

Salem Academy Christian Schools . Salem, Oregon . Fall/Winter 2022

SA TIMES



**Welcome Back
Veterans**

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SA Times is published
for alumni, current families,
and friends of Salem Academy.

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Superintendent's Message

Dear SA Family and Friends,

The development of servant leaders has been at the forefront of campus life this fall at Salem Academy. We knew that returning to a non-pandemic normal mode of operation would be a blessing, but the 2022-23 school year has been so much more. God has blessed us with record enrollment of 810 students, Pre-K through 12th grade. Over the past two summers, Salem Academy has grown by 25% and 17% respectively. We have waiting lists in most of our elementary grades, and in two years we should have the equivalent of three sections at all grade levels. Families looking for an excellent education from a Biblical perspective are being drawn by our faithful performance during the Covid-regulated school years and our ongoing commitment to our mission.

Salem Academy's enrollment increase has brought the need for change and growth. We have added additional faculty positions, and we have increased support staffing in administration, athletics, childcare, and facilities. Our Educational Support Services department is leading even more students to successful outcomes in response to their learning challenges. Our facility team continues to make necessary renovations to the campus, including new HVAC systems, security systems, and general campus improvements. In addition, our Campus Master Plan process is finishing its Feasibility Study phase as we prepare to move forward with new building plans. We are committed to making the changes necessary to ensure sustainable growth while staying on mission.

Salem Academy's commitment to excellence was clearly on display this fall as our Lady Crusaders volleyball team successfully defended their State title. Winning back-to-back State Championships is an exceptional accomplishment...but something happened along the way that spoke even louder. At the tournament hotel in Redmond, our #1 ranked team found a connection with our eventual championship match opponent. The teams began watching game film together and rooting for each other in the tournament. Our student athletes shared the love of Christ with their opponents, and our OSAA 2A Coach of the Year, Melissa Holman, led both teams in prayer. This was a special moment because public school coaches are not allowed to lead their teams in prayer. This authentic display of servant leadership happened in the midst of an extremely competitive championship run. The victory on the court was special - but the Kingdom win was even better. As a former volleyball coach, pastor, and Salem Academy superintendent, I felt like a proud papa as I remembered the words of 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth."

As you read through the pages of this edition of the *SA Times*, I hope you also feel a personal connection to the ongoing ministry of education and leadership development at Salem Academy Christian Schools. Your investment, through prayers and resources, directly impacts the success of the great students God has entrusted to us.

In Christ Alone,

John Tyler
Superintendent



HOMECOMING WEEK



Pictured (L-R): Aiden Dardis, Aly Herber, Ronan Dougherty, Shiloh Hardin-Schrock, Frankie Pineda-Volk, Grace Hinkle, Brady Brownell, Paige Hurley, Landen Mitchell, & Kacyn Hiley.

Fall, Floats, and an SA Homecoming

What a beautiful evening for alumni to gather and cheer with the current SA student body at this year's Homecoming Night. Halftime activities included the High School class float parade and crowning of 2022 Homecoming **King Aiden Dardis** and **Queen Aly Herber**. See you all next year!



2025



2024

2023

2026

ALUMNI BBQ



SPIRIT WEEK



KNOW AND SERVE



Between student activities and academic learning, SA students take time to focus their attention on our school mission to know and serve God. Superintendent Tyler shared a story earlier about the amazing opportunity our Crusader volleyball coach and girls had sharing Christ with another team. Earlier this fall students gathered for “See You at the Pole” as they lifted the student body, community, and our nation in prayer. Secondary students spent Halloween night stocking cars with decor and candy as part of “Trunk or Treat” for our parents and surrounding community. Bridge 56 Leadership took time to pick up brooms and more to tidy up their campus, and 4th Grade students harvested mini pumpkins from the SA garden, decorated them, wrote notes, and delivered to residents of Rosewood Court Care Facility. Elementary families once again collected shoeboxes as part of “Operation Christmas Child” and delivered 173 shoeboxes to Salem Evangelical. As Mrs. Ferguson shared with her staff, *“What a great testimony of the faithfulness of our community.”* And we were so excited to once again welcome area veteran and military guests for a special assembly where we had the privilege to honor them through songs, stories shared, and students taking time to personally thank them for their service.



