

OBITUARIES

Irene Ruth (Swart) Ashley
Jan. 31, 1927 to May 7, 2016

Irene Ashley, 89, a native of Lostine, passed away at a care facility in Portland on May 7. She was the first of nine children of Elmer Roy and Ruth (Shintaffer) Swart. Her father was the station agent at the Union Pacific Lostine depot at Evans and her mother was a teacher in the Leap area.

Irene attended school at Lostine until 1942 when the family moved to La Grande, where she attended and graduated from La Grande High School. In 1944 she married Silas Adelbert (Del or Curley) Hoyt.

The couple had three children: Wayne, Dennis and Kenneth Joel. After their divorce, she met and married W. E. (Ed) Lilly, and they lived in Hermiston, where their daughter Linda Rae was born.

In March 1993 she met the love of her life, Art Ashley. The couple moved to the Dorena area near Cottage Grove until Art passed away. Irene then moved to a mobile home park in Cottage Grove and lived there until she was disabled by an accident. Her final move was to a care facility in Portland, where she succumbed to pneumonia.

One son, Dennis Hoyt, and a daughter, Linda Rae, survive Irene. Preceding her in death were her husband and sons Wayne and Kenneth.

No services have been set but her ashes will be buried alongside her son Wayne in the Island City cemetery.

Joan Rae (Swart) Anderson
Dec. 9, 1930 to April 25, 2016

In less than two weeks a family of nine siblings was reduced to seven. First of this family, ranging in age from the 70s to the late 80s to pass was Joan Rae (Swart) Anderson. Rae was born at Wallowa on Dec. 9, 1930 and passed on April 25, 2016. Rae began her education at the Evans School north of Lostine and later transferred to the Lostine School then to La Grande, where she finished high school.

It was at La Grande where she met James Anderson, and after a whirlwind romance the couple began a marriage of 66 years that ended with her passing on April 25. The couple moved to Fullerton, Calif., where they lived for several years, then moved to Sierra Vista, Ariz., in 1971, which was her lifelong home until she passed.

During her years in Sierra Vista, Rae worked for several years at Safeway and became the favorite checker for Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Stewart as well as others. She was also a favorite of the young people of the area who often visited with her and the Anderson children (especially around lunch or dinner time).

Rae is survived by her husband Jim; children Sharon Messmer of Sierra Vista and David Anderson of Farmington, N.M.; six grandchildren: Brianna, Coree, Tyler, Jacob, Joshua and Matt; sister Caro; six Swart brothers: Don, Ken, John, Jim, Harry and Richard. Another sister, Irene Ashley, passed away 12 days later.

Vernon James Teel
Nov. 15, 1930 to May 8, 2016

Vernon James Teel passed away May 8, 2016 at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

Vern was born in a home owned by Asa Craig between Enterprise and Lostine to Maurice and Theresa (Smith) Teel. The family moved to Walla Walla after World War II and he graduated from high school there.

He was employed by Pillsbury and Safeway and owned a food brokerage business in Albuquerque, NM. Vern also enjoyed many good years managing the Whistlin' Jack Lodge on Chinook Pass above Yakima.

Home for the past 21 years had been Friendly Acres Park in Yuma, where he lived with his loving partner Sharon Isenhour.

Vern was a duplicate bridge expert, avid golfer and fisherman, and he enjoyed canning, gourmet cooking and his time as chef at Friendly Acres for five years. For many years Vern spent the summers in his beloved Oregon, sometimes at the coast, but often not far from where he was born. For eight years, he and Sharon volunteered as camp hosts at the last guard station up the Lostine River Canyon. This area of Oregon seemed to call him back, and he would attend the Teel-Wortman reunions whenever he was able. He would also call on his 102-year-old Aunt Peggy (Teel) Holloway, who lives in Clarkston, Wash.

Vern could light up a room like no other, and his booming voice and laugh will be remembered forever. He loved life and our life without him will never be the same.

