

Obituaries

~ Letters to the Editor ~

Mary Ann Jensen Palmer

Mary Ann Jensen Palmer, longtime Ione resident, died Thursday, October 31 at Heppner. A funeral service will be held Monday, November 11 at 1 p.m. at the Ione Community Church with concluding service and burial at the High View Cemetery in Ione.

She was born at Portland, OR on November 17, 1934, the daughter of Harold and Bernice Nogowski Jensen. Her father, Harold, died in 1936 and Bernice married Lincoln Nash in 1938. Lincoln was the only father she knew.

Mary Ann was raised in Hood River before moving to Heppner in the eighth grade. She graduated from Heppner High School in 1953. While in high school Mary Ann worked in the Heppner Laundry, Mary Vans Flower Shop and Court St. Market. After graduation she started working for 1st National Bank in Heppner.

On February 26, 1957 she married Marion Lee Palmer at Heppner. The couple spent their married life in Ione. Mary Ann worked as the head cook at the Ione School where she retired after working there for over 20 years. She was chaperone for the Morrow County Rodeo Court for

several years.

Mary Ann was a member of the Ione community Church where she taught Sunday School and was their secretary/treasurer as well as serving as a deaconess for a number of years as well as serving on the Memorial Committee and the Hospitality Committee. As a member of the Willows Grange she served as Lady Assistant for several years, as well as Home Ec. chairman and treasurer.

Survivors include her four daughters, Barbara Zeller and her husband Norm of Ione, Donna Rietmann and her husband Joe also of Ione, Debora Wood and her husband Dan of Hermiston, Anita Pranger and her husband David of Heppner; brother, Lyle Jensen of La Grande; sisters, Shirley Conner of Heppner, Rose Gott, of Hanford, CA, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, mother and stepfather.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione Community Church, PO Box 346, Ione, OR.

The online condolence book is available at Sweenymortuary.com.



Mary Ann Jensen Palmer

Geraldine Joann Brosnan Weister

Geraldine Joann Brosnan Weister, 79, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 24 with family members by her side at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. A graveside memorial service will be held Saturday, November 9 at 11 a.m. at the cemetery at Vinson, OR. Following the burial, a meal will be shared at the Heppner Elks Lodge at 1 p.m.

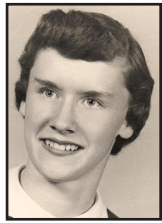
She was born in Heppner to Jerry and Marian Good Brosnan on December 5, 1939. Joann grew up with three brothers, John, Eddie and Dan on the family's six-generation ranch on Little Butter Creek. She was said to have enjoyed ranch life, especially riding horses.

Joann attend school in Heppner and graduated from Heppner High School in 1958 as class valedictorian. She earned a trip to Girls State as a delegate, and after winning a speech contest, she earned a 6,000-mile trip across the country to visit the United Nations in New York. She was also honored to represent the Morrow County Rodeo as a princess after graduation. She then attended Oregon State University on an academic scholarship.

Joann wed Leland Robison in 1959 and had three children, Craig, Susan and Shawn. She was later married to Norman Weister.

She was employed by Carl Spaulding, CPA in Heppner from 1961

through 1971, when the family moved to the Portland area, where she raised her children.



Geraldine Joann Brosnan Weister

Joann was employed by Fred Meyer as a corporate accountant for 25 years in Portland, before retiring to Heppner. During her retirement, she worked part time at Murray Drug and did bookkeeping to stay busy.

She enjoyed water skiing, snow skiing, camping and reading. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children, five grandchildren and her great grandson.

Survivors include her brother Dan Brosnan and his wife Doris; her children, Craig Robison and his wife Meg of Gresham, Susie Thompson and her husband Brian of Heppner, Shawn Robison and his wife Lisa of Vancouver, WA; grandchildren, Ashley Maddox and her husband Jake, Dr. Emily Jack and her husband Keenan, Stephen Thompson, Katie Robison and Kyle Robison and great-grandson Elijah Maddox.

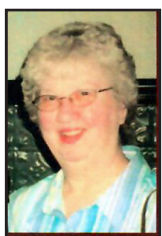
Memorial contributions may be made to Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living, 400 Frank Gilliam Drive, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweenymortuary.com.

Judith R. Rickert

Judith R. Rickert, 76, of Sheboygan Falls, WI, passed away on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at her home. Judith was born on April 16, 1943, in LaCrosse, daughter of Leonard and Margaret (Semlar) Schwantes. She was a 1961 graduate of Spencer High School.

quitting, playing cards and Mahjong, her wiener dog and cat.



Judith R. Rickert

Judith is survived by one sister, Daisy (Norman) Cook of Sheboygan Falls; three brothers, Charles Schwantes of Washington, David Schwantes of Alaska and Thomas (Lila) Schwantes of Alaska; one sister-in-law, Karen Ziemkowski of Minnesota; nieces and nephews; great nieces and great nephews; step children, step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

Judith was preceded in death by her husband of 15 years, William; her parents; one sister, Carolyn Nunley; two brothers, infant Elmer and Mike Schwantes; a sister-in-law, Terri Schwantes; a brother-in-law, Duane Ziemkowski and a niece, Stacy Schwantes.

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

What a delightful event Willow Creek Terrace enjoyed on October 26. Raymond and Norma French celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary in grand style. Their local families hosted a catered prime-rib dinner for the Frenches, their Terrace neighbors and the staff. The hosts personally served the approximately 40 guests. Everyone viewed this first-time occasion as one to remember.