*The mission and vision of Salem Academy Christian Schools is to provide an excellent education, from a Christ-centered, Biblical perspective, so that our students might **KNOW** and **SERVE** God.*

HONORING VETERANS



Colonel Mitchell
(Guest Speaker)



"Before another day passes I want to express my appreciation and thanks for the wonderful celebration of honoring Veterans. The ceremony and experience will be mentioned at our Thanksgiving Day celebration with my family.
- Jim Tusan



Tom Vanderhoof '60
(Representing VFW #661 Uniform Display Museum)

Cathy Clark
(Keizer Mayor)



SSG Duane Reno
(Guest Singer)



SFC Frank Dixon
(Military Vehicle Display)

Visit SA's  **YouTube** channel for video of this event and more!

SA PROFILES

Athletic Office

Welcome to SA's New Athletic Assistant



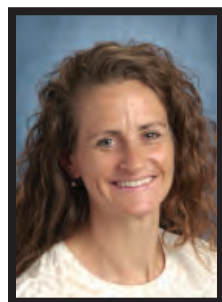
Suzie Phelps graduated high-school from Crescent Valley in Corvallis, OR, & attended Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, ID, where she competed as a volleyball athlete with her twin sister Amy. In 2009 Suzie & her now husband Kelly, married. They were blessed with 2 beautiful children, Claire & MacKelly.

Suzie spends her time coaching the JV Volleyball team at SA and attending Claire's Dance Recitals & MacKelly's ATA testing performances. Her favorite season of the year is fall, when the mornings are cool but the afternoons sunny, and the smell of homemade chili & baked potatoes fill the home, the sound of leaves crunch beneath her feet, and football is always playing in the background. Suzie loves all things outdoors...paddle-boarding, hiking, & snow skiing with her family. She loves taking walks with her puppies, Lambeau and Frenchie; and if possible, Suzie would visit Disney World & Disneyland every year.

"I absolutely love being a part of the Salem Academy family, and feel truly blessed to be part of this community. Serving this them has been a blessing. It has been such a joy to see how God continues to work in my life and lead me in directions I didn't see for myself. My family feels right at home here, and we pray to be part of the SA family for many years to come."

Educational Support Services

Welcome to SA's New ESS Teacher



Lisa Stolfi joins the growing SA Educational Support Services team supporting 5th-9th grade students in math. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Ohio Northern University and taught elementary for a few years before going back to receive her Masters of Education in Special Education at Loyola University of Chicago. She and her husband enjoy spending time with their 2 children.

They enjoy hiking, skiing, camping, and any sort of sport.

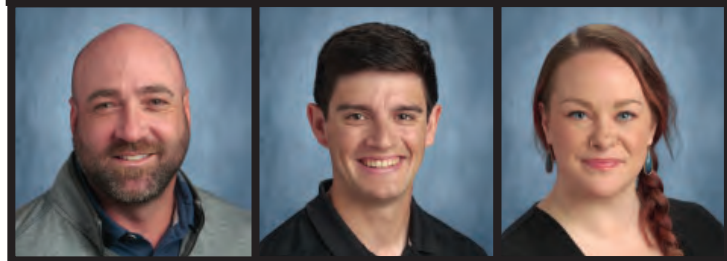
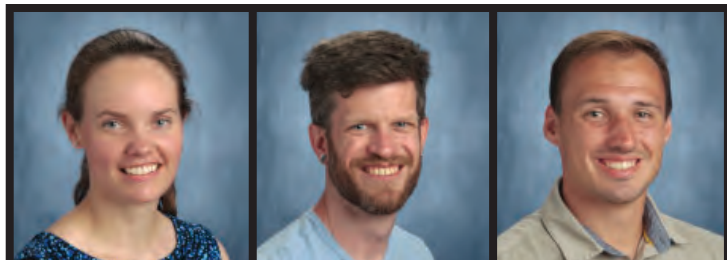
The sense of community and faith-based focus is what drew me to Salem Academy. I am excited to join the SA community this year and to be part of a great team!

