

## Longtime teachers retire

Les Payne, a Heppner High School social studies and health teacher, and Betty Rietmann, an Ione Elementary School first-grade teacher, are retiring after many years of service to their schools.

Payne has taught for 35 years, 26 of which have been at Heppner High School. He has taught high school social studies and health, as well as junior high health. He is also an assistant coach for the boys' football team. Even though he is retiring, Payne plans on continuing to assist the football team.

Payne lived in Heppner from 1977 until he and wife, Kathy, a teacher for the Umatilla County School District, moved to Umatilla in 1994. Payne, who raised his kids here in Heppner says, "I may have moved from Heppner, but you can't take Heppner out of me."

Football will not be the only activity keeping Payne busy during retirement, he is the proud grandfather of four grandchildren, and happily said a fifth grandchild is on the way.

Payne says that he hopes his former students and all students remember that they have to be responsible for themselves and their own actions.

Rietmann, who planned to only teach one year to help the Ione Elementary School, is now retiring after 35 years of teaching first grade to numerous Ione students. Rietmann graduated from college in 1952 and taught for one year in Pendleton. After meeting husband, Bob in 1953, she decided to marry, have a family and live on the family farm in Ione, instead of continuing to teach.

Rietmann was asked in the summer of 1968 to teach first grade for one year at the Ione school. Her youngest son was going into first grade and she decided this would be a good opportunity and she

wouldn't have to worry about not being with her kids. Thirty-five years later she has not only taught her son, but six grandchildren. Along with having the joy of teaching her own family, she has enjoyed teaching the children of students she had in earlier years.

"I love teaching children to read," Rietmann explained as to why she has only taught first grade. In her later years of teaching, due to smaller school attendance, she has taught combined kindergarten and first grades, as well as currently teaching a combined first and second grade class.

Rietmann also said she appreciates the great community involvement she has seen in the school. She is happy to see that not just parents volunteer, but other community members as well. Two people she has appreciated volunteering in her classroom are John and Don Bristow. Rietmann said these two gentlemen come in all the time to listen to the children read individually, encouraging them and helping them along on a one-on-one basis.

Rietmann is looking forward to retirement in that she will now be able to be more involved in community and church projects. She is also looking forward to catching up with old friendships and spending time with grandchildren. Rietmann also hopes to volunteer some time back to the school, working with the children she sees are our future and who "bring new life to our lives."

Both Payne and Rietmann will be finishing out the 2003-04 school years.

Steve Brownfield, a teacher at HHS, is also retiring this year, but pending budget decisions, may return to HHS for the 2004-05 school year.

## IHS announces Student of the Week

Ione High School has selected senior Sheena Christman as its student of the week. Christman is the daughter of Carl and Kelly Christman of Ione.

Christman has a 4.0 cumulative GPA and is a member of National Honor Society and FBLA. She was girls' basketball manager the last three years.

Christman is a member of Christian Life Center in Heppner where she helps in the nursery and with Children's Church. During the summer of 2000, Christman took a mission trip to Romania with "Ambassadors in Missions," a group of over 100 teenagers from the state of Oregon. While there she visited orphanages and helped with children's street ministry to the local gypsy children. The highlight of the visit was spending time in Coimbatore, India, where she taught spoken English at an orphanage for girls.

Christman was a first place Senior Division winner for her short story "Screams that Pierce the Silence" in the 2001 Sala Kryszek Writing and Art Competition, sponsored by Pacific University and the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center.

Last fall, Christman was a guest speaker on Tom Beimborn's ministry radio program stationed out of Bradenton, FL. While in India, Beimborn recorded Christman's testimony about her trip to India. The program was aired all over the world.

Christman spends two afternoons a week after school working at Kuhn and Spicer Law offices. She plans to attend a four-year university and study pre-law, then go on to law school. Her top three college choices are Willamette University, Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA

and Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT. Her ultimate goal is to help the women and girls of India, who are sold into forced prostitution, find a better life.

## Obituaries

### Pearl Kruse

Pearl Padberg Kruse, 98, formerly of Ione, died Feb. 22, 2003.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 22, 2003.

Kruse was born to Lee and Lana Padberg on March 22, 1904, in Ione. She grew up and attended school in Ione. In 1935, she married Clarence D. Kruse. Mr. Kruse died in 1962.

Kruse lived most of her life in the Portland area, including 30 years in Lake Oswego. She enjoyed being a homemaker and mother and took special pride in her granddaughters.

Survivors include her daughter, Karen Kruse Pong; four granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren. Her parents; two brothers, Arley and Darrell Padberg; and two sisters, Opal Burton and Hazel Devin, preceded her in death.

Mitzie Peck Henderson Mitzie Peck Henderson, 81, died Sunday, March 23, 2003 at Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation Center in Milton-Freewater.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2003 at 2 p.m. at Sun Terrace Assisted Living Facility in Hermiston. Disposition was by cremation. Innumment of cremains will be at Bryson, TX at a later date. She was born April 12, 1921 at Chattanooga, OK to parents, George Washington and Ola (Kinder) Helms. Henderson was a long-time resident of Hermiston. She was a homemaker, then self-employed with Avon, Beeline Fashions and later working at Lamb-Weston until her retirement.

She is survived by son, Tim Peck; daughter, Robin Peck Young of Seattle, WA; brother, Alvin Helms of Breckenridge, TX; sister, Effie Stewart of Olney, TX; and grandson, Jordan Peck of Lander, WY. She was preceded in death by husbands, James H. Peck and Bill Henderson; parents, George and Ola Helms; brother, Frances Helms; and sisters, Tressie Deck, Louise Helms and Mary Gray.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holt International Children's Services in Eugene.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

### Andrew Franklin "Andy" Harle

Andrew Franklin "Andy" Harle, 55, former owner of Pendleton radio stations KTIX AM and KWHT FM, died Thursday, March 20, 2003 at Providence Hospital in Portland.

