

Obituaries

Betty Ann Gerking Roach

Death finally called Betty Ann Gerking Roach on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. She had reached the age of 99, her vision was poor, and she was ready to meet her Savior. A graveside service will be held Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1 p.m., at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. She will be buried next to her husband, Fred.



Betty Ann Gerking Roach

Betty Ann Gerking was born in Heppner October 11, 1921, to Mart Braden and Lillis Slaughter Gerking. She was named Betty Ann after Granddad Slaughter's sister Betty and Braden's sister Ann.

At the age of nine days, she traveled with her parents by team to Hot Springs, OR. A post office, general store, a big hotel and also a dance hall were located there.

Betty had one sibling, a younger brother, Clark, who passed away in 2005.

She rode four miles to a one-room school at Three Mile from the first through the fifth grade. Then her parents rented a ranch closer to Ritter and she finished the eighth grade at Ritter School. She then boarded at St. Joseph Academy in Pendleton, graduating from high school there in 1942. The high school she attended was taught by nuns and Betty worked her way through school by cleaning for the nuns. She also sold Cloverine Salve during her school years and after she married.

Betty grew up on the banks of Eight Mile Creek, where she learned to ride, rope and handle a team. She spent many hours in the fields. Her dad had land across the North Fork of the John Day River and as she grew older, she did a lot of riding after the cattle, packing out salt and other chores.

She developed quite a reputation as a horsewoman. Like her father who was a rodeo rider for many years, she spent many hours on horseback and was well-known for her skill. Her favorite horse was Polka Dot. She attended her first rodeo in 1932, when she was 11 years old.

Betty studied and received a certificate from the Berry School of Horsemanship. She also went to Weather Bureau School in Seattle, WA. Then she worked as a filing clerk for the Thirteenth Naval District.

On March 4, 1944, Betty married Raleigh Weaver. They moved back to Ritter country and worked on various ranches. They divorced on December 3, 1962 and she married Fred Roach. She and Fred traveled extensively due to

Fred's occupation shearing sheep and falling timber. They made their home at Elk City, ID for five years then moved to Hermiston and bought acreage as Fred had a job shearing feedlot-lambs. They also raised orphan lambs and calves.

They later sold the place in Hermiston and moved to Boardman to care for Betty's parents. After the death of her parents in 1973, they sold the holdings in Boardman and moved to Helix. Again, they sold and moved up to the Wenatchee River area, Leavenworth. They stayed there one winter and decided there was too much snow so moved back to Buck Gulch on the Middle Fork of the John Day River. After several moves, they settled in Fossil to make their final home. Fred passed on December 28, 1995.

In 1998 a life-long friend, Frank Andrus, came up and stayed with Betty. She took care of him up until his death on November 15, 2002. Betty continued to live by herself until she became ill and moved to Haven House Retirement Center in 2009. There, Betty joined in on activities, church services, Bible study, bowling, bingo, etc., even up to the last two weeks of her life.

Although Betty had no children of her own, she became a "mom" figure to her husband's grandchildren and to children belonging to friends and other family. One of them, Penny Baldwin, became like a daughter to her and she and Penny became very close, sharing everything from sewing hints to Betty's personal history. Frequent visits from Bill and Kathleen, Lorie and Zenith were always welcome at Betty's place.

She is survived by many friends, both within her church, Fossil United Methodist, where she was baptized, and outside of it. "Betty will be missed. She was a good friend to us all," a spokesperson said.

Memorial contributions may be made to Haven House Retirement Center, PO Box 386, Fossil, OR 97830.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Suzanne Lieuallen Jepsen

Suzanne Lieuallen Jepsen, 92, peacefully entered the Lord's presence on November 28, 2020. She was born October 26, 1928, the second of two children to Cecil "Buck" and Violet (Hynd) Lieuallen. For over 65 years she was the loving and supportive wife of Bob Jepsen, who preceded her in death on July 19, 2016.



Suzanne Lieuallen Jepsen

Suzanne grew up in Pendleton, but spent many summers visiting cousin Doris at the Hynd Brothers' Ranch at Cecil and summer pastures near Heppner and Ukiah. As a teen, she had a dramatic role in the annual Happy Canyon Pageant. She played the part of a pioneer woman captured by the natives, who escaped by jumping off a cliff and racing away on horseback.

After graduating from Pendleton High School in 1946, she put her riding skills to further use as a Pendleton Round-up Princess. She then attended what is now known as Oregon State University for a year before taking a job in a local doctor's office. During this time, she met her husband-to-be, Bob Jepsen of Ione, while skiing at Spout Springs. Suzanne fell and broke her arm, and Bob, who was on ski patrol that day, came to her rescue. The relationship took off from there and led to their wedding on June 25, 1951.

The young couple moved to the wheat ranch near Rhea Creek where Bob had been farming. While there, they were blessed with two children, Susan and Bill. In addition to helping on the farm, as the children grew older, Suzanne started working in Heppner for Dr. Wolff, and later supervised senior meal sites for a multi-county area. When Bob retired from farming in 1991, they moved into Heppner. She devoted much of her time to church and community activities and was instrumental in building the Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living Facility. She and Bob especially enjoyed attending the grandkids' music and sports events.

Suzanne loved her Savior, Jesus Christ. She delighted in her grandchildren and the great grandchildren who called her "Grandma GG." Up until the age of 89, when she entered assisted living, Suzanne was involved in a wide variety of activities: golfing, Book-

worms Club, helping seniors at Willow Creek Terrace and kids at AWANA Bible Club, women's Bible studies, bridge club, birthday club and exercise classes. "She leaves a heritage of Christian faith for her family and was an inspirational example of prayer, grace, class, and hospitality," her family reported.