New Faculty & Staff

As shared over the summer we said farewell to teachers and staff who started new adventures...which meant this fall we welcomed the following to our incredible SA team! View complete bios at SalemAcademy.org/Profiles.



Preschool & Elementary (L-R): Sandra Cartier, Grace Gilder, Esther Kruse, Katey Mills, & Lindsey Walker



Secondary (L-R): Charity Batson, Aaron Brown, Kyle Haslebacher '17, Erik Kjall, Matt Wiltsey, & Rachel Zoerner



Facilities (L-R): Jim Ferguson, Trisha Fipps, & Heather Roth

CAMPUS CORNER

RACE FOR EDUCATION RETURNED



PRESCHOOL FALL FUN



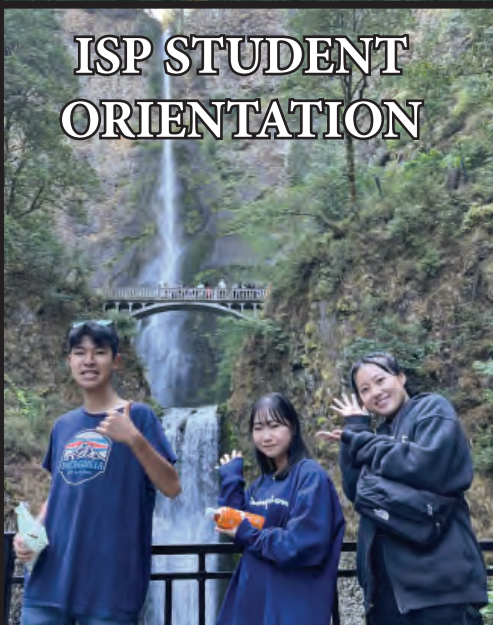
SENIOR SUNRISE



HIGH SCHOOL FALL-IN



ISP STUDENT ORIENTATION



JUNIOR HIGH FUN DAY



ATHLETICS



Athletic Director Message ~ Matt LeDuc

Congratulations to all fall sports participants in a worthy and successful season. A special tip of the cap to the to the lady Crusader volleyball team as they once again went undefeated in the toughest league in the 2A division on their way to Back-to-Back State Championships. Not only was the play on the court stellar, but the overwhelming representation of the Crusader community was on full display cheering our girls to victory. You all were the embodiment of “Christ, Character, Class.” This year we are focusing on what we can do to ensure we are competing with Christ at the center of our drive to compete. We live in a society in which we are forced to compete for worldly affirmations and a society that celebrates positive results no matter the cost involved. Many consider competition as inherently sinful as some pursue it unreservedly, as if it has no connection to their walk with God. We at Salem Academy want to embrace competition as a way of honoring the Lord in all things we do. We believe competition serves a valuable purpose, and a desire to succeed is healthy when we strive to leverage the skills and abilities to accomplish for others more than oneself. We seek to perform not for one’s own selfish ambition, but for the fundamental good of the team, school, community, and Glory of God. When applying this lens, we can free ourselves of the fear of failure; for if we are pursuing greatness with the ultimate desire to give our very best effort...then we have already won regardless of the worldly result. Cheers to the Crusader community as we all pursue victory with honor and continue to build upon the foundation of success from this past fall season.





SEASON RESULTS

VOLLEYBALL

Tri-River: 1st place

State: 1st Place

Academic All-State: 3.62 GPA

Salem Breakfast Club Player of the Year:

Aly Herber

All Mid-Valley Team

Melissa Holman (Coach of the Year), Aly Herber (Player of the Year), Emma Brewer, & Lexi Herber

SOCCER

Tri-River: Sportsmanship Award (Girls)

Academic All-State: 3.66 GPA (Girls)

FOOTBALL

Academic All-State: 3.3 GPA (Top 5)

State Honors

VB: Coach Holman (Coach of the Year)

1st Team VB: Emma Brewer, Aly Herber, & Lexi Herber

Conference Honors

VB: Coach Holman (Coach of the Year)

1st Team VB: Emma Brewer & Aly Herber

1st Team GSC: Grace Hinkle

2nd Team VB: Lexi Herber

2nd Team FB: Jesse Bauldree (WR), Brady Brownell (OL & LB), & Ridge Jantzi (Punter)

3rd Team VB: Haley Krieger & Kacyn Hiley

Honorable Mention FB: Jesse Bauldree (DB), Caleb McGraw (OL), Ridge Jantzi (Kicker), Logan Martin (DL), & Josh Smith (RB & LB)

Honorable Mention GSC:

Eliana Kuenz & Sophie Pass



3 Days - 30+ Teams - 2 Courts



December 28-30



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 22, 2023

Aloha
Let's Luau!

