

OBITUARIES

Verla (Ward) CooperFormerly of Union
1920-2018

Verla Cooper, 97, formerly of Union, died Aug. 24 in Sandy, Utah. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Union Victorian Cemetery. Arrangements are being coordinated by Premier Funeral Services of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Verla, nicknamed "Topsy," was born Oct. 29, 1920, at the Levi Ranch in Union, to Silas Whitney and Mabel (Wilmerth) Ward. She was the oldest of three girls and they retained a close relationship throughout their lives.

While growing up, Verla moved 14 times, traveling back and forth from Oregon to California. In 1939, she graduated from Union High School, where she first acquired the nickname "Topsy." She preferred this nickname and was known as "Topsy" and "Aunt Topsy" to many loved ones.

Verla met and fell in love with William "Bill" Hyrum Cooper in 1940 while she was waitressing at Shank's cafe in Union. They married Oct. 8, 1942, in his mother's home at the Woodruff Ranch in Union. On the same date, 17 years and six children later, they were sealed as a family in the Salt Lake Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Verla was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in the Primary as teacher, Ward Primary President and Stake Primary President and in the Young Woman's Program.

In 1981, Verla and Bill moved to Salt Lake City to enjoy extended family activities and business interests. They lived in Utah for the remainder of their lives, taking many road trips and a Panama Canal Cruise together.

Verla enjoyed doing embroidery, crocheting and making quilts. She was a great cook and made delicious pies. She loved to read and do crossword puzzles and enjoyed singing in her church choirs.

According to her family, Verla was a loving, kind woman with a cheerful, positive outlook. She had her sharp mind and her funny wit until the very end.

Survivors include her sisters and their husbands, Idonna and Rick Cantrell and Ann-ara and Warren Black; children, Linda Cooper, Bill Cooper, Susan Shaw, Jilian Colwell and Ward Cooper; and 17 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, in 1998; daughter, Colleen Cooper; and son-in-law, Scott Douglas Shaw.

The manager of the Union Cemetery, Becky Zaugg, will be accepting flowers for Verla at 860 W. Delta, Union 97883. For more information call Susan Shaw at 801-803-0093.

To leave a condolence for the family, go to www.premierfuneral.com.

Betty J. Daggett

La Grande

Betty J. Daggett, 89, of La Grande, died Aug. 31. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Cleo E. Case

La Grande

Cleo E. Case, 64, of La Grande, died Sept. 1 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel &

Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Sharry L. Smull

Durkee

Sharry Lynn Smull, 52, of Durkee, died Aug. 31 at her residence. A Rosary will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City. A Memorial Mass will begin at 10 a.m. Sept. 7, also at St. Francis, followed by inurnment at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to a reception at the Durkee Grange after the inurnment. To light a candle in memory of Sharry or leave a condolence for the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

Patrick 'Pat' C. Morrison

La Grande

Patrick "Pat" C. Morrison, 67, of La Grande, died Aug. 23 at his residence. A celebration of his life and potluck dinner will begin at 11 a.m. Sept. 15 at Valley Fellowship Church. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Phillis R. (Gerdes) Baker

Formerly of La Grande

1936-2018

Phillis R. Baker, 82, formerly of La Grande, died July 25 in Salem. A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Union County Senior Center.



Phillis was born May 18, 1936, in Baker City, to John C. and Marvel (Mastin) Gerdes. Phillis was born with a twin brother, Phillip, and their mother died shortly after giving birth from complications associated with the delivery. As

a small child, Phillis was raised by her father and his sister, Alta, until his remarriage to Jean Gerdes.

Phillis moved to La Grande at age 14 to live with her grandmother Annie Alvina Gerdes. She attended La Grande High School and graduated in 1954.

On Oct. 1, 1955, Phillis married Bernard Abell in La Grande. The couple lived in Portland, Umatilla and later in La Grande and had two children: Marvel and Brian. Phillis worked at St. Joseph Hospital and Goss Motor Company while living in La Grande. The marriage ended in divorce.

In 1992, Phillis married Stephen Robert "Bob" Baker of Prineville. They lived in Prineville until Bob's death, when Phillis moved to the Salem/Molalla area to be closer to her family in 2015.

As a young woman Phillis enjoyed playing golf and was active in her children's activities, including helping with PTA, Blue Birds and Cub Scouts. Later she enjoyed supporting her children and grandchildren in their sporting events. She always welcomed her grandchildren and their friends and hosted birthdays and graduation parties at her home.