Those left to cherish her memories are her daughter, Susan Bullington of Umatilla; son, Bill (Nancy) of Enterprise and six grandchildren: Brad (Tracy) Bullington, Matthew (Erin) Jepsen, Daniel (Bethany) Jepsen, Eric (Caitlin) Jepsen, Amy (Tyler) Schaffeld, and Rebecca (Richard) Matthews. Also 11 great grandchildren: Blake and Brody Bullington, Natalie, Seth, Cody, Abi, Laurelee, Anna, Cecily and Adelaide Jepsen, and Whitney, Jacey and Tessa Schaffeld. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Frank and husband, Bob.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 1 p.m. at Willow Creek Baptist Church in Heppner, followed by a graveside service at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. Because seating is limited to 50 people in the church due to Covid restrictions, the memorial service will be live streamed on Facebook at the Willow Creek Baptist - Heppner page. The service and program will also remain on the Facebook page and can be viewed at any time. Those who would like to attend in person are asked to call Bill Jepsen at 541-571-2380 so a headcount can be kept. If the maximum allowed number is met, the service will also be available on 88.1 FM radio in the church parking lot. There will be plenty of space to attend the graveside service.

Memorial contributions can be made to one of Suzanne's longtime favorite charities, the Salvation Army at 150 SE Emigrant Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801, or online at <https://pendleton.salvationarmy.org/>

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Garnett Elizabeth Huddleston

Garnett Elizabeth Huddleston passed peacefully at the age of 91, on December 1, 2020 in Salem, OR. She was born March 19, 1929 in Condon, OR to John and Mae Burns. She attended school in Condon and met Tom Huddleston in high school there. They were married in Pendleton, OR at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sept. 8, 1949.



Garnett Elizabeth Huddleston

The couple lived a short time in Pendleton, then moved to Hermiston and lived there 23 years, raising hay and melons. In 1975 they moved to Heppner and lived there 32 years, first on a wheat ranch and then moved into town.

Garnett enjoyed many hunting and fishing trips with Tom. She enjoyed her volunteer work with county fair booths, election board, Morrow County Cat-

tlewomen and St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Altar Society.

Garnett and Tom raised eight children: Callie, Mike, Steve, John, Molly, Mark, Howard and Patty.

Garnett was preceded in death by her husband, Tom, and son, Steve, three brothers and one sister. She is survived by her remaining children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her only remaining sibling, Ethel.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, PO Box 633, Heppner, OR 97836.

Garnett was laid to rest next to her husband, Tom, in Heppner, OR. Assisting the family is Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service of Salem.

Business Speak

Support your fellow business

By Greg Smith

We've talked in previous articles about ways to improve sales during this wild rollercoaster ride we're on. Here are more ideas which may not only benefit your bottom line but help give another business a boost.



Greg Smith

It begins by thinking outside the box. Perhaps instead of seeing another business as a competitor, think of them as another potential customer and be creative about working together. Consider the following:

- Initiate an after-hours Zoom call inviting a variety of different business owners. Brainstorm on ways you can cross-promote and directly support each other. Much of what you can do won't cost a penny.

- Write a positive review or testimonial on social media. Talk about a great item they carry or a specialty service they offer and post a picture on your Facebook page (personal and business). Ask them to the same.

- Go live on Facebook. Share the name of your favorite restaurant and suggest a special menu item. Maybe send a gift card from your business to a standout server.

- Consider a mini "shop-hop" in which customers are entered to win a gift basket featuring items from each establishment.

- Cross-market gift items. Perhaps your killer gourmet marinades and sauces are offered at a specialty meat market across town.

Obviously, the goal is to generate more revenue for your business, but do not be afraid to work together. It's not about giving a fellow entrepreneur a competitive edge. It's helping ensure that as many businesses in your community survive as possible.

Finally, most people are more committed than ever to shopping locally. Vibrant businesses working together have a better chance of anchoring customers. Also, by showing your own support both as a business owner and private individual, you'll garner goodwill and help ensure the business community—which includes your own company—will have a brighter holiday and future.

Greg Smith is the director of the Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center located at 1607 Gekeler Lane, Room 148 in La Grande, OR. If you are seeking free, confidential business advising, please call 541-962-1532 or email eousbdc@gmail.com.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

November 12, 2020: - Derek Justin Williams, 33, Irrigon and Caryn Gerifaye Seely, 29, Irrigon.

November 18, 2020: - Luis Felipe Lopez, 27, Boardman and Erika Tlapa-

nco Estrella, 26, Boardman.

November 19, 2020: - Ramon Araiza Gutierrez, Jr., 50, Boardman and Graciela Medina Navarro, 51, Boardman.

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

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

- Chad L Hoyt, 41, Hermiston, OR, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

- William D Downs, 25, Clarlisle, PA, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165 and violation of

basic rule (2nd cite), fine \$165.

- Faye S Burke, 71, Grants Pass, OR, was convicted of game violation, fine \$440.

- Aleea A Strouse, 38, Hermiston, OR, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$265.

- Jesse A Corbin, 24,

Heppner, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$265.

- Brandon J Nickell, 30, Snider, TX, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

- Lorenzo D Alvarado, 23, Vancouver, WA, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

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Wipers • Lights

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Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
Heppner - 242 W Linden Way - 541-676-9422

