

Swansons named Ione Fourth of July grand marshals

By Andrea Di Salvo

Jim and Monica Swanson of Ione have been named the grand marshals of the 2013 Red, White and Blues parade during the Fourth of July celebration

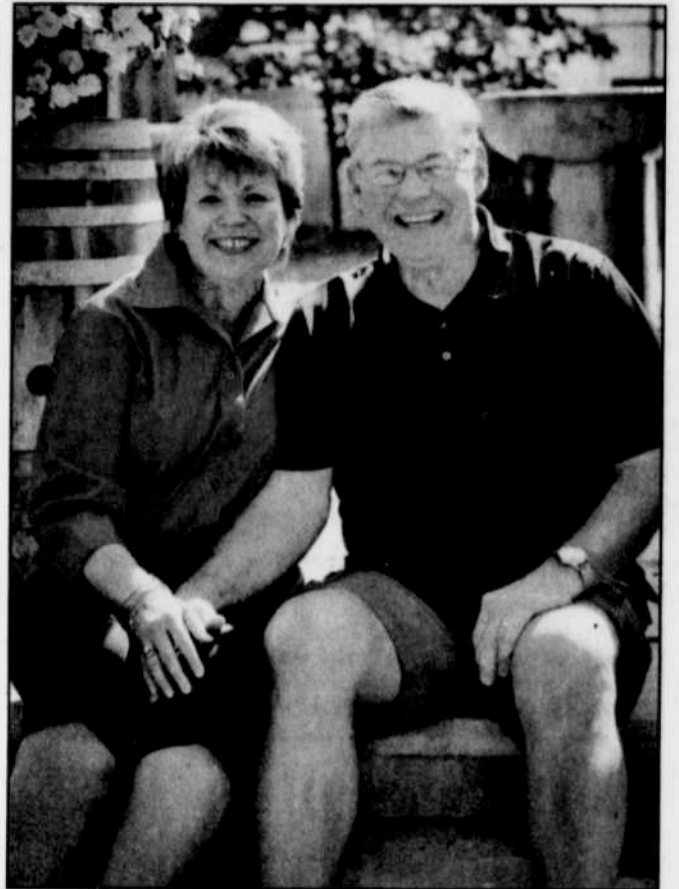
in Ione.

Jim, 62, is an Ione native. He graduated from Ione High School in 1969 and went on to attend Oregon State University in Corvallis. He graduated from there in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy.

Monica was born and raised in Roseburg, OR, graduating from Roseburg High School in 1969. She met Jim in marching band while attending OSU in pursuit of her own bachelor's degree in home economics education. She also graduated from OSU in 1973; they were married in 1974 and returned to Ione to operate the family farm.

Aside from the farming, the Swansons opened Swanson Insurance, which later became Wheatland Insurance, and operated that company for 30 years before Jim retired in 2009.

The couple has two children. Luke, 34, lives with his wife, Tyan, and children, Carter, age four, and Chase, two, in Hermiston. Adrienne, 30, owns



Monica and Jim Swanson

Ooh La La salon in Pendleton.

As if two family businesses and a family were not enough, Monica also held several jobs through-

out the years. She was first employed at Heppner Child Development Center, the Heppner day care, as ad-
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Irrigon clinic remodel commemorated with ribbon cutting ceremony

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board celebrated the grand opening of the Irrigon Medical Clinic remodeling project with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Monday, June 24.

The remodel included the addition of a large exam room to accommodate families, two additional physician offices, a conference and break room, an expanded laboratory section and nurses' station area, two additional supply areas and two ADA bathrooms at a cost of \$268,000.

The board meeting that followed was the second with new MCHD administrator Dan Grigg at the helm.

At the meeting, the board approved a \$200,000 line of credit to purchase a chemistry analyzer for



Irrigon Mayor and MCHD Board member David Burns (left) assists Morrow County Health District Board Chair Larry Mills in a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating completion of the Irrigon Medical Clinic remodeling project. -Contributed photo

Pioneer Memorial Hospital laboratory and an ambulance at \$100,000 each.

Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney reported that the fixed-rate, five-

year lease was obtained through Celtic Commercial Finance at a rate of 3.7 percent, which beat out other financial lenders. The estimated total cost of the Celtic loan is \$219,000, compared to other lending institutions' offers of \$221,000 from Provident Leasing and \$235,000 from the Flex Lease program, said Mahoney.

Also at the meeting, Grigg presented a report requested by the board concerning retention and projected need for hiring district providers. Grigg said that after speaking with the district's providers, Dr. Ed Berretta indicated that he would be interested in working up to two more years; Sheridan Tarnasky, P.A., indicated she would like to work her current full-time schedule one more year and then decrease hours to part-time with retirement in three-four years; Dr. Ken Wenberg said that he is interested in continuing indefinitely, but said that circumstances could change with short notice; Dr. Russ Nichols and Dr. Betsy Anderson indicated no changes, but voiced concern about the availability of physicians to provide emergency room coverage.

