

## OBITUARIES

UPCOMING FUNERALS  
AND VISITATIONS  
Sponsored by

## APRIL 6

Jack Fox, of La Grande; 10 a.m. celebration of life; New Song Community Church, La Grande.

Dorothy Keltz, formerly of La Grande; 2 p.m. celebration of life; La Grande American Legion Hall.

Korinne Madsen, formerly of La Grande; 5:30 p.m. memorial service; Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande.

## Kenneth D. Kennedy

Formerly of La Grande

Kenneth D. Kennedy, 50, of Ontario and formerly of La Grande, died March 31. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. April 13 at the La Grande Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Mary L. (Furman) Turner

La Grande  
1928-2018

Mary Louise Turner, 90, of La Grande, died April 1 at her residence. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 8 at the Summer-ville Cemetery Chapel.



Mary was born May 17, 1928, in Imbler, to Arthur and Wilena (Burnaugh) Furman. She graduated from Imbler High School. Mary was married to Arnold L. Thompson until his passing in 2004. On Sept. 30, 2007, she married John E. Turner.

Mary was employed at Safeway and worked in the meat and bakery departments. She enjoyed painting, motorcycling, traveling, black powder shooting and watching car racing. Mary was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the VFW Auxiliary and the Grande Ronde Bowmen Club.

Survivors include her husband, John; children and their spouses, Randy

and Sally Thompson of Imbler and Louis and Dena Thompson of Sutherlin; four grandchildren; and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Arnold Thompson, and parents.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

## Marjorie Thompson

La Grande

Marjorie Thompson, 97, of La Grande, died April 3. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

## William 'Bill' W. Wolford

Elgin

1931-2019

William "Bill" Wiley Wolford, 87, of Elgin, died March 23 at a care center in Elgin. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Known as Bill, he was born April 15, 1931, in Riverside, California, to son Alexander and Pearl (Cox) Wolford. He graduated from high school in Drain with the class of 1949. On

Aug. 7, 1950, he married Thelma McMichael in Yoncalla. In 1967, the family moved to Elgin, where Bill went to work at the Boise Cascade Plywood Mill.

Bill was an active member of the Elgin Christian Church, serving as a deacon and an elder. He was also a member of the union at Boise Cascade in Elgin. Bill enjoyed riding motorcycles and took many trips to California. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, CB radios and being camp host at Tamarack Campground, which his wife's father helped build.

Survivors include his children, Barbara Lene of Pendleton and Harold Lee Wolford of Union; brothers, Fred Wolford of Oakland and Gerald "Jerry" Wolford of Roseburg; and nine grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Thelma; siblings, James, Dora and Dorothy; and son, William "Billy" Wiley Wolford Jr.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.danielsknopp.com](http://www.danielsknopp.com).

## Natalie A. Reed

Union

Natalie A. Reed, 66, of Union, died April 4 at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

## William W. West

Formerly of La Grande

William "Bill" W. West, 85, of Coos Bay and formerly of La Grande, died March 11. At his request, there will not be a public service. Private cremation took place at Ocean View Memory Gardens Crematory under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel.

## Thelma J. See

La Grande

Thelma J. See, 89, of La Grande, died April 3. A viewing will be held from noon to 12:45 p.m. April 9 at the Island City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints, followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Julie R. Gregory

La Grande

Julie R. Gregory, 49, of La Grande, died March 31 at her residence. A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. April 12 at the La Grande Nazarene Church. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Rene C. Stevens

North Powder

Rene Cheer Stevens, 90, of North Powder, died March 9. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 6 at the Summerville Baptist Church. Online condolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalley-funeralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalley-funeralhome.com).