Phillis loved to travel with her family and visited Hawaii, Alaska and the Caribbean. She enjoyed trips to Reno with her best friend, Mary Jo. She loved to play penny slot machines and bingo and was active in the senior center in Prineville, the TOPS program and the Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include her daughter, Marvel Ann Abell-Dement and husband, Dan, of Molalla; son, Brian Abell of Walla Walla, Washington; brother, John Gerdes of Sidney, Nebraska; four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and many

nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bob; and numerous brothers and sisters.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Prineville Senior Center, 180 NE Belknap St., Prineville 97754.

Friends and family may sign the online register book or send condolences at www.mountainviewcolonial-dewitt.com.

Sherlyn K. (Bosch) Whiteman

Elgin

1947-2018

Sherlyn Kay Whiteman, 71, of Elgin, died Aug. 22. A celebration of her life and



potluck will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Elgin Community Center. Please bring a side dish.

Sherlyn was born June 17, 1947, in Long Beach, California, to Orville and Betty (Lewis) Bosch. She attended schools in Durango, Colorado, and La Grande High School. She was married for 53 years to Edward Whiteman.

Sherlyn worked in nursing homes for 25 years and was a substitute for the Elgin School District. She loved crocheting, being with her dogs and family, doing puzzles and collecting unicorns and dolls.

Survivors include her husband, Edward; children, Kevin Whiteman of Elgin, Tina Paxton and husband, Charles, of Elgin, and Sharon Whiteman of La Grande; eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Betty, and grandson, Matthew.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Local funerals and visitations

Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.



SEPTEMBER MARKET EVENTS

Located in Max Square, downtown La Grande
Open Saturdays 9am - noon and Tuesdays 3:30 to 6:00pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - KID DAY!
9AM - NOON at the market, Free Mini Market for kids!
Games! Activities! Kids can sell for free! + Kupenga Marimba!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - MUSIC-FOOD-BEER-GAMES
AT THE TUESDAY MARKET 3:30-6PM!
Mamacita's Market Margaritas • Side A Beer Garden
Yia Yia Nikkis • Elwood
+ Tuesday Market!!

Our Double Up Food Bucks program continues: EBT customers can double \$20 each time you visit the market!

Thank you to our Wonderful Sponsors!


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Loren William (Bill) White, 78

December 3, 1939 - August 25, 2018

Loren William (Bill) White, 78, of La Grande, born December 3, 1939, in Baker City, Oregon, to Loren and Laura Opal White, passed away August 25, 2018.

His father was logging for Mt. Emily Lumber Company. The family lived in a tiny company cabin near Starkey. Playmates included Umatilla and Nez Perce Indian children whose fathers helped during war man-power shortages.

After first grades in one room school, Bill attended at Haines, then Baker, graduating in 1959. Organizing his 60th class reunion was the highlight of his last summer.

A heart defect discovered when he was six predicted he might not live to 30. Even though he could not play sports, Bill often referred to his childhood as Huckleberry Finn worthy. Escapades with beloved cousins were many. They fished across the valley; hiked, spent many nights in Elkhorn high country, his favorite place. They built rafts...swam with only Guardian Angels keeping watch. Like all kids in the idyllic 50's (he often reminded us we truly did grow up in best of times) play was joyous... sometimes serious: They once "strung up" a particularly obnoxious tagalong (without any lasting consequences). Even now, he comments, "Well, he deserved it..."

Play was mixed with hard work of small ranch and hand-milking cows. At the age of 14, he began work at a large cattle ranch. Bill worked hard all his life; he was known for high standards, strength, endurance, love of family, the land and his God.

He put himself through college working for the Baker Forest Service. When he was 19, Dr Albert Starr had begun open heart surgeries; Bill's surgery allowed him to lead the wonderfully full life he so enjoyed.

Married in 1965, he and Beverly moved to Grande Ronde Valley where King Spain trained him to be a scaler for Boise Cascade. He became Regional Supervisor. His skill in this area was well known...he had the canny ability to look at tracts of trees and project how much timber the company would be able to harvest. On one particularly large sale he was within 1 tenth of 1 percent. "The Boys from Boise" were astonished. A dear tribute came from a scaler who wanted a scale stick Bill had used; another forester offered one of his: reply was "No, I want one Bill used." Respect from his fellow workers was great. He was a teacher, whether in the professional arena or the hayfield. Taking a drive with him was commentary on history, forestry or western lore.