"Currently we don't have a shortage of physicians," said Grigg, "but if one of them retired we would find ourselves in a position."

-See HEALTH DISTRICT NEWS/PAGE TEN

RJs opens under new ownership

Inside of restaurant remodeled



Connie and Ken Jones are the new owners of RJs Restaurant in Lexington. -Photo by David Sykes

New owners Connie and Ken Jones have cleaned up and remodeled RJs Restaurant in Lexington and are now serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The couple says many hours went into cleaning and fixing up the restaurant and bar, including adding a new restroom in the dining area, redoing the ceilings, new floors, windows and "just lots of cleaning," says Connie.

The restaurant is open from 8 a.m. until "people leave" says Connie, with dinner being served un-

til around 8 p.m. They are only open until 2 p.m. on Sundays, and closed on Tuesdays.

"I decided I have to take at least one day off," she adds.

Both she and her husband Ken say lots of people helped clean up and remodel the building, and they show a stack of photos that they took throughout the remodeling process.

"We got lots of help," they both said.

The menu for the restaurant will be "good family dining."

Ione Red, White & Blues 2013

Saturday, June 29

Barbecue Chicken Dinner—Route 74, No Host Bar...5 p.m.

Texas Hold 'Em & Cribbage Tournament—Ione Legion Hall...6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3

Golf Tournament—Willow Creek Country Club...9 a.m.

Topic Club Book Sale—Ione Legion Hall...9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Blast Zone Paintball—Stefani Lot (concessions on site)...10 a.m.-dark

Talent Show—Ione City Park...6 p.m.

Music by Frank Carlson—Ione City Park...Following

Thursday, July 4

Fireman's Breakfast—Ione Fire Hall...7 a.m.-10 a.m.

5k Walk/Run—Lady Cardinal Basketball/Wounded Warrior project, \$10 fee...7 a.m.

2013 Craft Fair—Ione Legion Hall...9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Food Vendors, Information Booths/Raffle Tickets—Ione City Park

Park Entertainment by Local Artists

Blues Cruise Car Show—Ione City Park...10:30 a.m.

Fish Pond, Frog Jump, Bike Raffle—Ione Fire Hall/City Park...11 a.m.

Altar Society Pie Sale—Ione Fire Hall...11 a.m.

Red, White & Blues Parade—Grand Marshals Jim & Monica Swanson...1 p.m.

Park Activities Begin...1 p.m.

Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament—Horseshoe Pits

Petting Zoo—Ione City Park

Blast Zone Paintball—Stefani Lot (concessions on site)...10 a.m.-dark

American Legion Bingo—Ione Legion Hall...2 p.m.

Music by Corey Peterson—On Stage...after parade until 3 p.m.

Blues Bands—On Stage/Ione Amphitheater...3-10 p.m.

Hi Fi Mojo...3-4:15 p.m. Billy D and the Hoodoos...4:45-6 p.m.

Tommy Tutone...6:30-8 p.m.

The Sonny Hess & Vicki Stevens Band...8:30-10 p.m.

Legion Auxiliary Baskets (silent auction @Ione Deli)...4:30 p.m.

Boat Trip Auction—On Stage/Ione Amphitheater...6:15 p.m.

Raffle Drawings—On Stage/Ione Amphitheater...6:30 p.m.

Fireworks Display...dusk (about 10 p.m.)

Friday, July 5

Whispering Pines Equestrian Patriot Trail Ride—Three miles north of OHV Park...

Sign-up begins at 10 a.m. for three-day event

Ione's Fourth of July celebration is sponsored in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

Local managers, business owners attend customer service seminar

By David Sykes

Business owners and managers were treated to some good tips last Thursday when the Heppner Chamber of Commerce put on a customer training program at the St. Pat's Senior Center.

Susan Bower, MBA, of Eastern Oregon Business Source of Pendleton, told the group how to treat people correctly and turn them into loyal customers. Bower emphasized to management that "customer service starts at the top." She said business owners and managers cannot tell their employees to act one way toward customers and

then act another way.

"They watch you and watch how you treat your customers," Bower said.

One point of interest, or actually 10 points, were the top things that turn customers off:

- 1.) Being ignored or receiving rude service
- 2.) Having to wait too long
- 3.) Enduring poor quality work or products
- 4.) Trying to buy items that are not in stock
- 5.) Finding merchandise that is not priced
- 6.) Dirty restrooms
- 7.) Employees placing phone calls on hold for a long time or not



Susan Bower of EO Business Source puts on a customer service seminar for managers and business owners last Thursday in Heppner. The seminar was sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and will be followed up next month with one for employees. -Photo by David Sykes
-See CHAMBER TRAINING/PAGE FIVE



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