Presented By
**ACADEMY
SQUARE**



Annual Auction Preparations Begin

This year's auction committee has already started meeting to make plans for another evening full of fun packages for silent and live bidding. Guests will be served a Hawaiian dinner to complement our "Aloha: Let's Luau!" theme. Auctioneer Paul Schultz is returning to lead a fast-paced and exciting evening of live bidding. Everyone is welcome, so join in the fun by purchasing your tickets on sale now!

SPONSORS: We are now accepting event sponsors! Promote your business by becoming an auction sponsor at one of the available sponsor levels, each with benefits. Secure your sponsorship soon!

DONATIONS: We would love to receive donations of new items, trips, gift cards, and cash to use toward package purchases.

Tickets, sponsorship, and donation information is at SalemAcademy.org/Giving/SA-Annual-Auction
Contact ashearer@SalemAcademy.org for more information or questions.

God's provision extends through you, our incredible donors



Set up a monthly gift online to become a Sustainer



Join the 1945 Society by giving \$1,945 or more annually



Make a one-time gift to our General Fund

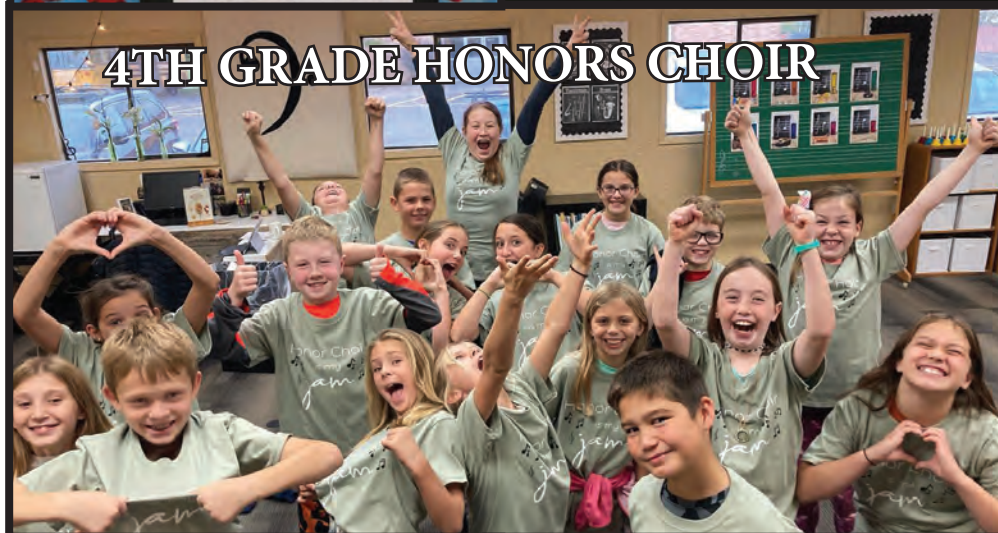
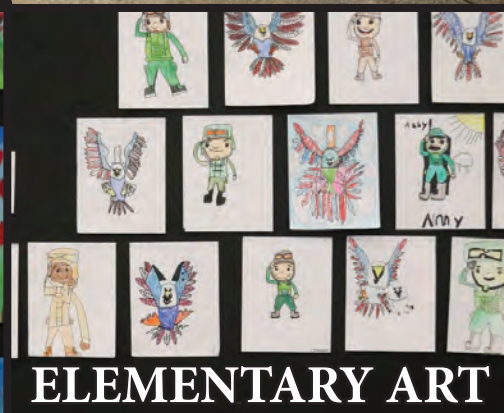
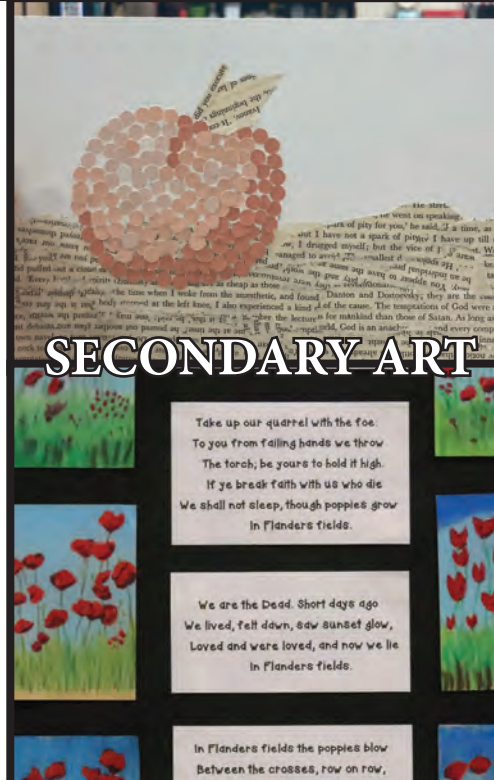


