

OBITUARIES

**Irene Ruth McNall**  
Nov. 30, 1926 – Sept. 19, 2015

Irene Ruth McNall, 88, of Joseph, passed away peacefully at Alpine House with a family member at her side on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015. Irene was born Nov. 30, 1926, in Wallowa County at the Neiman homestead at the mouth of Gumboot Creek on the upper Imnaha River. She was the first of five children born to Elmer and Marguerite (Whitcomb) Neiman, second generation homesteaders.



Irene was homeschooled and also attended schools along the river where her mother taught until her parents moved to a farm they bought on upper Prairie Creek. Irene attended school in Joseph until her parents divorced. She then stayed home to take care of her four siblings and work the farm while her mother taught school.

Back in those days, barn dances were one of the few sources of entertainment and provided the most fun. Irene loved music and dancing. In 1949, at a dance at the mouth of Camp Creek on the Imnaha River, Irene met, fell in love with, and married the only man in her life, Francis McNall of Zumwalt Prairie. Their first son Kenneth was born in 1950, Harry in 1951, and Michel in 1953. They lived on the prairie until Ken started school, the last family to move to town. Irene lived on the farm/ranch they bought outside of Joseph until moving to Alpine House (a wonderful, caring place) in 2012.

Irene lived through the Depression and hard times, but there were also plenty of good wholesome fun times with family and friends.

With hard work (and she was one hard-working woman) came an easier life, but she was still driving a tractor well into her 70s.

Irene loved to hunt and fish, and was very good at both. Camping, hunting, fishing, and the "good old" Wallowa County lifestyle was what life was all about to Irene. She never knew or wanted anything else. In passing, a little of Wallowa County went with her. Irene was of pioneer/homesteader stock. People knew her as a real-life farmer, rancher, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She will be missed.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, husband Francis, brother Donald Neiman, son Harry McNall, and grandson Michel McNall. She is survived by her brother William Neiman of Enterprise; sisters Helen Sexton of The Dalles, and Thelma (husband Virgil) Patton of The Dalles; sons Kenneth McNall (wife Glenna) of Eugene, and Michel (wife Laurie) McNall of Joseph; 10 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held on Sept. 27, 2015, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Enterprise, followed by a private interment at the Enterprise Cemetery, Sept. 28, 2015.

# WC school enrollments: up, down and holding

Enterprise, Joseph Charter School and Wallowa show larger numbers

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Enterprise School's student enrollment jumped by 17 from its year-ago level, and now stands at an even 400 students.

It's a good year for two Wallowa County school districts and a mixed year for a third.

Enterprise has 212 children in K-6 and 188 in grades 7-12 for a total of 400.

That's up 17 from last year.

"It means more money for the district," said Superintendent Brad Roysse. "I anticipate us being flat and this does help. We feel like parents are recognizing us for the quality school we are. But that also means we've got some issues to deal with."

Two of the issues Roysse is addressing in the first few weeks of school are 36 students in sixth grade with one teacher and an overcrowded special ed class.

Although special ed students are funding at 11 percent over the \$7,000 per student the districts normally get, that amount doesn't begin to cover what special ed costs. "We're way over on special ed kids than what we will get paid for," said Roysse. "The money will not nearly match what we'll spend on our special ed kids."

Enterprise offers free and reduced lunches for poverty level students and 34 to 35 percent of the school population will take advantage of that. The district also offers breakfast each day.

"We're not quite as innovative as other districts with our own garden," Roysse said, "But we do have Randy Gar-

nett who does a great job with lunches and we're seeing more secondary kids stick around for our lunches rather than go downtown."

All-day kindergarten enrollment dropped slightly, from 25 to 23.

"It's a long day for a kid and I thought a lot about that and we heard from our parents as well," Roysse said. "Most parents wanted a half-day when we did the survey some years ago. But the state has mandated a full day."

During that full day, 5-year-olds will be subjected to common core and will be expected to begin learning to read.

"You'd be surprised at the curriculum they're doing now," Roysse said. "Our standards are so far up. It's phenomenal to me how in-depth that stuff is. We aren't able to provide a lot of playtime for them — it's a whole different ball game with common core."

