

OBITUARIES

Benjamin M. BoswellFormerly of Joseph
1947-2019

Benjamin Mack Boswell, 72, formerly of Joseph, died Feb. 23 in Spokane, Washington. A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. March 9 at the high school gym in Joseph, followed by a potluck social in the cafeteria. Friends are asked to bring finger foods and memories of Ben to share.

Ben was born Jan. 24, 1947, in Boise, Idaho, the only child of Gene Corwin and Mary Elizabeth (Dawson) Boswell. He was raised in Joseph and was an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Joseph High School as valedictorian of the class of 1965.

Ben attended Willamette University and graduated from the University of Oregon in 1970 with a BA. He married his lifelong friend and college sweetheart, Claudia Lynn Wilson, on Aug. 2, 1969. Ben taught junior high and high school math and science in Long Creek, Madras and Joseph for a total of 20 years.

In 1992, Ben began the first of four terms as Wallowa County Commissioner. During his third term, he served as president of the Oregon Association of Counties. Always active in the community, Ben rose to local and state leadership roles in the United Methodist Church, the Grange and the Masonic Lodge. He was also a member of the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and the Order of Eastern Star.

Ben was raised in a musical family and, with Claudia, played in school and community bands and sang in school, church and commu-

nity choirs wherever they lived. He also participated in school and community theater productions.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Claudia; children and spouses, Cory and Kelly Boswell of Bozeman, Montana, and Candy and David Casteal of Spokane, Washington; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ben Boswell Memorial Fund at www.wallowaresources.org.

Charles N. Hewitt

Island City

Charles Nelson Hewitt, 83, of Island City, died Feb. 27 at Grande Ronde Hospital. No services are planned at this time. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

An obituary is forthcoming.

Floyd A. Knight

La Grande

Floyd Arlen Knight, 88, of La Grande, died March 4 at a local care facility. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Darleen L. (Young) Hendon

La Grande

1947-2019

Darleen Lou Hendon, 71, of La Grande, died March 1 at a local care facility. A viewing will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 7 at Loveland Funeral Chapel.

A funeral service will begin at 10 a.m. March 8 at the La Grande First Christian Church. A short graveside

service will follow, after which a meal will be held at the First Christian Church.

Darleen was born March 7, 1947, in Grand Junction, Colorado, to Lawrence and Evelyn (Gardiner) Young. In junior high school, Darleen moved with her family to Afton, Wyoming, where she graduated from Star Valley High School. After marrying George Hendon on Jan. 6, 1969, they moved to Graysville, Tennessee, for about one year. The couple returned to Afton, Wyoming, for a short period before moving to the Grande Ronde Valley in 1971, eventually settling in La Grande in 1976.

Darleen was employed along the way at the Star Valley Hospital in Wyoming, Rhea County Memorial Hospital in Tennessee and ultimately the La Grande Observer, from which she retired. She also volunteered with the Santa Mall, local 4-H clubs and for countless activities involving her children and grandchildren.

Darleen was an avid yard saler and attended and assisted with local auctions. She enjoyed playing bingo and followed the Portland Trail blazers, Oregon Ducks and Atlanta Braves.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Clay and Kathy Hendon of Kennewick, Washington, Roxanne and Butch Stephens of La Grande, Miles and Trudy Hendon of La Grande, and Jeremy Hendon of Washington, D.C.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Colleen and Jim Jenson of Goodyear, Arizona, and Eileen and Alan Boss of Grand Junction, Colorado; brother and sister-in-law, Clark and Maureen Young of Cheyenne, Wyoming; six

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and 26 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; parents, Lawrence and Evelyn; and brother, Derald Young.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

George 'Sherman' VanCleave Jr.

Baker City

George "Sherman" VanCleave Jr., 76, of Baker City, died Feb. 19 near Unity. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 13 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond. Arrangements are under the direction of Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel of Baker City. To light a candle in memory of Sherman, or to leave a condolence for the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

An obituary is forthcoming.

