

## OBITUARIES

## Lou Pankratz

August 22, 1930 - November 7, 2020



Louis B. Pankratz died peacefully at home in his sleep just a few months past his 90th birthday due to complications of pancreatic cancer.

He worked as a Research Chemist for the Bureau of Mines. Later in life, Lou enjoyed cooking and volunteering at the Albany Civic Theater. Lou will be fondly remembered for his caring kindness, laughter and that twinkle in his eye just before he made a joke.

A private celebration of life will be held in 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Albany Civic Theater ([albanycivic.org](http://albanycivic.org)). Further information and an opportunity to share your thoughts and memories with the family at <https://www.demossdurdan.com/obituaries/Louis-Pankratz/>.

## Phillip Weldon

December 21, 1944 - December 2, 2020



Phillip Weldon, 75, died peacefully in his sleep at home in the early morning hours of December 2, 2020 from Alzheimer's Disease.

Phil was born December 21, 1944 in Madelia, Minnesota. When he was three, his family moved to Lebanon, Oregon. They eventually settled on 60 acres five miles outside Lebanon on the Berlin Road. His father was a farmer and his mother was a school teacher. Phil attended school in the old Reed one room schoolhouse and then later at Hamilton Creek School. When he was 13, his family moved back to Minnesota and bought a farm outside Austin where Phil attended Austin High School.



At the age of 17, Phil quit high school (much to the anguish of his school teacher mother) and joined the Navy. He served from 1963 to 1966 and received

an honorable discharge. He was an electronics technician on the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga and spent time in the Philippines and Japan and off the coast of Vietnam. He often talked about his admiration for his skipper, Commander James Stockdale, a pilot who was shot down and held as a prisoner of war in Vietnam for over seven years.

After leaving the Navy, Phil earned a college degree in education and later went on to earn a Master's Degree. He married Karen Glubka in 1973 and they adopted their daughter Michelle from Korea in 1977. He taught grade school in Minnesota, Iowa, Oregon, Germany (for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools), and Texas. When he retired, he and Karen returned to Lebanon, Oregon, where they built a house on a five acre piece of the Weldon family property. Phil spent his retirement years turning the five acres into a beautiful park-like setting. When taking care of the property became too much for him, he and Karen moved to Albany, Oregon. Phil was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.

Phil is survived by Karen, his wife of 47 years, and their daughter, Michelle, as well as his brothers Joseph, David, James, and John and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents Fay and Bernice Weldon and his brother Michael.

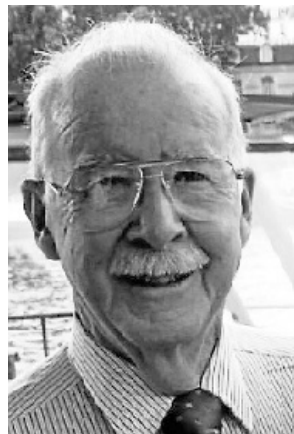
At Phil's request, no services will be held.

These words are from Bob Seger's "Like a Rock," one of Phil's favorite songs: "My hands were steady, my eyes were clear and bright, my walk had purpose, my steps were quick and light, and I held firmly to what I felt was right, like a rock." These words are true again, Phil. We love you.

Please leave your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.fisherfuneralhome.com](http://www.fisherfuneralhome.com).

## John Schaer

October 3, 1930 - December 1, 2020



John William Schaer, 90, of Corvallis, Oregon died on December 1, 2020. John was born on October 3, 1930 in Pocahontas, Oregon to William Andrew Schaer and Anna May (Powell) Schaer. John was the youngest of their three children. The family was descendants of Swiss immigrants who farmed and logged in Oregon on his father's side, and ranchers in Durkee on his mother's. John grew up on the family farm working

after school and during the summer alongside his father and brother. He remembered how happy he was when, as a young teenager, World War II ended and the family was able to stop farming with horses and bought their first tractor.

John graduated from Baker High School in 1948 and was hired by Witham Brothers Construction Company in Baker City, Oregon. He worked for Withams for seven years. John met his future wife, Glenda Marie Ward while in high school. After Glenda graduated from college from both Oregon State University and Western State University, they married in 1955 and John decided he would enter college to complete a degree at what is now Western Oregon University. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and then a Master's Degree in 1963. John was hired by the Corvallis School District and worked as an elementary teacher and then elementary school principal for the district for over 30 years.

John and Glenda had three children, Mary, John and Karen, and enjoyed raising their family in Corvallis and participating in many community activities. John fished on the Alsea River and returned with Glenda and their children often on Thanksgiving and every summer vacation to visit family and friends in Baker City. In Eastern Oregon, he especially loved boating, waterskiing, fishing and hunting Chukars in the Snake River Valley.