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PROVIDING EXCELLENT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR MORE THAN 75 YEARS

THE ARTS

CULINARY ARTS



ALUMNI NEWS

Siletz Trip with SA Alumnus

This past spring, former SA parent Cathie Raaf was the proud auction winner of a Salmon Fishing trip on the Siletz with **Troy Lange '79**. Over the summer it was finally time for them to take to the river and cast their lines!



"Troy Lange, along with my 87 year-old Uncle Chris and I, had a fabulous and very relaxing day out on the Siletz River despite the occasional cloud burst. We had only a couple bites early in the day. Lots of salmon jumping around the boat. I think they were taunting us. My uncle and Troy snagged a few 6-inch sculpins, which were tossed back. It wasn't until late afternoon that my pole got a hit. After about a 30-minute struggle, I finally landed a 30-pound Chinook salmon that measured 37-inches long. Thought it was going to pull me out of the boat a couple times!"

Ryan '93 & Kristin (Oelrich) '94 Chaney

To say that Salem Academy was formative to Ryan's growth and trajectory would be an understatement. After attending multiple public schools in many states, he would start his freshman year at SA (his eleventh school!). There he finally had the stability of four years in the same place, as well, as his first taste with a Christian education. He graduated in 1993 as valedictorian and "Boy of the Year," won two team & 10 individual state championships in track (to date still holds all school records between 100m-800m), and eventually met the love of his life in teammate Kristin Oelrich. Both continued their track careers at



George Fox University achieving All-American honors, with Ryan winning a pair of national championships (400m) and graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0

GPA before competing professionally throughout his 20's sponsored by a major athletic shoe company. Marrying after college, they have three teenaged sons: Tyce, Jaimon, and Treyson. After their boys were old enough for elementary school, Kristin attended school at Portland Seminary where she achieved her Master's degree in

Spiritual Formation & Discipleship and is now an ordained pastor at West Salem Foursquare Church, where they have attended for 24 years. Since retiring from his track career at age 29, Ryan has owned and operated Focal Point Digital Media, a boutique filmmaking studio which he originally founded in 2004 with fellow SA alumnus **Dan Smith '94**, and which has filmed nearly 600 weddings in the years since. His studio has been voted "Best Videographer" by the readers of Oregon Bride magazine an unprecedented 12 consecutive times beginning in 2009, and this fall he was excited to be back at his alma mater for an inside look at a day on the bustling campus while filming Salem Academy's new year-end video currently featured at SalemAcademy.org.

Emilie Reed '19

Emilie has been passionate about singing and acting for most of her life. She would like to give credit to many people for supporting her passion for the stage, including (especially) her grandpa Mark, Lori Hammer of S.K.I.T. Theater, and former SA choir director, Kent Wilson. During Emilie's senior year, it was Kent who



recommended that she look into Abilene Christian University in Texas due to the fact that it is a strong Christian university as well as a strong Musical Theater Program. She will forever be grateful for this suggestion; ACU has been a perfect fit for her as a place to grow in her faith and pursue her BFA in Musical Theatre. During ABU's Homecoming Week this past October, Emilie had the privilege to play Ariel in Abilene



Christian University's presentation of "The Little Mermaid." This experience was one she will never forget. She especially enjoyed interacting with the young kids who she met after the show. *"I wanted to pinch myself every day because it felt like such a blessing that was bestowed upon me."* As she is finishing up her senior year, Emilie is profoundly grateful for the guidance and support of those at Salem Academy and her wonderful professors at ACU. She is looking forward to experiencing opportunities on Broadway in New York City and Sight and Sound in Branson, Missouri.

