend community activities and extended family gatherings has been a highlight for Wattenburger this holiday season. She also continues to focus on "passing important truths on to the children and grandchildren." She's particularly looking forward to Christmas Tea with her five grandchildren.

"It is a special tea party, complete with lots of goodies and formal table manners," Wattenburger said. "We just have a great time together, and I plan to continue it for as many years as they will participate in it."

And Nance, Florea and Snell enjoy reading the biblical account of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2.

"We are blessed to be called to share the story of Jesus' birth and we are happy to do that among the mounds of spent wrapping paper and ribbons, piles of gift cards and fruit cakes set aside for 'love your neighbor' re-gifting," Nance said.

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Church DIRECTORY

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<p>NEW BEGINNINGS 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 541-289-4774</p>	<p>Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. MASS SCHEDULES Monday-Friday.....English 8:00am Tuesday-Friday.....Spanish 6:00pm SATURDAY.....English 5:00pmSpanish 7:00pm SUNDAY.....English 9:00amSpanish 11:00amSpanish 1:00pmSpanish 6:00pm Parish Office.....541-567-5812</p>	<p>Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de los Angeles 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. HORARIOS DE MISAS Lunes a Viernes.....Inglés 8:00am Martes a Viernes.....Español 6:00pm SÁBADO.....Inglés 5:00pmEspañol 7:00pm DOMINGO.....Inglés 9:00amEspañol 11:00amEspañol 1:00pmEspañol 6:00pm Oficina Parroquial.....541-567-5812</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH 125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232 Pastor David Dever Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am Sun. Evening Worship.....5:00pm Tues. Creation Club (Sept-May).4:30pm Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....5:00pm www.hermistonlmbc.com</p>	<p>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! 1825 W. Highland Ave. 541-567-3480 hcc4u.org hcc4u2020@gmail.com</p>

PET OF THE WEEK

MEET PONGO!

He is a very high energy puppy who needs training. He needs another dog to play with. Prefer someone who is home to help be more socialized.

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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 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

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