

# NEWS/OBITUARIES

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## Booze, drugs and aging

### Baby boomers not giving up vices, study says

By LISA HOFFMAN  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICES

They are perhaps best known for their youthful indulgence in an exotic menu of illicit substances such as Acapulco Gold, windowpane acid, mescaline and Quaaludes.

Now, experts warn, the 78 million-strong baby-boomer generation is bringing its propensity to use pills and pot to its senior years. In what researchers call the tip of an ominous trend, boomers are responsible for a spike in drug and alcohol abuse that is expected to mushroom in coming years.

"I think it's a silent, unappreciated problem that has the potential to tarnish the baby boomers' golden years," said Dr. Bruce Henricks, medical director of the Mutual of Omaha insurance company.

The few studies that have been done are upending what had been a long-standing assumption that substance abuse declines as people age. The boomers, for whom Bob Dylan's "everybody must get stoned" refrain served as a mantra for many, are proving the "maturing-out" theory wrong.

One of the few comprehensive studies of the problem found that 3 million Americans older than 50 in 2004 had used illicit drugs such as marijuana, cocaine or heroin, or had misused anti-anxiety, anti-depression or other prescription drugs. Research by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates that number could more than double by 2020.

Boomers are generally defined as those born between 1946 and 1964.

Already, the drug-abuse toll is evident. Hospital emergency rooms reported treating more than 400,000 boomer-aged patients for drug overdoses in 2004, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many do not make it, as was reflected in a recent Scripps analysis that determined boomers made up about half of all people nationwide who died of drug-related causes in 2003, most from overdoses.

A similar state health services department survey in California, where the counterculture first blossomed 40 years ago, found a nearly 30 percent increase in boomer drug deaths between 2000 and 2004.

In Arizona, officials counted 250 boomers dead of drug-related causes in 2005, compared to 39 in 1995.

Henricks and other experts say a combination of physical and emotional factors portends an acceleration of those trends as boomers age.

While not all boomers have used illicit substances — and millions merely experimented or engaged in occasional "recreational" use — the "if it feels good, do it" philosophy that prevailed in their formative years remains for many.

#### GREENWOOD

##### David E. Alderson

David E. Alderson, 64, Greenwood, died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007.

Born on Nov. 9, 1942, in Indianapolis to Theodore and Elizabeth (Mangus) Alderson, he started his life in the construction trade at 15, learning to be a brick and block mason.

His career accomplishments include multi-family communities with Oxford Development, commercial developments with Guepel DeMars, as well as Huber, Hunt and Nichols, and retail centers for Skinner & Broadbent. He was president of residential development with J. Greg Allen and Associates.

Memberships include West Newton Masonic Lodge 707, Murat Shrine and Indianapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite.

Preceding him in death was his father.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Margo (May) Alderson; his mother; a daughter, Alise Alderson; a son, Tony (Kelly Liddy) Alderson; and three grandchildren, Cassie Alderson, Sydney Alderson and Evan Alderson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Legacy Funeral Alternatives at Memorial Park, 9350 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, where visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today. Burial will be at Memorial Park in Indianapolis.

#### BROWN COUNTY

##### Connie S. (Woodall) Bray

Connie S. (Woodall) Bray, 54, died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007, at her residence in Brown County.

Survivors include a son, Ernest E. (Tammy) Bray Jr. of Brown County; three daughters, Beverly E. (Jimmy) Murphy, Deanna R. Bray and Nichole (Brent) Dersch, all of Brown County; three brothers, Kenneth (Sheila) Woodall and Earl (Sue) Woodall, both of Brown County, and Tim (Melissa) Woodall of Indianapolis; a sister, Cathy Bowman of Shelbyville; 11 grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; and a great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Verlon C. and Loretta M. (Fox) Woodall; her husband, Ernest E. Bray Sr.; and a son, Aaron E. Bray.

The Rev. Danny Law will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Friday at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation & Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sprunica Baptist Church, 3902 Sprunica Road, Nashville, IN 47448.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.meredith-clark.com](http://www.meredith-clark.com).

Information: (812) 597-4670

#### BEECH GROVE

##### Cheryl Ann Capler

Cheryl Ann Capler, 49, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007. She was a resident of Beech Grove.

Survivors include her husband, Frank E. Capler Jr.; two daughters, Allison and Sarah Capler, both of Beech Grove; a brother, John W. West of Lewisville, Texas; and two half brothers, Steve West and Adam West, both of Indianapolis.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John B. West and Linetta L. Harper Fahy.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave.,

Franklin  
Grace LaVonne Carter, 88  
Greenwood  
David E. Alderson, 64  
Indianapolis  
Myron W. Hemmingsen, 87  
Linda Ann Smith Jones, 57  
Elsewhere  
Connie S. Bray, 54  
Cheryl Ann Capler, 49  
Doris L. Evans, 78  
Ronald Lee Owens Sr., 60

Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association, 9410 Priority Way West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240.  
Information: [www.singletonmortuary.com](http://www.singletonmortuary.com)

#### FRANKLIN

##### Grace LaVonne Carter

Grace LaVonne Carter, 88, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007. She was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Richmond.

She was born March 18, 1918, in Wayne County to the late Arnold and Ethel Lena (Cox) Burt Hodson. She married Alvin T. Carter on Dec. 3, 1945, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 8, 1982.