ALUMNI NEWS (Cont.)



*Girls
Brunch
Out*

A SALEM ACADEMY EVENT

Friday, January 20 | 11am
High School Gym
north entrance next to Middle School



SA Alumni Girls Brunch Out

The annual Girls Brunch Out (formerly the Ladies Tea) returns to campus on **Friday, January 20**. This event is for the Salem Academy alumni women from the **graduating classes of years 1946-1976**.

Each year, additional years are added, and invitations will be sent to the women of those graduation years. We are excited to see the return of this SA tradition!



Does your graduating class end in '3 or '8?
Contact Angela Shearer with scheduled dates and
she can mail your "Save the Date" postcards!

Alumni Office:
503.378.1219
alumni@SalemAcademy.org

CLASS OF 1961



CLASS OF 1982



CLASS OF 1977

ALUMNI MILESTONES



1) **Jeff & Eunjung Bowders '91:**
6-23-22

2) **Brianna (Hansen) '14 & Jaron McAnally:** 9-10-22

3) **Kaden '20 & Emily Sullenger:**
8-20-22

4) **Kayla (Bauldree) '20 & Luke Miller '20:** 7-30-22

5) **Shaylee (Hutchison) '14 & Jon Serry:** 8-5-22

6) **Caitlin (Doring) Burns '08:**
Andalyn Marie; October 15; 6lbs.
15oz. & 20in.

7) **Holly (Smith) Seagren '16:**
Alethea Ann; December 10, 2021;
2lbs. 1oz. Arrived 3 months early.

8) **McKenzy (Mize) Trammell '11:**
June Madelyn; October 13; 6lbs.
15oz. & 19in.

(Photos for the following continued on next page)

9) **Rachel (Wright) Parks '13:** Eden
Elisabeth; June 22; 8lbs. 4 oz. &
20.5in.

10) **Lane Porth '10:** Meredith June;
August 8; 8lbs. 2oz. & 20in.

11) **Lindsey (Montgomery) Bra-
ham '11:** Colton John; September
30; 7lbs. 10oz. & 20.5in.

12) **Tania (Miltimore) Riener '11:**
Calen Wells; July 26; 8lbs. 15oz. &
20in.

13) **Jordan (Hilbert) McCourry
'11:** Gianna Rayne; October 21; 8lbs.
2oz. & 20.75in.

14) **Katharine (Hormann) Illiyn
'09:** William Vaughan; October 21;
8lbs. 12oz. & 21.75in.

*Have a milestone to share
with your classmates? Submit
your photo and details by
emailing Angela Jones:
ajones@SalemAcademy.org*



ALUMNI MILESTONES (cont.)



9



10



11



12



13



14

IN MEMORY



WILLIAM WOODFORD PYNCH '47 (“Bill”, “Willy”, “Cotton”, “Grandpa Honey”), was born on May 2, 1929, to Harold and Letha Pynch outside of Mitchell, South Dakota. He was the middle child of five. At the age of 93, he went to heaven

on August 14, 2022. In 1937, the Pynch family moved to Providence near Scio, OR where he spent his growing-up years. He attended schools in Lebanon and Scio before finishing high school as a part of Salem Academy’s first graduating class in 1947. On June 22, 1950, Bill married Shirley Jean Hunter in Scio, OR. They remained lovingly together for 62 years until her death in 2012. They are survived by all five of their children, Steve Pynch (Robin) of Stayton, OR, Stan Pynch (Patty), Salem, OR, Lori Bradley (Don) Spokane, WA, Todd Pynch (Martha), Salem, OR and Tony Pynch (Diane) of Yakima, WA. Other survivors include two sisters, Marilyn Burge, Puyallup, WA, and Janice Hixson of Albany, OR, as well as 15 grandchildren and

