

Obituaries

Ben Hendrickson

August 4, 1984 – August 13, 2017

Ben Hendrickson passed away at the age of 33, due to drowning in Suttle Lake. Ben was born on August 4, 1984 and left us on August 13, 2017.

Ben enjoyed life to the fullest extent. He was an avid outdoorsman. Ben loved to fish and be out on the water. He was also very musically inclined — anything from the drums, to piano, guitar, and even vocals; Ben loved it all and would create hours of entertainment for everyone.

He was a very loving and

fun person to be around. Ben also loved being crafty. He loved making anything and everything.

Ben is survived by his family: Sherrie Hendrickson (mother); Steven Hendrickson (father); Chelsie Olszewski (sister); Chadd Hendrickson (brother); Dan Olszewski (brother-in-law); a niece; two nephews; and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Ben grew up in Aurora, Illinois, then moved to Sisters to be with his fiancée, Heather VanHouten, and her daughter, Ariana. He worked at Sisters



Forest Products.

A Celebration of Life will take place at Creekside Park in Sisters on September 9 at 4 p.m. and in Illinois, information pending.

Jacqueline P. Merrill

November 19, 1940 – August 30, 2017

Jacqueline Phillips Merrill, 76, passed away peacefully at home on August 30. She had courageously battled multiple sclerosis for many years.

Jacque, the daughter of John and Dorothy Phillips, was born and raised in Spokane, Washington, along with her younger sister, Sherry. After graduating from Lewis & Clark High School, she attended nursing school at Sacred Heart Hospital and became a registered nurse. It was during her training at the VA hospital in Tacoma that she met her future husband, Lt. William (Bill) Merrill III, on a blind date. They married in 1962, and spent the next 26 years moving around

the country with Bill's army assignments.

During one of Bill's early assignments in New Jersey their two children, Bill and Kelli, were born. The family adapted to the military lifestyle, living in Hawaii, Germany, Virginia, California, Kansas and a number of other states. Jacque enjoyed the opportunity to travel, and the family enjoyed many weekends camping, hiking and skiing. Jacque spent many hours volunteering, assisting at her kids' schools and with military-related activities.

Upon Bill's retirement in 1988, Bill and Jacque moved to Central Oregon, first to Sunriver, then Bend, and finally to Sisters. They continued to travel, meet new friends, and get involved in

community activities. Jacque was involved in the local PEO chapter, and enjoyed participating in her book club.

Jacque is survived by Bill, her husband of 55 years; son Bill (and Gigi) of Salem; daughter Kelli (and Ben) of the United Arab Emirates; and grandchildren Ben, Griff (and Becca), Abby, Aaron and Nick. She was a loving wife and mother, and will be truly missed by her family and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters on Saturday, September 9, at 3 p.m.

Seed to Table to host farm dinner

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

Seed to Table, the Sisters-based organization that provides fresh produce for needy families and educational opportunities for Central Oregon students, will host its second annual farm dinner on Saturday, September 16, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"It's really a celebration of our year and what we've accomplished," says Program Director Audrey Tehan. "It's an amazing event to enjoy fresh food in the farm environment."

Field games and live music will be available at the dinner — but the real centerpiece will be the food. Chef Anna Witham, the award-winning chef from Bend's own Root Cellar Catering, will once again prepare the three-course feast to help share the bounty of the farm.

"Seed to Table wouldn't be possible without our community," says Tehan. "We rarely get a chance to sit down together and experience a meal together and celebrate what we do as a

community."

Seed to Table provides a vital education to area students. Sisters youth from the elementary level to Tehan's Sustainable Agriculture class at Sisters High School all visit the farm and even eat salad bar components direct from the Sisters farm.

Throughout 2017 students from Redmond and Bend have also visited the farm — totaling over 1,300 students.

By the end of this year Seed to Table will have contributed 20,000 pounds of food to local non-profits and schools. Feeding approximately 200 families per week at the height of the growing season.

"It's really exciting," says Tehan. "We've doubled our reach every year. It's an amazing moment to have so much inspiring energy to keep us moving forward."

Tickets for the Seed to Table Farm Dinner are still available and are \$40 for adults and \$20 for kids 18 and under, and can be purchased at www.SeedToTableOregon.org/events. Tickets will not be available at the door.

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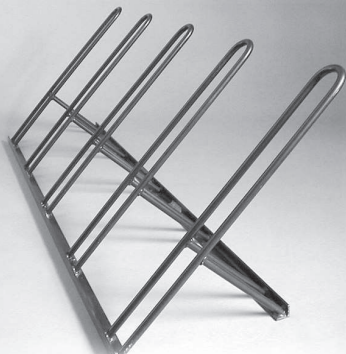
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