Halloween served as another happy October occasion, beginning with the body-parts luncheon menu (only imaginary, readers, so relax) that worried a few and then the pumpkin-decorating that HHS intern Sage organized with the help of Danni Smith and her son, Sam, and daughter, Gracie. (The Smiths continue to show up at the Terrace on Tuesday as volunteers interested in helping with a variety of needs.) The fun continued for the participants who donned their Halloween t-shirts and greeted the trick-or-treaters who dared to venture to the hill. Over twenty-five costumed cute and/or scary bodies represented a record number for the Terrace.

Raul Silva contribut-

ed his festive day to the recent celebrations when he celebrated his birthday yesterday. His neighbors were happy to share one of his favorite meals with him and family.

Next Thursday, November 7, some residents will travel to Heppner High School for the 10:30 program that will honor American veterans. Presently, Raymond French, Glen Ward and Ernie McCabe are the three honorees who live at the Terrace. Their service will again be acknowledged by the community on the hill on Monday, November 11.

Beginning on the 17th, "National Homemade Bread Day," the kitchen aroma will begin exuding the mouth-watering aroma of fresh-baked bread more often. As the bakers create loaves for the menus, they will also be baking extra loaves for the freezer. These will be shared with neighbors on the "Tie one on Day," on November 27, and will be available for some of the special holiday occasions coming up. Also, a constant on the Wednesday menus are homemade cookies and the cookie-makers will be making bigger batches in the coming weeks to be shared at some of the Terrace's special events.

A strong interest of the staff and a focus this month is the growing need for care of individuals diagnosed with dementia. Readers are invited to join the Terrace - from the comfort of their homes - on November 19 for an internet webinar, (seminar) sponsored by Positive Approach to Care. Entitled "Ask Anything About Dementia!" the 7

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Delighted to see good manners

To the Editor:
We treated fewer costumed little people (and some bigger ones, as well) this Halloween, but the ones who came to our door were, with very few exceptions I think I could count on one hand, having a good time and were so respectful and polite. They were taking time to say, "Thank you" and to wish us a "Happy Halloween." How delightful to see in action good manners at tender ages and good manners still

exhibited by the teenagers who joined the fun.

If vandalism was a problem anywhere in Heppner, I feel doubly fortunate. (I am so hopeful that none occurred.) My hat is off to the adults who are teaching the young people to be respectful, kind and thankful. My hat is off to the young people who are practicing what they are being taught.

Thank you,
Doris Brosnan
Heppner

Response to \$10.3M county retirement shortfall

To the editor:
This letter is in response to the recent article published Oct. 23, 2019 regarding Morrow County's retirement fund. The article quoted County Commissioner Don Russell saying the retirement fund has a \$10.3 million-dollar unfunded liability. What that means is that if all the county employees retired at once the county would be short \$10.3M in the retirement fund to satisfy its obligations. We all know that this is an unlikely scenario.

receives. Wages and health care benefits also contribute to this package.

Morrow County's retirement plan is not PERS, never has been PERS and is not modeled after PERS.

Employee positions are rated by a classification system considering the three next higher and three next lower county compensation packages within the state. The compensation package for these positions include mainly wages, health benefits and retirement. Should the current retirement system be adjusted to help alleviate the current deficit? Possibly.

Current county employees should not have to bear this potential reduction to the compensation package they were promised at time of employment.

Respectfully,
Dave Pranger
Your county road crew

to 8:30 p.m. live program is an opportunity to address questions to a certified trainer. This opportunity will prove extremely useful to the at-home caregivers faced with this need. Readers are invited now to use their computers, smartphones or tablets to register at oregoncarepartners.com, following cues through a registration form, for which they will receive confirmation. A reminder email will be sent one hour before the start time with a link to join the webinar. More details are available on the Willow Creek Terrace Facebook page and information is also available by calling 541-676-0004.

Also available by calling that Terrace number is information about the apartments, of which two are now available. Admin-

istrator Nairns and staff members are eager to answer questions and/or to schedule a visit to the Terrace.

Thanksgiving nears the end of November this year, so everyone will have had many days to anticipate the traditional turkey-with-all-the-trimmings dinner that will be served to residents and their family guests. Of course, residents who travel to the homes of family or friends will head back to the hill for the delicious leftovers-menus.

Just two days later, on November 30, Floss Watkins will celebrate her birthday by sharing one of her favorite meals with family members and her neighbors. These special occasions, especially birthdays, are viewed by residents as important to life on the hill.

Death Notices

Lori L. Abell Cripe - Lori L. Abell Cripe of Lexington was born on April 23, 1961 in San Diego, CA. She died October 30 in Heppner at the age of 58 years. Arrangements are pending.

Please share memories of Lori with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Mycal A. Osmin - Mycal A. Osmin, 72 of Heppner, died Wednesday, October 30 at Hermiston. She was born September 3, 1947 at Baker City, OR. No service is being planned at this time.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC. Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983.

HEPPNER 294 MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 755 HEPPNER, OR 97836 Office (541) 676-9113 • Fax (541) 676-9001 1-800-504-9113	IONE 245 NW MAIN ST., SUITE 100 P.O. BOX 26 IONE, OR 97843 Office (541) 422-7410 • Fax (541) 276-7688 1-800-585-7410
---	--

TIME TO INSULATE YOUR WATER METER!
PROTECT YOUR METER FROM FREEZING BEFORE THE TEMPERATURES DROP

Insulation available at Pettyjohn's for \$2.00. **Frozen uninsulated meters will be repaired by the city for \$75 + material costs**

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP ACCESSING YOUR METER PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY AT 541-676-9620 OR STOP BY CITY HALL.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.