23 great grandchildren. Bill spent most of his working life in the wood products industry, a good share of which was as a foreman and superintendent of North Santiam Plywood in Mill City, OR. He earned a reputation as a diligent worker and a well-liked leader. Bill came from that generation that treated people fairly and he could always be depended on to do what was expected and more. He would say, “If you are going to work for someone, work for them. If you don’t want to work for them, don’t – but don’t keep the job and then complain about it”. He always followed that motto in his life. Bill was a faithful and humble follower of Jesus Christ and led his family down that path which leads to glory. He was a faithful member of Bethel Baptist Church in Aumsville for several years and then later at Morningstar Community Church in Salem where he built many good and supportive friendships. The family is thankful for the ministry the church had in his life over the years. He was also a member of the Kooskooske neighborhood association where several of his cronies would “hold court,” solving the world’s problems, on Thursday mornings sitting out on

Dad’s driveway. Wonderful neighbors would bring him meals and desserts, as well as care for him, and would always take the time to stop and just say “hi”. He was often affectionately referred to as “the Mayor of Kooskooskee”. The family would especially like to thank his neighbors for the honoring tribute of flowers left in front of his garage door upon his death. We’re sure he will be greatly missed by all of you as well as us. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to Crisis Chaplaincy Services of Salem, OR.

Robert “Bob” Edwin Johnson ’52, age 89, went to be with his Heavenly Father, whom he served his whole life, on September 19, 2022. Born February 23, 1933, in Omak, WA, to Joseph and Alberta Johnson, Bob moved with his family to Leavenworth, WA, where he attended grade school and helped his dad in the Leavenworth Johnson Bakery. After graduating from Salem Academy in 1952, he married his high school



IN MEMORY

sweetheart, Nola Jean Zobel. On June 20, 2022, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Bob lived in Leavenworth, Salem, OR, and San Jose, CA. He returned to Leavenworth with his family in 1960, to ski for one year. What began as a year of skiing, turned in to now over 60 years of investment into the community. Bob worked as a builder, contractor, manager at Stevens Pass, hotel developer and owner, and Alphorn player. Instrumental in the promotion and construction of transforming Leavenworth into the Bavarian Village, Bob will be especially remembered for his daily Alphorn concerts at the Enzian Inn and throughout town, which he performed for over 30 years. Bob LOVED sports, both as a player and a fan. He was a basketball and football star in high school, a tennis player, jogger, fisherman, boogie boarder, water skier, and an avid downhill, and cross-country skier. In fact, when he was 80 years old, he participated and placed in the Hog Loppet, a 21-mile cross-country ski event. He was a great man of faith and a member of the Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, serving as Sunday School Superintendent, youth leader, church board member, and on many work and witness trips overseas. Bob will be remembered for his wit and his generosity and his incredible love for his family. A servant of God, a great husband, a great father, a great grandfather, and an amazing great-grandfather; his life has had a significant impact on so many. He is survived by his wife, Nola; his sister, Jan Anderson and her husband, Milt; his children: Renee Sexauer and husband Randy, Robert Johnson and wife, Nancy, and Rebecca Hills; also, eight grandchildren, whom he adored: Eric Sexauer, Ryan Sexauer, Kimberly Johnson Woo, Robin Johnson John, Julie Johnson Soares, Skye Johnson, Laura Hills Rose, and Lindsey Hills Andrews along with eleven great-grandchildren and many nieces; and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dwelling Place or Upper Valley Christian School, Leavenworth, WA.