Robert C. Shelton

Union

1924-2019

Robert Chesley Shelton, 94, of Union, died Feb. 28. A funeral will be held at 11

a.m. March 11 at the Union Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Known as Bob, he was born in 1924 in Wallowa. Sports were a big part of his early life. He met Averil Jean Harris from Cove at the Wallowa Lake skating rink when she was a sophomore and he was a junior in high school. Bob

commuted the distance from Wallowa to Cove during their courtship, and they were married Dec. 27, 1942.

Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army. After basic training in Texas, he landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy. He drove a supply truck and barely escaped a fire. After the war, Bob and Averil bought a farm in Union, which they owned and farmed until 1958. In order to support his family, Bob also worked in lumber. In 1958, they built a home in Union, where they lived until Averil passed in 2011. Bob spent his last years in Jodi George's foster care.

Bob was a longtime volunteer at the Union Methodist Church, helping with repairs like putting on a new roof and distributing food to the needy. He especially enjoyed meal gatherings at the church and would make sure to get large helpings of whatever dish Averil prepared.

Bob was known for his love of the outdoors and he enjoyed fishing, hunting, gathering wood and camping. Although Bob and Averil only had high school educations, they valued education and prioritized college degrees for their children. Bob's life lessons and legacy were that your word is your bond and to respect others' property.

Survivors include his children and their spouses, Ken and Rhonda Shelton of La Grande and Connie and Lloyd Weaver of West Lafayette, Indiana; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Averil.

In lieu of flowers, me-

morial contributions may be made to the Bobcat Foundation.

Tanna J. Williams

Union

Tanna Jean Williams, 69, of Union, died March 3 at her residence. A viewing will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. March 9 at Loveland Funeral Chapel in La Grande, followed by a graveside service at 11 a.m. at the Victorian Cemetery in Union. The family prefers casual dress. A reception and meal will be held after the graveside service at the Union VFW Hall. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Andrew Pinard

Formerly of La Grande

Andrew "Andy" Pinard, 43, of Oxbow, died Feb. 17. A memorial gathering will be held March 15 at Wild Bills in Halfway, with a social hour at 5 p.m. and a celebration of his life at 6 p.m. Arrangements are entrusted to Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Halfway.

An obituary is forthcoming.

Local funerals and visitations

The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

Catherine Jean Bars (Sass)

Catherine Jean Bars (Sass) from La Grande, OR passed away at sunset with her three children nearby on Friday, February 22, at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, OR.

The daughter of Orin and Joanna Sass, Catherine grew up in the farm and cattle country of Richland, OR. She was proud of her roots and continually shared with her children about

the amazing people and valley of their lineage. Catherine graduated high school as valedictorian from Gem State Academy in Caldwell, ID. She was known for her athleticism and won many track and field events in school. She then went on to Eastern Oregon University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. From the time she was a young child until recent months, Catherine was most at home and most herself in the classroom. She also had a special gift for working with children. She worked in La Grande Schools for over 20 years, and she loved to learn, read, teach, mentor, and encourage students. In 2017, she won the Crystal Apple Award and was recognized among her peers for outstanding work with students.

In her element, Catherine would be found with family and friends hiking in the Elkhorns and Eagle Caps, picnicking at Catherine Creek, floating on Van Patten Lake, playing in Eagle Creek at Boulder Park, bird watching at Ladd Marsh, playing sports, going on scenic drives to view the landscape and wildlife, swimming at Cove Pool, in her back yard hosting parties and playing games, watching the Seahawks, going through drive-thrus at a moment's notice to buy drinks and treats for everyone, posting pics of her kids and grandkids on Facebook, texting her children at an alarming rate and keeping everyone in the loop, enjoying and nurturing her cats, buying more food and gifts than she could afford for holidays and birthday parties, reading her Bible and devotions, and talking to God. But most of all, she just loved being with kids and grandkids no matter what they were doing. Her entire life, she was hard working, energetic, creative, fun-lov-



ing, and always having compassion for those around her.

As a caring mother and faithful Christian, Catherine loved God and family more than anything in the world. She instilled the love of God into the hearts of her children, and showed them by example how to love and serve people well. She prayed continually for her children, family, friends, coworkers,

students, and acquaintances, and she wanted everyone to know of God's love for them.

