

OBITUARIES

Gary Warren Jones

Sept. 18, 1938 — Nov. 24, 2021

Heppner

Gary Warren Jones, 83, a member of the Hermiston of Heppner, Oregon, died Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. A private family graveside service will be held.

He was born in Heppner on Sept. 18, 1938, the son of Paul W. and Gladys A. Johnson Jones. He was raised and attended school in Heppner, graduating from Heppner High School.

After high school Gary went to trade school in Portland, Oregon, for auto body paint and repair. He went on to work for Jack's body shop in The Dalles and Hood River. He lived in Hood River for 30 years before returning to Heppner in 2003.

Gary was a member of the Hood River Jaycees, Heppner Elks and IOOF. He was a founding member of the "Over the Hill Gang" 4x4 club in Hood River and a longtime member of the Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association. He enjoyed hunting in Eastern Oregon, 4x4 racing, riding quads at the dunes and while wintering in Yuma, Arizona. He loved to restore classic cars and was



Jones

He was preceded in death by his parents, youngest sibling, Ray Jones; and a grandson, Jake Rollins.

Survivors include his wife, Doris of 46 years; daughter, Holly Stickney (Phil) of Lyle, Washington; son, Guy Jones (Shelly) of Hood River; Teresa Butler (Frank) of McMinnville, Oregon; Tracey Klink (John) of Millis, Massachusetts; sister, Sandra Blake of Heppner; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

We would like to give a special thank you to nephew, Nick, for all his help and chauffeuring the last few years. Your gentle soul and compassionate care have been a blessing to all of us.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Lois I. Myrick

July 6, 1927 — Nov. 26, 2021

Umatilla

Lois I. Myrick was born on July 6, 1927, in Ithaca, Nebraska, to parents, John and Velma Boardman Hageman. She died on Nov. 26, 2021, at her home in Umatilla, Oregon, at the age of 94 years.

Lois was raised in Nebraska, Jerome and Sun Valley, Idaho, before living in Portland, Oregon. She worked in support of the war effort "Rosie the Riveter" as a welder assistant, during World War II. Lois moved to Hermiston, Oregon, where she married Frank Myrick on Aug. 11, 1951. They owned Myrick Chevrolet, Western Auto and then Myrick Chrysler Dodge until retiring in 1994. She and Frank were active in the Hermiston Elks Lodge for many years. Lois enjoyed crocheting, traveling, going on cruises, dancing and word search puzzles.

She is survived by her daughters, Susan Keesey, Cornelius, Oregon; and



Myrick

Karen Sligar, Twin Falls, Idaho; brother, Aaron Hageman, The Dalles, Oregon; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Frank Myrick; a daughter, Lori Myrick; a son, Steven Myrick; her parents, and a sister, Eryis Dorn.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Those who wish may make contributions in Lois' memory to Vange John Memorial Hospice Education Fund c/o Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Please share memories of Lois with her family at www.burnsmortuary-hermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.

Paul Bruce Hardesty

Dec. 22, 1938 — Nov. 24, 2021

Milton-Freewater

Paul Bruce Hardesty, (Paulie to many) tool man, karaoke singer extraordinaire, jack-of-all-trades, king of impropriety, wit and sarcasm, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, while holding the hand of his true love and wife of almost 64 years, Jacqueline Helen Lyon Hardesty.

Paul met Jackie their junior year at Plainville High School, Plainville, Kansas, in band, where they both played the trombone. Try as he might, he could never bump Jackie out of first chair, though! Paul also sang a mean tenor and won several singing competitions while Jackie accompanied on the piano. Paul and Jackie moved from Kansas to Colorado, Utah, Montana, Idaho, and then the Tri-Cities, and found their true home was in Umapine, Oregon, almost 35 years ago.

Paul held many different jobs over the course of his life but loved owning a Matco Tool franchise the most. He always said he could sell anything to anyone so his business thrived until he retired due the insidious disease of Parkinson's.

Paul's love of singing led to

a side gig where he purchased a karaoke machine and ran weekly karaoke at The Water Hole in Umapine. It was there he met so many wonderful friends that he considered family, but his favorite place to sing was in his shop with his favorite karaoke partner, his second daughter, Coleen.

Paul was a fighter and did not know the meaning of the word quit, which led to his long battle with Parkinson's.

Paul is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Helen Lyon Hardesty; daughter, Trish Stephen (Scott) of Arvada, Colorado; daughter, Coleen Stevens (Lee) of Richfield, Utah; son, Mark Hardesty of Milton-Freewater, Oregon; grandchildren, Rey J Quintana, Rhonda Quintana Burns (Joey), Anthony Hardesty; and great-grandchildren, Mireya, Jack and Harlyn.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be sent in care of Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, OR 97862. To leave an online condolence, visit www.munsellerhodes.com.



Hardesty

Holiday season shines at EOTEC

Revived Festival of Lights back for 2021

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Thousands of twinkling lights await visitors as the Festival of Lights returns for a second year at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston. The festival features 17 large displays, more than a dozen individual displays, 23 Christmas trees and "a bunch of small lighted items."

