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Obituaries Deseret News

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Remembering Lives: The Enduring Role of Obituaries in the Deseret News

In an age of fleeting digital interactions and constant news cycles, the obituary section of a newspaper remains a sacred space. It is a place where lives are condensed into paragraphs, where grief meets gratitude, and where communities come together to remember. Few newspapers understand this responsibility better than the **Deseret News**, a publication with deep roots in Utah and a longstanding commitment to honoring the departed. This article explores the significance, history, and practical aspects of **obituaries Deseret News**, offering a comprehensive guide for those seeking to celebrate a loved one's life or understand this vital tradition.

A Legacy of Community Storytelling

The **Deseret News**, founded in 1850, is one of the oldest continuously published newspapers in the American West. From its early days as a small frontier broadsheet to its current digital-first presence, the paper has always served as a chronicler of life and death in the Intermountain region. Its obituary section is more than a simple listing of names and dates; it is a historical archive, a genealogical resource, and a source of comfort for families navigating loss. For generations, residents of Utah and surrounding states have turned to **obituaries Deseret News** to announce passings, share memories, and connect with others in mourning.

What sets the **Deseret News**apart is its unique position within the community. As a publication owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it carries a certain reverence for family, legacy, and eternal connections. This ethos naturally infuses the obituary pages, where the focus is not just on the death, but on the life lived—the accomplishments, the relationships, and the impact left behind. Whether the deceased was a lifelong Utahn, a community leader, or a beloved grandparent, the obituary serves as a final, public tribute.

Why Obituaries Matter in the Digital Age

Some might question the relevance of traditional obituaries in an era dominated by social media and instant communication. Yet, the practice remains deeply meaningful. A professionally published obituary in the **Deseret News**offers several advantages that a Facebook post or a simple online notice cannot match. First, it provides a permanent, searchable record. Genealogists and future generations can access these records through archives, linking families across time. Second, it reaches a broad, trusted audience. For those who may not be active on social media, the newspaper remains a reliable source of information. Third, it formalizes the announcement, giving the passing a sense of dignity and public acknowledgment.

Furthermore, the act of writing an obituary can be a therapeutic process. It forces survivors to reflect on the deceased's life, to gather stories, and to articulate what made that person unique. Many families find that crafting an obituary for the **Deseret News**helps them process their grief while celebrating a life well lived. The obituary becomes a keepsake, something to be clipped, saved, and reread for years to come.

How to Write a Meaningful Obituary for the Deseret News

Writing an obituary can feel daunting, especially while grieving. However, the **Deseret News**provides clear

guidelines to help families create a fitting tribute. Here are essential elements to include:

Basic Information: The obituary should start with the full name of the deceased, including any maiden name or nickname. Include the date and place of birth, as well as the date and place of death. Mention the cause of death only if the family wishes; it is not required.

Life Story and Accomplishments: This is the heart of the obituary. Highlight the person's education, career, military service, hobbies, and passions. Did they love gardening? Were they a dedicated teacher? Did they serve a mission? These details paint a vivid picture. For **obituaries Deseret News**, it is common to include church service and community involvement, reflecting the values of many readers.

Family Connections: List surviving family members, such as a spouse, children, grandchildren, and siblings. It is also respectful to mention those who predeceased the person. This information is invaluable for genealogy and helps readers understand the family network.

Service Details: Provide information about funeral services, viewings, and burial arrangements. Include the date, time, and location. If services are private, state that clearly. Many obituaries also include a request for donations to a specific charity in lieu of flowers.

A Personal Touch: The best obituaries include a personal anecdote or a favorite quote. This could be a memory shared by a family member or a line from a poem or scripture that was meaningful to the deceased. The **Deseret News** encourages submissions that feel authentic and heartfelt.

Here is a simple outline for structuring an obituary:

- Opening line with full name, age, and location
- Brief summary of life (born, raised, key life events)
- Career and achievements
- Family members: survivors and those who passed before
- Service and visitation information
- Closing sentiment or thank you to caregivers

Submitting an Obituary to the Deseret News

The process of submitting an obituary to the **Deseret News** has evolved with technology. In the past, families would visit the newspaper office or call in the information. Today, submissions are typically handled online or through a funeral home. Many funeral homes in Utah have a direct relationship with the **Deseret News**and can assist in preparing and submitting the obituary on behalf of the family. This service can be a great relief during a difficult time.

For those submitting independently, the **Deseret News** website offers a clear submission portal. You will be asked to provide the text of the obituary, high-quality photos (usually in JPEG format), and payment information. Costs vary based on length and whether you include a photograph. It is wise to check the current rates on the **Deseret News**website before submitting. Keep in mind that obituaries are typically published within a day or two of submission, but it is best to allow extra time if publication is needed before a specific service date.