Enterprise also has a small population of homeless children attending. Last year there were six homeless students. "At this moment we have zero referrals," said homeless liaison Lisa Farwell. "That doesn't mean we have zero homeless. There is a very specific definition

for homeless that requires 'no fixed place of residence.' The typical kid, living with grandma and grandpa are not considered homeless, even if they're not with their legal guardians."

Joseph Charter School records 150 students in K-6, 105 in grades 7-12 and four from Imnaha. That's up significantly from last year's 230 total.

"We'll have more dollars since we have more kids and it strengthens our programs when we can put more kids in those classes," said District Superintendent Lance Homan.

Twenty-four kids are in kindergarten; last year there were 25. "They do all the core classes on top of music, art and skills," said Homan. "With common core some of the expectations that used to be for first grade have been pushed down to kindergarten, there's a lot more expected of kindergartners. Our teacher, Alyse Shetler, builds a lot of movement into their classes."

Homan has just appointed Michelle Keffer as homeless liaison, but there are no referrals yet this year and there were none last year.

Joseph Charter School has 46 percent of its population in the free and reduced-cost lunch program. They are able

to enhance that program with fresh produce from Magic Garden in Imnaha during the season. The school also offers free breakfast for grades K-4.

Wallowa School District reports 110 students in K-6 and 101 in grades 7-12 for a total of 211. That's up in high school and down in K-6.

"Unless our enrollment increases next year we'll see a reduction in our state schools fund," said Wallowa Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

Wallowa has had all-day kindergarten for many years and paid for it out of Title 1 and General Fund dollars, but will have it paid for by the state this year.

Wallowa's special ed class supports 29 kids and has 1.8 teachers.

Wallowa School District has not had a homeless student referral, thus far.

The percentage of students who will qualify for free and reduced lunches has not been calculated yet. Wallowa also has a free breakfast program open to any student.

Troy School District has two students this year in first and third grade. Lunches are brought from home and current students eat breakfast at home. "We could have breakfast if they wanted it," said Fred Byers, teacher and administrator.

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**High and Low Temperatures**  
Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

Enterprise			Lostine		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
Sept. 23	39	80	Sept. 23	39	80
Sept. 24	42	80	Sept. 24	42	80
Sept. 25	39	86	Sept. 25	39	86
Sept. 26	48	73	Sept. 26	48	73
Sept. 27	35	69	Sept. 27	35	69
Sept. 28	26	73	Sept. 28	26	73
Sept. 29	35	57	Sept. 29	35	57

Joseph			Wallowa		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
Sept. 23	39	80	Sept. 23	39	80
Sept. 24	42	80	Sept. 24	42	80
Sept. 25	39	86	Sept. 25	39	86
Sept. 26	48	73	Sept. 26	48	73
Sept. 27	35	69	Sept. 27	35	69
Sept. 28	26	73	Sept. 28	26	73
Sept. 29	35	57	Sept. 29	35	57

Imnaha			Troy		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
Sept. 23	46	72	Sept. 23	39	80
Sept. 24	45	77	Sept. 24	42	80
Sept. 25	44	87	Sept. 25	39	86
Sept. 26	47	71	Sept. 26	48	73
Sept. 27	40	64	Sept. 27	35	69
Sept. 28	33	68	Sept. 28	26	73
Sept. 29	39	61	Sept. 29	35	57

**Six-day forecast**

Sept. 30 – Oct. 5  
Source: Weather Underground

Sept. 30:		H: 78 L: 37	Clear
Oct. 1:		H: 69 L: 35	Mostly Cloudy
Oct. 2:		H: 68 L: 35	Clear
Oct. 3:		H: 63 L: 32	Chance of Rain
Oct. 4:		H: 64 L: 35	Clear
Oct. 5:		H: 68 L: 36	Clear

**Phases of the moon**

Oct. 4	Oct. 13	Oct. 2-	Oct. 27
Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon

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*Student of the Week*

**Madison Isley**  
Enterprise Seventh Day Adventist School

Madison Isley is in first grade this year and new to Enterprise SDA School. She has a love for learning and is excited to share what she knows with the class. Her sweet disposition and friendly attitude have made her a great addition to our school!

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.



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