John and his wife Glenda took pleasure in traveling together. They first started traveling around Baker as a young couple on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. After they married, they visited many sites in the United States, Europe and North Africa. In the U.S.A. they visited Yosemite, California, Nevada, and Washington D.C, and drove across America retracing the steps of their ancestors on the Oregon Trail. They toured many countries outside of the United States including England, France, Switzerland, Canada and Morocco.

John is preceded in death by his wife Glenda and his siblings Arlene Spriet and brother-in-law Deal Spriet, brother Duane Schaer and sister-in-law Sherry Schaer.

He is survived by his children and their spouses: daughter Mary (Schaer) Thompson and son-in-law Martin Thompson, son John Schaer and daughter-in-law Christi Schaer, daughter Karen Schaer-Arib and son-in-law Ed Arib, grandson Jason Hirko and wife Megan Hirko, granddaughter Kelsi Schaer, grandson Will Schaer and wife Lauren Schaer, grandson William Arib and great grandchildren Jack Hirko, Henry Hirko, Claire Hirko, and Luke Hirko, and sister-in-law Beverly Schaer and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Oregon PTA Teacher Education Scholarship.

A celebration of John's life will be scheduled for a later date. Please visit [www.mchenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com) to leave condolence messages for the family.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Geraldine Holder Bruseau**, 99, of Sweet Home passed away Saturday, December 5, 2020. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

**Lola A. Bauer**, 66, of Albany passed away on November 30, 2020. AASum-Dufour Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Darlynn J. Johnston**, 75, of Albany passed away Friday. AASum-Dufour

Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**William R. Rogers Jr.**, 90, formerly of Corvallis, passed away December 4, 2020, at a nursing home in McMinnville. McHenry Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Deborah Ellen Carpenter**, 68, passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2020. DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Survivor

From A1

"We lived next to him and I have known him since I was about 3 years old," she said. "I love hearing his stories."

Although Russell is the last known mid-valley survivor, the family of Harry Scott, who also served about the USS Oklahoma, was present and recognized at Monday's memorial. For decades, Scott was a leader of the local Pearl Harbor survivors group.

The attack began about 7:48 a.m. as fighters, dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked U.S. ships docked at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, then a U.S. territory. The attack came in two waves, with planes launched from six aircraft carriers.

All eight U.S. battleships were damaged and four were sunk. Six were returned to service, and the

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USS Arizona serves as a landmark memorial to the event.

Some 2,403 Americans were killed, including 2,008 Navy personnel, 109 Marines, 218 soldiers and 68 civilians. Of those who perished, 1,177 were aboard the USS Arizona. The bodies of 900 remain on board the wreckage.

Also damaged that morning were 188 U.S. aircraft. The Japanese lost 239 aircraft, five midget submarines and 64 servicemen.

It was Sunday morning, and the Nebraska-reared Russell was reading a book preparing to go on duty.

Russell said he had enlisted in the Navy to escape the poverty of the Great Depression. He had served aboard the USS Oklahoma for about 18 months before

the attack.

When the Oklahoma was bombed, Russell made it to the top deck and then leapt about six feet to the USS Maryland, catching a rope to keep him out of the fuel that was burning atop the water.

Russell helped load anti-aircraft guns on the Maryland for the rest of the attack.

He spent the remainder of World War II serving aboard the USS Mahan, a destroyer, until it was heavily damaged by a kamikaze attack and sunk by U.S. forces to avoid its capture by the Japanese in December 1944.

The Mahan had provided support for Marines landing at Guadalcanal and engaged in numerous battles.

Russell remained in the Navy after the war, trav-

eled extensively around the world — including Japan — and retired in 1960. He worked in the transportation field until retiring in 1980.

Members of Post 10 presented Russell with a framed puzzle depicting the Pearl Harbor attack that Russell had put together.

"Most of the witnesses of that day are no longer with us," Solomon said. "It was a day that united Americans and changed the world."

Post 10 Chaplain Floyd Bacon gave the invocation and benediction.

Colors were presented and retired. The Post 10 Honor Guard included Howard Jenks, Rick Dominguez, Dick Newkirk, Rob Walker, Dick Wygant, Kirt Snider and Guillermo Mejia.

Taps was played by Gene Carl, and there was a 21-gun salute.

Contact Linn County reporter Alex Paul at 541-812-6114.

## Council

From A1

■ Councilors voted 9-0 to post signs and notices aimed at preventing the Pioneer Park campers from parking too closely to the Marys River because of potential environmental issues.

■ Councilors voted 5-4 on a motion identifying which categories of illegal campsites will be posted or cleaned up. These include those in riparian and natural areas, in public parking lots, within 50 feet of a playground, on all city-owned property except parks and in city right-of-way.