Cost Considerations and Packages

Publishing an obituary is a service, and like any service, it comes with a cost. The **Deseret News**offers various packages for obituaries, ranging from a basic text-only listing to a more elaborate display with a photo and extended text. The price generally depends on the word count and the inclusion of a picture. Some families opt for a shorter notice in the print edition and a longer version online, where space is less restricted.

It is important to note that many newspapers, including the **Deseret News**, offer a combined print and online package. This ensures that the obituary reaches both traditional readers who prefer the physical paper and a

wider online audience. If budget is a concern, consider a shorter, more concise obituary. The most important thing is to share the essential information and a sense of the person's character. The cost should not discourage families from honoring their loved one; even a brief notice can be meaningful.

The Genealogical Value of Deseret News Obituaries

For genealogists and family historians, **obituaries Deseret News**are a goldmine of information. Utah has a strong culture of family history research, largely due to the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Obituaries provide key data points such as birth and death dates, places of residence, names of spouses and children, and sometimes even the names of parents and siblings. This information can help researchers break through brick walls in their family trees.

The **Deseret News** archives are available online, often through genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com or the FamilySearch website. For those not subscribed to these services, the **Deseret News** website itself maintains a searchable obituary archive, usually for recent years. Accessing older obituaries may require visiting a library or historical society. The **Deseret News**has a rich history, and its obituaries document the growth of the West, the stories of pioneers, and the founding of communities. Each obituary is a small piece of a larger historical puzzle.

Crafting an Obituary That Reflects Faith and Values

Given the **Deseret News** association with the LDS faith, many obituaries published in the paper include religious elements. It is common to see references to "returning to the presence of the Lord," "reunited with loved ones who passed before," and the "plan of salvation." These phrases offer comfort to believing families and resonate with the readership. However, the **Deseret News**publishes obituaries for people of all faiths and backgrounds. The newspaper is inclusive, and families are free to include language that reflects their own beliefs, whether religious, spiritual, or secular.

For those writing an obituary for a person of faith, consider including a favorite scripture verse, a hymn lyric, or a reference to a church calling or service. This personalization makes the obituary more meaningful and offers solace to those who share that faith. For those who are not religious, focus on the person's character, values, and the legacy they leave in the hearts of others.

Tips for Writing a Compelling Obituary

Here are some practical tips for writing an obituary that will be read and remembered:

1. Start early: If possible, discuss preferences with the person before they pass. Some individuals even write their own obituaries, which can be a freeing experience.
2. Be honest but kind: An obituary is not the place to air grievances. Focus on the positive aspects of the person's life. If there were difficult aspects, acknowledge them gently or omit them.
3. Use specific details: Instead of saying "he loved the outdoors," say "he spent every summer fishing the Provo River with his grandchildren." Specificity creates a vivid portrait.
4. Include a call to action: If donations are requested, make it clear where to send them. If the family wants people to attend a service, provide the full details.
5. Proofread carefully: Names, dates, and locations must be accurate. An error can cause confusion and distress. Have someone else review the text before submission.
6. Consider a photo: A good photograph makes the obituary more personal and recognizable. Choose a recent, clear image that reflects the person's personality.

The Emotional Impact of Reading Obituaries

For many readers, the obituary page is a daily ritual. Some check it to see if they know anyone who has passed. Others read it as a quiet reminder of mortality and the importance of living fully. The **obituaries Deseret News**have a particular resonance in a community where many people have deep, multi-generational

roots. It is not uncommon for a single obituary to be shared among dozens of friends, former colleagues, and church members. The comment sections on online obituaries often fill with condolences and shared memories, creating a virtual gathering space for mourners.

Reading an obituary can also be a catalyst for reconnection. A former neighbor sees a name and reaches out to the family. A distant cousin discovers a relative they never knew. In this way, obituaries serve as a network that binds the community together, even in loss.

Conclusion

Obituaries are far more than death notices. They are stories of lives lived, loves shared, and legacies left behind. The **obituaries Deseret News** continue a proud tradition of honoring individuals with dignity, respect, and a touch of humanity. Whether you are searching for an ancestor, writing a tribute for a loved one, or simply taking a moment to reflect, the obituary pages of the **Deseret News** offer a window into the heart of a community. In celebrating the departed, we are reminded of the preciousness of our own days and the enduring power of remembrance. When the time comes to honor a life, the **Deseret News**stands ready to help tell that story, preserving it for generations yet to come.

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