"Lots, I couldn't even begin to tell you," EOTEC General Manager Al Davis said about how many lights are in the displays.

When he took the job nearly four years ago, Davis said he was asked time and time again if the Festival of Lights would be revived. The popular holiday event, which had been held for many years at the old Umatilla County Fairgrounds, went dark in 2013 because of a lack of volunteers.

The drive-thru Festival of Lights runs Thursday through Sundays, 6-10 p.m., until Jan. 2 at EOTEC, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. It will be closed Dec. 24-25. Admission is by donation, which goes to the Hermiston Rotary Club because its members help attend the gates.

The event also features a couple of walk-thru nights — on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10-11, the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce will host Peppermint Lane.

Chamber Executive Director Val Hoxie said people can cozy up to fire pits while enjoying hot chocolate — adults will have the option of adding peppermint schnapps to their drinks. Also, hay bales inside Christmas Cabanas, which offer prime viewing of the lighted displays, will help shelter people from chilly weather.

Hoxie, who said she sprung the idea on the chamber board at "the last minute," is thrilled with how things are coming together. She said Ami Little, who recently started as the chamber's public relations director, even designed special campfire mugs for the event.

"We're dipping our toe in the water with this event," Hoxie said. "And if it's successful, we want to do even more. The chamber wants to give back to the community — this is something nice for the holidays."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Holiday lights adorn "Santa's workshop" Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, during Festival of Lights at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Thousands of lights cover the grounds of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, during the Festival of Lights in Hermiston.

In addition, Davis said the Hermiston High School choir and jazz band will perform Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. Also, he said an elf assistant just confirmed that Santa Claus will make an appearance that same evening, as well as Dec. 18.

Reviving a holiday tradition

Bringing the event back last holiday season, Davis said, was important. With all the pandemic-related closures and restrictions, he called last year "a punch in the gut," which resulted in many people not looking forward to Christmas.

"It was a recipe for a miserable holiday," he said. "We had an opportunity to try and do something."

And a little inconvenience isn't going to disrupt Davis' vision — several days after the crew started setting up the displays, a blustery wind tore them down. In addition,

despite placing orders early, some items just arrived.

"We're going to get some new displays up," he said.

Davis views the Festival of Lights as an additional attraction to Hermiston during the holiday season. He encourages people to shop in Hermiston and view the city Christmas tree and light display downtown.

"We're trying to build this as a destination this time of year," Davis said. "We're just trying to do our part so that people come."

Another special evening is in the planning stages for Dec. 18, Davis said. In addition, he's involved in conversations about a New Year's Eve activity. Davis encourages people to search the EOTEC Facebook page for updates.

Contact community writer Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.

DEATH NOTICES

Vivian Arline Croft

Sept. 23, 1937 — Dec. 1, 2021

Milton-Freewater

Vivian Arline Croft, 84, of Milton-Freewater, died Dec. 1, 2021, at Cascade Valley Memory Care in Milton-Freewater. She was born Sept. 23, 1937. Arrangements are with Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater.

Virginia Lee Klopfenstein

Jan. 4, 1928 — Dec. 1, 2021

Milton-Freewater

Virginia Lee Klopfenstein, 93, of Milton-Freewater, died Dec. 1, 2021, in College Place. She was born Jan. 4, 1928. Arrangements are with Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater.

Donald R. Orton

Sept. 10, 1928 — Dec. 1, 2021

Pendleton

Donald R. Orton, 93, of Pendleton, died Dec. 1, 2021, at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. He was born Sept. 10, 1928, in Pendleton. A graveside service will be Dec. 10, 2 p.m. at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Sign the online guestbook at www.burnsmortuary.com.

Nora M. Zummach

Aug. 29, 1932 — Oct. 29, 2021

Nehalem

Former Umatilla County resident Nora M. Toner Hayes Zummach, 89, of Nehalem, died Oct. 29, 2021, at OHSU Hillsboro Medical Center. She was born Aug. 29, 1932, in Port Angeles, Washington, the daughter of the late Joseph E. Toner and Frances M. (Piper) Toner. Private cremation rites were held at Hoyt Crematory, Forest Grove. A celebration of life and potluck will be Jan. 22, 2022, 1 p.m. at Bayway Tavern, 35895 Seventh St., Nehalem. Arrangements are with Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia. Sign the online guestbook at www.fuitenrosenhoyt.com.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 4

Barton, George — Graveside celebration of life service, 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Dunlap, Jackie — Memorial service, 1 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

Myrick, Lois — Graveside service, 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Sunday, Dec. 5

Hoover, Patsy — Graveside service, 3 p.m. at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Fossil. A soup supper will follow in the gymnasium at Wheeler High School, 600 E. B St., Fossil.

Monday, Dec. 6

Choin, Geneva — Graveside service, 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Handley, Janis — Memorial service, 11 a.m. at Munselle-Rhodes Funeral home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.

Taylor, Luella — Graveside service, 11 a.m. at the Mayville Cemetery.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Cabral, Don — Funeral services, 3 p.m. at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop, 131 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton.

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