



‘Beloved by all’: Stanfield mayor dies of heart attack

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Thomas McCann, Stanfield mayor and beloved community leader, died on Saturday, April 16, of a heart attack.

“He had a really lengthy service to the public,” Stanfield City Manager Benjamin Burgener said.

The city of Stanfield website has a list of McCann’s public work. It mentions he was president of the Oregon Association of

Chiefs of Police, president and board chairman of the Oregon Special Districts Association, Stanfield Fire District firefighter, Stanfield chief of police, Umatilla County Marine Patrol deputy sheriff and more.

The website states he had 37 total years of law enforcement experience, as well as crediting him for being a family man. Mayor McCann was married to his wife, Sharone McCann, for 50 years and had five children, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Coming to Stanfield to serve

According to Burgener, McCann came to Stanfield from Arizona, where he served as a narcotics officer. In 1992, he left the Stanfield police, and then became mayor in 1995.

“His life was in public service,” the city manager said. “He looked for ways to serve the community, protect the community and improve the community his whole life.”

McCann brought many projects to his city, Burgener said.

“Most recently, we’ve been work-

ing through our downtown repaving project with (the Oregon Department of Transportation),” he added. “The improvements, which we’re still undergoing, will bring in lights, add sidewalks and make for a better business and community environment for the city.”



McCann

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Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald
Diners congregate at the Hermiston Food Pod on Friday, April 15, 2022.

A full pod

Nine vendors now are open at Hermiston hot spot

By ERICK PETERSON • Hermiston Herald

Taking a rare break during a busy day, Patrick Hunt leaned against his food truck and chatted about the success of the Hermiston Food Pod.

The pod, a collection of food trucks gathered at 240 S.W. Third Street, across from the post office, is full. Its nine trucks are present and open for business. The final holdout was Krack Burger, which opened Friday, April 15.

Hunt manages the pod, coordinating the individual business owners and acting as a liaison with the city of Hermiston.

“I’m grateful to the community for making this happen,” Hunt said. He added that he was appreciative

to the city government, too.

The pod had been closed so the city could renovate the property. Plumbing and electricity were added, making it possible for additional trucks to set up shop. In recent months, the pod reopened, with between two and four trucks present at any given time.

Hunt’s mobile restaurant, Southern Twain BBQ, was among the few that opened early. At the restaurant, he cooked and served sausages, sandwiches, nachos and more.



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald
Maureen Dickens motions to her new food truck restaurant, Twisted Filipino Variety Cuisine, Friday, April 15, 2022.

Slowly but surely, more trucks were added until the lot was full.

The current fleet of trucks offers a variety of food. One can pick up barbecued ribs, grilled hamburgers, kalua pork, tacos, biscuits and gravy and more, depending on the particular truck from which one wants to dine.

Hunt said the diversity of foods was important to him.

Many restaurateurs wished to open at the pod, he said. He added that he turned some down, just because he wanted to avoid having redundancies.

“We can’t have too much of the same stuff,” he said. “There were vendors who wanted to offer more tacos and I had to tell them that I

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Hermiston City Council candidates talk growth, homelessness in forum

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Toward the end of a candidate forum Tuesday, April 12, in Hermiston, a couple of city council candidates pointed out distinctions between this event and ones like it at higher echelons of government. “City council is different,” Roy Barron said.

An incumbent who is running for reelection May 17, Barron stated this sort of forum is more contentious at state and federal levels.

Sharing this sentiment, candidate David McCarthy voiced his approval of the entire group of candidates, including his opponent.

“Anyone here would do a good job,” McCarthy said.

Organized by the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, this candidate forum was held at the Hermiston Community Center. It involved most of the candidates for the upcoming election. Four of eight seats, all ward positions, are up for election this year. Three of the incumbents are being challenged, each with a single opponent.

Jackie Myers, city councilor for

Ward 3, is running unopposed and was not present.

Candidates present were Lori Davis, Ward 1 councilor and her challenger, Jackie Linton; Barron, Ward 2 councilor and his challenger, Stan Stradley; and Phillip Spicerkuhn, Ward 4 councilor and his challenger, McCarthy.

Angela Pursel, Hermiston business owner, moderated the forum.

She had candidates present opening and closing statements and in between asked them questions about important topics of the day. The questions were of her own making.

Val Hoxie, chamber executive director, said she was pleased with the questions, which hit upon

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