The cherished dream of raising cattle was begun in '70's. He chose Salers as base because of their lean meat and easy birthing. Family chored mornings, went to work/school, then come home to chore in after-

noons. Healthy calves had safely appeared. Later crosses with Angus proved excellent beef as well as breeding bulls. Bill's patience and skill resulted in animals that were prized by local buyers for their temperament. It was impressive to see a herd of 150 cows, 150 calves "come to call." He was Cattleman of the Year in 1994.

He loved telling stories, visiting, was one of the most broadly read of people. National Geographic was read cover to cover every month; also, every other newspaper, magazine or book that piqued his interest. His collections of Civil War, WWII, Western historical fact and fiction were favorites. He said he knew where he would be waiting for the rest of us and there were some people already there he was interested in speaking with.

The greatest loves of his life were his wife, family, neighbors, co-workers, and church family. He treasured his friends.

Through the years Bill and Bev made wonderful trips; sometimes to visit family where they were working: Alaska, Singapore; they also visited Historic America, Ireland, British Isles, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

Upon Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer diagnosis, the family gathered to spend their remaining time together ~ loving and caring as long as possible. They had less than a month.

Interment was held Thursday, August 30th at Summerville Cemetery. Service of Celebration and Praise will be held Saturday, September 8th ~ 1:30 P.M. at the Union Methodist Church. Carl Seelhoff will officiate. Reception location will be announced at the service.

Bill believed if you belonged to an organization you were an active supporter. He was a member of Grace Community Lutheran Church, Baker and Union County Historical Societies, Cattleman's and the Outback Riders. He was an Advisory Councils of Union County 4-H and Extension Service, the Umatilla Forest and the Wallowa Whitman Forest Collaborative Groups...hoping to represent local interests. He was president of the Orodell Ditch Company for 6 years.

Bill is survived by his wife Beverly, his son Trace, wife Chamaine, children Savanna White, Lauden Jones, Laila and Aurelia White; his daughter Megan, husband Keith Banes, daughter Katelin; sister-in-law Sharon Barrick, nephew David Barrick and his family.

Bill requested any donations be made to Doernbecher Children's Hospital, .

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

3/116th Cavalry Reunion

For all current and former soldiers/significant others of the 3/116 Cav.

When/Where: September 8th at the La Grande Armory.

Social hour: 1700 hrs., no host

Dinner: 1800 hrs. cost \$12.00

RSVP to Cpt. Campbell (541) 963-4221 or get tickets online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/339934

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What's Cooking ?

by Sandy Sorrels of

TEN DEPOT STREET

Hope you are all enjoying the last days of summer and the Labor Day week-end. **Ten Depot Street** is closed today, but will be open tomorrow as usual.

Tomorrow, Tuesday September 4, is **First Tuesday Open Mic** at **Ten Depot Street** with our charming host Ashley O'Toole. An accomplished musician himself, Ashley plays with various bands including with Colt Haney when he does his *Elwood* show and the *Grande Ronde Symphony*. Come join Ashley, have a drink, enjoy some of our delicious \$2.95 Bar Bites and see what other amazing talent turns up.

Then Thursday playing in the bar is *Like a Rocket*, a trio of singer songwriters from Boise, playing unusual and creative Americana. Lead singer Speedy Gray's voice has been described as

having a "strong vocal resemblance to Willy Nelson, only with gothic undertones."

For Specials this week we have some great offerings. In addition to our Blue Plate Special, which is a favorite from the old (now ancient) Mamacita's menu, *Enchiladas de Acapulco*, Chef Bill Monda is preparing Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, *Grilled Alaskan Cod with Indian Spices and Corn Relish*. We have ordered fresh Arctic Char for the Friday fish special.

And then straight from **Nella Mae's Farm** we have some amazing cherry tomatoes which we will be serving in a *Caprese Salad* along with a marinated grilled *Northwest Sirloin Steak*, Tuesday through Friday.

And we have fresh local peaches for Daiquiris and Desserts.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL \$10.95

Chicken Enchiladas de Acapulco with almonds, olives, guacamole, and sour cream. Mexican salad with green dressing. (served Monday through Friday)