■ Councilors then added via an 8-1 vote the OK to post campers who violate the 48-hour limit on on-street parking.

■ Councilors concluded their actions with an 8-1 vote that mandates "geographical equity" with regard to how camping emergencies such as this one are handled in the future.

Earlier in the meeting Shawn Collins of Unity Shelter updated councilors on possible approaches to the managed camp near the men's shelter. Collins showed a map that featured 24 spaces that would be 20-feet by 20-feet, with tents on raised wooden platforms. Portable restrooms, a hand-washing center and bike storage would be built near Southeast Chapman Place. All of the infrastructure would be north and/or east of the re-

cently opened new multi-use path.

At previous meetings Collins has noted that the camp might cost as much as \$250,000. Monday night he indicated that about \$95,000 would pay for the amenities, with staffing accounting for the remainder.

In other developments: **Advisory boards:**

■ Councilors passed a pair of motions on the restructuring proposal for the city's advisory boards and commissions. One motion calls for city staff to come back with direction on possible code changes required and the second links the city approach to the issue to that of the International for Public Participation (IAP2).

Further action on the recommendations of an ad-hoc committee of councilors and city staff will have to wait until next year. The issue already has been discussed for two years, at eight council meetings and work sessions and via eight meetings since July of the ad-hoc group.

**Up next:** This was the final full City Council meeting of 2020. The new council, including Gabe Shepherd in Ward 4 and Laurie Chaplen in Ward 6, will be sworn in Jan. 4. At that meeting councilors also will elect a council president and vice president.

Contact reporter James Day at [jim.day@lee.net](mailto:jim.day@lee.net) or 541-812-6116. Follow at Twitter. [com/jamesday](https://twitter.com/jamesday) or [gazette-times.com/blogs/jim-day](https://www.gazette-times.com/blogs/jim-day).

## Jackson

From A1

move the office forward a little more than I could."

Jackson declined to go into any further detail about the reasons for his decision or the timing of his announcement.

County Administrator Joe Kerby said he had not been anticipating Jackson's retirement announcement, adding that the Board of Commissioners would discuss the process for appointing someone to fill out the remaining two years of Jackson's current four-year term at Tuesday's virtual meeting. Kerby said he was not aware of any recommendations by Jackson regarding who should succeed him.

Kerby said he appreciated Jackson's service to the county.

"I wish him well," Kerby said. "He's done good things for Benton County and the community."

Jackson has been with the Benton County Sheriff's Office since 1995, when he moved from Arizona to take a job working in the county jail. He rose through the Corrections Division to become jail commander in 2006, and two years later he was promoted to undersheriff. He has been the sheriff since 2013, when he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of his predecessor, Diana Simpson.

Jackson was elected to a full four-year term in 2014 and was reelected in 2018. His current term is set to expire at the end of 2022.

Bennett Hall can be contacted at [bennett.hall@lee.net](mailto:bennett.hall@lee.net) or 541-812-6111. Follow him on Twitter at @bennethallgt.

## Biden

From A1

Under Trump, states were sometimes left to figure things out themselves, as when the White House initially called on states to test all nursing home residents without providing an infrastructure, only to have to rectify that omission later.

Zients has made a name for himself rescuing government programs that went off course, such as the "Obamacare" HealthCare.gov website. Becerra has experience managing California's attorney general's office, which is bigger than some state governments.

Former Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius knows both men from her service in the Obama administration and says she does not see them working at cross purposes.

A Secretary Becerra "can't get up every morning and think only COVID," she said. He'll "work on COVID and coordinate the assets of the FDA, CDC and NIH, but he'll have lots of other things to do." Meanwhile "Zients will be the railroad engineer making sure the trains run on time."

States are ready for the feds to take on a more assertive role, she said. "Governors — Republicans and Democrats — are eager to finally have a federal partner," she said. "They have felt not only on their own, but unclear about

what was coming out of the White House."

## Science at the forefront

Biden's selection of infectious disease expert Dr. Rochelle Walensky to head the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the elevation of Dr. Anthony Fauci to chief medical adviser, and the return of Dr. Vivek Murthy as surgeon general are being read in the medical community as a restoration of the traditionally important role of science in public health emergencies.

"It means that the response plan will be grounded in health science," said Dr. Nadine Gracia, executive vice president of the Trust for America's Health, a nonprofit that works to promote public health.

Under Trump, "those of us who practice in medicine today have been dismayed," said Dr. Wendy Armstrong, an infectious disease specialist at Emory University medical school. "The individuals with the greatest expertise have not had the voice many of us wish they would have had. ... This to me signals that the government is ready to put expertise in place that can guide its plan."

Walensky, a widely recognized HIV/AIDS expert, got her coronavirus experience first hand as chief of infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston during the first wave this spring.