She was communicating, loving her family, and being witty right up until the very end. She stayed with her eldest daughter Dana during the last several weeks of life. While there, she would have Jack and Lucy, her high-school-aged grandchildren, come to her room so she could see what they were wearing, and then she would say things like "Oh that's so cool! That's in style in La Grande, too." During her final hours, she asked her daughter Ashleigh to pray. Ashleigh responded that she's not as good at praying as her older brother and sister, but then proceeded to do her best. About one minute into the prayer, Catherine said, "I didn't mean out loud."

Catherine Jean Bars (Sass) is survived by her daughter Dana Moody and her husband Donald Moody, son Blake Bars and his wife Misty Bars, daughter Ashleigh Bars and her fiancé Matthew Young; her grandchildren Jack Moody, Lucy Moody and Reid Bars; her brother David Sass and sister Nancy Morrison; her nieces Megan Neuharth and Abby Morrison, and nephews Lucas Sass, Austin Sass, Tyler Sass and Carson Sass.

A Celebration of Life for Catherine will be held at the Presbyterian Friendship Center on Saturday, March 9 at 4pm. The service and meal will be hosted by GrandeREACH Ministries of La Grande. Donations toward this event will be accepted at the door or mailed directly to GrandeREACH Ministries to address below. If you have any questions please call GrandeREACH directly.

GrandeREACH Ministries, PO Box 3002, La Grande, OR 97850, 541-786-6730

Judy Hutchinson Perkins

January 28, 1939 - February 27, 2019

Judy Perkins, 80, of Union, passed away February 27th in her home surrounded by loved ones. Judy was born January 28th, 1939, in La Grande to Jean and Lowell Hutchinson. Her birth was followed by the births of three sisters: Patsy Hand of Eugene Oregon, Barbara Tyler of Union, and Diane Kinsley of Union. Judy lived her life in Union County. She attended school in Union and graduated from Eastern Oregon University with a Bachelor's degree. Judy had two previous marriages before she married Dale Perkins on July 3rd, 1981 at the Hutchinson Ranch in Union. They were married 37 years. Judy is survived by her husband Dale and their family of children: Tracy Case Stevens and Mark of Union, Chris Posey and Amy of Monterey, California, Greg Posey of Bellingham, Washington, Lezlie Posey of Union, Leah Perkins Hagele and Chuck of Hillsboro, Oregon, and Erin Winterton of Cove, plus 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Judy was preceded in death by her mother Jean Hutchinson, her father Lowell Hutchinson, her late husband Jerry Chandler, and her brother-in-law Doug Kinsley.

Judy was always an entrepreneur. She developed several businesses in her life starting as a 15 year old traveling around Union County to teach tap dancing to area children. She created several retail stores in Union and Wallowa County and also started Heartsteps, a drug and alcohol treatment program for adults and adolescents. Judy was especially drawn to working with youth. Judy's love of beauty, animals, nature, and her family framed her life choices; where she lived and how she spent her time. She and her husband Dale created their wilderness home in the mountains she loved. She cherished every rock, tree, plant and animal in her realm which gave her immense satisfaction and



Judy's motto:
"I'm going to make everything around me beautiful and that will be my life."

peace. Judy was incredibly diverse in her talents and abilities. There was never a time she entertained the thought that something she wanted to do could not be done. If she couldn't figure it out and do it herself, she found someone who could. She wanted to learn Spanish so she went to Baker City for weekly classes.

She was a talented artist and painted in several mediums. She expressed her artistic skills in other ways by decorating homes, landscaping, sewing clothing for herself and her children, upholstering furniture, and much more. Creativity was a daily occurrence in her life. Judy was an athlete and she rode horses from an early age. She loved both water skiing and snow skiing. She competed in local horseback riding club events such as barrel racing. She was a member of the Union County Search and Rescue with her self-trained bloodhound, Happy.

Judy passed her love of the outdoors and activities to her children. She started at an early age taking them on what she called "fun days" where they would go on adventures picking the early buttercups in the mountains and exploring the forest.

Judy will be remembered as a most amazing wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She was the matriarch of her extended family. She was cherished and respected by all.

At Judy's request there will be no formal memorial service.

Tax-deductible donations may be made in lieu of flowers in remembrance of Judy to American Cancer Society, 1-800.227.2345 or by mail at P.O.Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Online condolences to the family may be made at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.