Vern leaves his loving partner Sharon; children Theresa Fowler-Bailey and Vernon James Kusserow; sister Shirley Maidment of Yuma; grandchildren Vernon Blake Fowler, Kaylan Marie Kusserow, Michael James Kusserow and Christopher Ross Kusserow; great-grandchildren Wyatt Anderson, Emma Kusserow, and Ava Anderson; and nieces Kris and Cindy Beaver.



Cemetery clean-up event set for Saturday

Wallowa County Chieftain

Members of the Enterprise Cemetery Board and Friends of Enterprise Cemetery have scheduled a Groom the Grounds day to do some spring clean-up and prepare the cemetery for the Memorial Day weekend.

The clean-up event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

Volunteers who wish to participate are encouraged to bring gloves, rakes, weeding tools, gas-operated blowers and weed-eaters.

Volunteers should gather and sign-in at the office/tool house.

Organizers will supply cookies, chilled water and much appreciation for giving your valuable time to give back to the community by helping to care for one of

Enterprise's treasures.

The event also is an opportunity for students to earn some credits toward community service projects.

For more information, contact Perry Davis at 541-426-3826 or Jim Butner at 541-426-3787.

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Jerry Douglans Howerton
June 26, 1937 to Dec. 18, 2015

Jerry Douglas Howerton of North Powder died Dec. 18, 2015 in Hermiston at age 78. He was born June 26, 1937 in Grangeville, Idaho, to Yancy and Lorraine Dawson Howerton.

Jerry was raised in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. He graduated from Union High School before serving in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper until his honorable discharge when he returned to Oregon. He married Rosemary Conner on April 1, 1958 in La Grande.

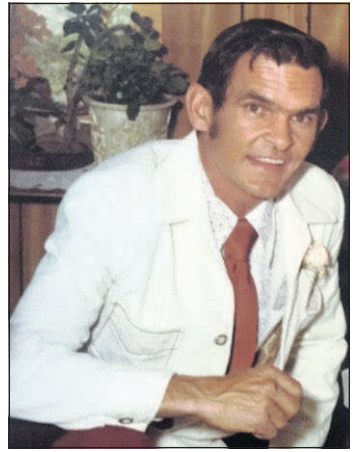
Jerry served the Baker City Fire Department as an EMT and captain for several years and was a first aid instructor. He then moved to Enterprise and worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation as a road maintenance Coordinator from 1984 to 1993. He and Rosemary worked for Columbia Helicopters as landing security from 1995 to 1997, and then returned to North Powder, where he worked for the Wilson Cattle company for several years. He enjoyed playing guitar, singing, cutting firewood, fishing, chess, cards, cribbage, table tennis and socializing. He was a humble man but very proud of his entire family.

Jerry was a member of the Central Baptist Church in Baker City. He is survived by Rosemary, his wife of 57 years; son Gerald Howerton of Baker City; daughter Karie Records of Hermiston; son John Howerton of Joseph; sisters Eva Blanger of Eatonville, Wash., and Audriann Bunnell of Port Orchard, Wash.; brother Raymond Howerton of Baker City; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Barney Howerton.

A celebration of life gathering with military honors will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 28 at Jerry and Rosemary's home, 62969 River Lane, North Powder. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Jerry was very concerned about children whose parents could not afford presents. As a child he was the recipient of charitable gifts at Christmas. In honor of his lifelong dedication to sharing with children, contributions may be made in Jerry's memory to the Baker City Salvation Army Christmas toy drive in the form of new toys, donations or the downtown merchants' Angel Tree Tags for children's requests.

Please sign the online guest book a burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.



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Weather Forecast
Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
May 19	54	36	Partly cloudy
May 20	57	36	Chance of rain
May 21	56	37	Rain
May 22	57	40	Chance of rain
May 23	59	37	Mostly cloudy
May 24	63	38	Rain

Phases of the moon

May 21	May 29	June 4	June 12
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET MAY 18-24
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
Rise: 5:15	Rise: 5:14	Rise: 5:13	Rise: 5:12	Rise: 5:11	Rise: 5:10	Rise: 5:09
Set: 8:17	Set: 8:18	Set: 8:19	Set: 8:20	Set: 8:21	Set: 8:22	Set: 8:23