A graveside service was held Monday, March 24, at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. A memorial service and celebration of his life was held earlier in Newport.

Harle was born Feb. 19, 1948 at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, to George and Josephine Pilon Harle. The family moved to Issaquah, WA, in 1962 where he graduated from Issaquah High School in 1966. He participated in athletics in high school.

He attended Washington State University,

where he played football for the Cougars his freshman year. He put himself through college working for campus radio stations KWSU as well as acting as KUGR's production manager. He also worked for KRPL in Moscow, ID. While at WSU, he was a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity and Alpha Epsilon Rho communications professional fraternity.

In December 1969, he married JoAnn Buecker. In 1970, he graduated from WSU with a bachelor of arts degree in communications. The Harles moved to Spokane where he worked at KXLY, a CBS affiliate television station as the news director.

After his father's death, they moved to Federal Way, WA, and he worked at a Tacoma newspaper, where he got his start in advertising sales.

In 1973, they moved to Walla Walla where he worked at KUJ. He worked the morning show there, making a name for himself as a radio personality.

In 1980, the Harles moved to Pendleton and he went to work for CAPPS Broadcasting at KTIX AM. KTIX was eventually purchased and in 1982, KWHT (K-Wheat) as well as AGPAL Broadcasting was founded.

In 1983, the Harles divorced and later that year he married Cheryl McAnally. Together they ran KTIX and KWHT until the mid-1990s. In 1992, they purchased KPPT AM/FM in Newport. The Harles have been residents of Newport since 1997.

Harle enjoyed Cougar football games, hockey, radio and giving great advice.

Survivors include his wife, at the home; daughters Alison Harle of Portland, and Lindsay Harle of Heppner; stepsons, Greg McAnally of McMinnville, Paul McAnally and Andy McAnally, both of Pendleton; twin brother, Tom Harle of Woodenville, WA; sister, Jane McCallion of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; three nieces and a nephew.

Memorial contributions may be made to fund the annual Andrew F. Harle Broadcast Scholarship for a graduating high school student at Lincoln City or Pendleton, through Oregon Coast Bank, Bay Blvd., Newport, OR 97365; or Columbia River Bank, 2101 S.W. Court Place, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Bishop Funeral Chapel of Pendleton is in charge of local arrangements.

### Perry A. "Pep" Adams

Perry Alan "Pep" Adams, 71, of Heppner, died Monday, March 17, 2003, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Portland.

A memorial service was held March 22 in Heppner.

Adams was born March 22, 1931, at Hardman to Harlan and Opal McDaniel Adams. He attended schools at Hardman, Kinzua and Fossil.

In 1948, he entered the Navy, serving aboard the USS John Bole during the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge in 1952, he attended an electronics school in California.

He began working at the National Astro Labs/Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, CA, and later worked as a truck driver in construction.

On June 28, 1969, he married Jackie Holcomb at Baker. The couple lived at Heppner from 1972 until 1980, then returned to

Heppner in 1995 when they retired.

Adams was an avid golfer and a member of the Willow Creek Country Club at Heppner.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie and mother, Opal Adams, both of Heppner; sons, Mike Adams of Liberty Hill, TX, Creston Adams of Phoenix, AZ, and Gene Farley of Gustavus, AK; daughters, Linda Russell of Leander, TX, Judy Tokstad of Dundee, and Sandy Arrants of Coupeville, WA; sister, Shirley Van Roekel of Hermiston; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father; a brother, H.N. Adams; and a sister, Joanna Lee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Veterans Administration Hospital Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1035, Portland, OR 97207.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

### Avon Sherwood Melby

Avon Sherwood Melby, 89, of Hermiston, a former longtime resident of Heppner, died Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at her home.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date. Disposition was by cremation.

Melby was born Feb. 21, 1914, at Scio to Harry and Esther Edgar Sherwood.

Melby attended Linfield College. She worked as a freelance writer for the East Oregonian, Walla Walla Union Bulletin, KUMA Radio Station, Heppner Gazette Times and the Oregonian. Melby was a member of the Eastern Star and the Soroptimists Club.

Survivors include her husband, Arnold Melby of Hermiston; two daughters, Kathy Turner of Boardman and Sue Timm of Pocatello, ID; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

### Susan M. Valentine

Susan M. Valentine, 82, of Brush Prairie, WA, died Sunday, March 16, 2003 at Colonial House in Battleground, WA.

A private family memorial service will be held at the Echo Cemetery at a later date.

Valentine was born June 29, 1920, at Pendleton, to Sloan and Princess Thompson and was raised at Echo.

After her marriage to James Valentine, the couple moved to Heppner where they lived until 1964, when they moved to the Portland-Vancouver area.

It was said she had often stated that even though she and her husband had lived in the city for 30 some years, "They had acquaintances in the city and they had friends in eastern Oregon."

Valentine's husband preceded her in death in March 2001.

Survivors include daughters, Kay Hazelhurst of Vancouver, WA, Karen Burk of Portland, Linda Reay of Horseshoe Bend, ID, Tanna Padberg of Ione and Kim Schwab of Brush Prairie, WA.

Memorial contributions may be made to a hospice of your choice.

Heritage Memorial is in charge of arrangements.

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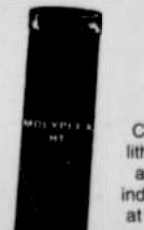
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