She is survived by a daughter, Susie (Timothy) Shaffer; and two grandchildren, Sarah and Aaron.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Glenn and Raymond Hodson; and two sisters, Rosie Defibaugh and Mary Snyder.

Grace was a member of Franklin Memorial Christian Church and the Franklin Chapter 403 of Order of the Eastern Star.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Vandivier-Tudor Chapel, 951 N. Main St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gideons International, Johnson County Camp, P.O. Box 512, Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to the Carter family at [www.wilsonstpierre.com](http://www.wilsonstpierre.com).

#### SHELBYVILLE

##### Doris L. Evans

Doris L. Evans, 78, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at her residence in Shelbyville.

Survivors include three sons, Kenneth W. (Diane) Evans of Flat Rock, Thomas E. (Claudia) Evans of North Vernon and Ronald D. (Arlene) Evans of Shelbyville; five daughters, Doris Ann (Rusty) Hankins, Nancy D. Conrad, Donna F. Cowan and Becky (Gary) Bennett, all of Shelbyville, and Mary K. Sturgill of Rushville; a brother, Jimmy Vogel of California; three sisters, Evelyn Hendricks of Nineveh, Ann (Bob) Fisher of Houston and Katheran (Roland) Stewart of Franklin; 15 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Susie (Gardner) Vogel; her husband, Homer K. Evans; and a daughter,

Hazel Lucille Evans.

The Rev. Jim Farnsley will conduct a funeral service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburgh. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Nineveh Cemetery.

#### INDIANAPOLIS

##### Myron W. 'Mike' Hemmingsen

Myron W. "Mike" Hemmingsen, 87, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, surrounded by family, thus beginning his new journey.

Mike was born in Scandinavia, Wis., to Agnes Hansen Hemmingsen and Walter Hemmingsen on June 11, 1919. Mike enlisted in the Army Air Corps and while stationed in Roswell, N.M., married his high school sweetheart, the former Isabel Mary Johnson, who predeceased him in 1990 after 48 years of marriage.

As a member of "The Greatest Generation," Mike served his country proudly and courageously during World War II as a bombardier on the B-17 "Virgin Sturgeon." While flying a mission from North Africa to Italy, he distinguished himself as a leader by saving a crew member from drowning before he and his crew were captured and held as POWs.

After escaping, he continued to serve stateside for the duration of the war and was honorably discharged. He went on to attend the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated in 1947.

He began his business career with the Central Soya Co. in Madison, Wis., in 1947 and was transferred to Indianapolis in 1953 to manage their Farm Supply division until 1965, when he and his wife, Isabel, started Central Indiana Supply Co. (now known as The Cisco Companies).

Mike was fortunate enough to have several family members and loyal employees work with him throughout the years, and he was able to see the company grow and prosper.

He retired from The Cisco Companies as chief executive officer in 1990.

He enjoyed watching all sports, especially the Colts, Pacers and, most of all, his Wisconsin

Badgers. He participated in bowling for many years and was an avid golfer.

Mike married Patricia Holbrook in 1991, and they shared their retirement years between Indianapolis and Phoenix, playing golf, traveling and enjoying time with their children and grandchildren.

Mike was a true gentleman and a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who leaves behind a legacy of integrity. He will always be remembered for his devotion to his family and friends.

Those who will cherish his memory are his devoted wife of 16 years, Patricia; three sons, Marshall (Bobbie), Greg and Matt Hemmingsen; two daughters, Holly Challis and Mary (Chuck) Laetsch; a stepson, Jeffrey (Leigh-Angela) Holbrook; three stepdaughters, Pam Holbrook, Laurie (Rod) Steele and Julie (Chris) Wende; nine grandsons, Brad, Taum (Donna), Kent, Jason, Austin, Hunter, Adam, Hayden and Charlie; and two great-grandsons, Christopher and Corwin.

Mike was a member of Indian Creek Christian Church.

Special thanks to Martin Russell for his visits and prayers.

The family will welcome friends from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis, with a funeral service celebrating his life immediately following. His final resting place will be in Waupaca, Wis.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 5631 W. 73rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Information: [www.singletonmortuary.com](http://www.singletonmortuary.com)

#### INDIANAPOLIS

##### Linda Ann Smith Jones

Linda Ann Smith Jones, 57, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her husband, Alton Jones; her mother, Joan Smith; two sons, Bradley (Cynthia) Jones and Jason (Cori) Jones; a sister, Kathleen (Smith) Wise; two brothers, Kenneth and Gerald Smith; and two granddaughters.

Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Francis Cancer Center, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46237.

#### MARTINSVILLE

##### Ronald Lee 'Ronnie' Owens Sr.

Ronald Lee "Ronnie" Owens Sr., 60, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Martinsville.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Margaret (Johnson) Owens of Martinsville; four sons, Ronald Owens Jr. of Paragon, Rodney Owens of Eminence, Chad Owens of Martinsville and Scott Kennedy of Florida; three daughters, Sheryl Wade of Martinsville, Lori Cutter of Florida and Ronica Whitaker of Ohio; two brothers, Roy "Jay" Owens of Greenwood and Max Owens Sr. of Indianapolis; a sister, Delphine "Dee" Godsey of Martinsville; 19 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Victor and Juanita R. "Dude" (Brummett) Owens.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Neal & Summers Mortuary, 110 E. Poston Road, Martinsville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Nebo Memorial Park Cemetery in Martinsville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.nealandsummers.com](http://www.nealandsummers.com).

#### Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes. All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

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