DANA YVONNE SWARTWOUT '50 - Dana is survived by her three children—Karen Anderson of Rio Verde, AZ, Lynn Brown of Turner, and Jeffrey Swartwout of Salem—her brother A.G. “Bud” Lindstrand of Portland, five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Leon Swartwout, and her parents A.G. “Gus” Lindstrand and Harriet Lindstrand. Dana was born on July 12, 1932 in Morris, MN, and lived the first nine years of her life in Ada, MN. Her family moved to Salem in 1941 where she attended Englewood Elementary School, Parrish Jr. High School, and Salem Academy High School, from which she graduated in 1950. That same year she married Leon and remained his devoted



wife until his death in 2018. Dana held various jobs in those early years of marriage, including work for a local title company, legal assistant to Hattie Bratzel Kremen, and door-to-door Avon representative. Dana and Leon were founding members of Halbert Baptist Church, where she regularly played the piano and organ for Sunday school and worship services in the 1950s and 60s. In the mid-70s, Dana began working for the Conservative Baptist Association of Oregon as mail clerk and assistant in the printing department. She retired in 1989 and thereafter devoted her days to homemaking, flower gardening, and bird watching. Contributions in memory of Dana may be made to the Union Gospel Mission of Salem. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.hed-fh.com for the Swartwout family.

ROY DANIEL BORREGARD '59 was born on February 17, 1941, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to William and Lorna (Udy) Borregard. He would live in Canada until he was 14 years old, when his father decided it was best to move their family to the United States. They would live in Arizona and California, before deciding to settle in Salem, OR. Roy would attend Salem Academy and wrestle in school, eventually he would graduate and set his sites on learning the flooring trade. Throughout the course of his life, he would work for several flooring companies and union outfits between Oregon and Nevada. Roy also would join the National Guard and serve through that as well. He met the love of his life while relaxing at a restaurant and lounge, he knew the minute he met Jean, she was his one and only. They married on July 16, 1973, in Vancouver, WA. Jean had five children: Barb, Ed, Brian, Cathy, and Jim from her previous marriage, and Roy took it all in stride as he already had a son, Kevin. Together, they would have their daughter, Melissa. Jean and Roy would give their children the best childhood one could ask for that included family trips to the coast, camping, and fishing. In 1981, he and Jean decided it was best with the declining Oregon economy to move to Las Vegas, NV. They would live there and travel back to Oregon in the summers to visit family. Later in life, he enjoyed fishing, college football, watching his grandchildren play baseball and many joyous family get togethers. On July 2, 2022, Roy passed away unexpectedly while visiting his family in Oregon. Roy was preceded in death by his son, Kevin Borregard; daughter, Barbara Haertel; siblings, VeNita, David and his parents. He is survived by his wife, Jean Borregard; children, Ed Haertel, Brian Haertel, Cathy Boggs, James Haertel, Melissa Chandler; sisters, Arlene and Leona in addition to 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.



DONALD GENE EDIGER '61 was born on Friday, Aug. 13, 1943, to Herman and Anne Ediger in Portland, OR. They moved to Dallas and Don was followed by a sister Karyol and a brother Bruce. Don attended Salem Academy, where he met his future wife, Patricia Hardman. They were married Feb. 7, 1964. Two short years later, Don was drafted into the military February 1966. He was hand-selected from his troop and sent to Vietnam where he worked loading ammunition. He was honorably discharged in December 1967. He and Pat lived in Salem and Don worked for his dad at Ediger's Church Furniture. Don and Pat were blessed with Kimberly Kay and Kristalyn Mae before they moved to the farm and built their home in Independence, where Kari Anne joined them. Don and Bruce took over the church furniture business in 1976 and later moved it to a site in Independence. He was instrumental in the development of the new First Baptist Church building. He and Pat were active in ministry, working with young marrieds and later with various youth groups over the years. He was even ordained to marry a few of them. They stayed on the farm for over 30 years before moving into town in 2004, and selling the business in 2009. After that, Don kept busy working various jobs, including driving for different retirement homes. He loved being involved in our community; being on The Gate board, volunteering with Polk County Search and Rescue, and serving at their church. In 2017 Don and Pat moved to a new home where he has been working on his “shop” in the backyard. On Wednesday, Jan. 26, Don had an unfortunate accident that resulted in injuries that took him to the Salem hospital. He fought hard to recover in ICU, but passed away Saturday evening, Jan. 29 with his family present. He is survived by his wife Pat; sister Karyol (Mike); brother Bruce (Jeannine); daughters Kim (Scott), Kris, and Kari (Ben); and grandchildren Donovan, Susannah, Zachary, Cami, Allison, and Sabrina. His legacy will live on.



** All articles adapted from online submissions or provided by families.*

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