## Phyllis Mardis

March 30, 2019



Loving mother, wife, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother Phyllis Mardis passed away March 30, 2019 at her home in Clarkston Washington surrounded by her loving family. She will be greatly missed by all. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and a brother and her husband Larry, the love of her life for 63 years. Surviving her are her three children Lonnie (Barbara) Mardis of Redmond Oregon, Linda (Thomas) Stricklin Clarkston Washington and Lori (Doug) Smith of LaGrande Oregon, 16 grandchildren, Tara, Jeremiah, Jordan, Paul, Loren, Heidi, Sam, Daisy, Lorinda, Randy, Peter, Andrew, Leena, Brittany, Courtney and Kristina and 22 great grandchildren. There will be a celebration of life May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-4PM at 10801 Walton Road, Island City, Oregon followed by a ceremony for any who wish to attend at the Imnaha river area May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

## Union City Council to meet April 8

UNION — The Union City Council will meet Monday for a work session and its regular monthly meeting. The work session will start at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The work session and meeting will both be at city hall.

## La Grande Community Garden opens for season

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Community Garden is opening for the season with an informational meeting April 7 at the Oregon Rural Action office, 1112-1/2 Adams Ave. Anyone interested in gardening is invited to attend the meeting and sign up for a garden plot and learn more about gardening. The meeting will run from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve a plot if you can't make it to the meeting, contact Margaret at 541-910-6454 or call the ORA office at 541-975-2411.

## Library holds Peeps contest

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library invites the community to participate in its third annual Peeps Diorama Contest. The contest is open to all ages. The diorama may have any theme, must be family-friendly, and Peeps must be used for all characters. The contest will run April 8-12. Submissions will be judged in age

categories and prizes will be awarded. All submissions will be displayed at the library. Contact the library for more details. Entry forms may be picked up at the library or downloaded from the library's Facebook page.

## WURA board meets April 9

WALLOWA — A Wallowa Union Rail Authority Board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. April 9 at the Wallowa Senior Center. Call 541-426-7733 to sub-

mit agenda items or for more details.

## RSVP for Cove senior lunch by April 11

COVE — The April 16 Cove senior meal at Founders Hall at the Ascension School will feature baked ham or chicken breasts, mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, ambrosia salad, hot-cross buns and pineapple upside-down cake. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon and the meal is served at 12:15 p.m. RSVP

by April 11 by calling Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnsen at 541-568-4902.

## BMTD Board meets in La Grande

LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting at noon April 9 in the Misener Room of the Daniel Chapin Building, 1001 Fourth St., La Grande. The agenda and board packet will be posted on [www.bmtd.org/public-notice](http://www.bmtd.org/public-notice) prior to the meeting.

## Billie Jo Robbins

December 21, 1942 - March 24, 2019



Billie Jo Robbins, 76, of Elgin, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 24, 2019. A Celebration of Life service will be held at the La Grande New Song Community Church on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 12:00pm.

Billie Jo was born in Lewiston, Idaho, on December 21, 1942, to Georgia Florene and Floyd Stewart. Two weeks after her birth, Billie Jo's family moved

to Oregon, and they settled in Portland, Oregon, where she grew up with her siblings Pat and Terry. While in grade school, Billie Jo met Larry Robbins, and the two remained friends until they started dating in high school. After high school, Billie Jo and Larry got married on April 23, 1960, and they remained married for the rest of her life - over 58 years.

Shortly after their marriage, Billie Jo moved to Seville, Spain, to accompany Larry on his move to Morón Air Base as part of his service in the United States Air Force. In August 1961, Larry and Billie Jo gave birth to their daughter, Jeannie. After enjoying Spain for two more years, Larry honorable completed his service commitment to the Air Force, and he, Billie Jo, and Jeannie moved back to Portland, Oregon. While back in Portland, Billie Jo was enjoying life in the fast lane - literally, she and Larry raced cars and won several trophies. However, after giving birth to their son, Coley, in 1965, Billie Jo and Larry decided to trade in the race cars for camping trailers for more family fun.

Billie Jo was actively engaged in the Church throughout her life. She and Larry orchestrated countless events for the Church's youth group, whether it was basketball games or camping trips, and Billie Jo always ensured everyone received a delicious homemade meal. She opened her home and heart to anyone in need, fostering several children and providing a warm home and meal to many more.

Billie Jo was a grandmother of three - Derek, Erica, and Beija. She and Larry raised Beija as their daughter and felt blessed with the opportunity to be parents again. After Larry retired, Billie Jo and Larry moved to Elgin, Oregon, where they ended up closer to her sister Pat and her husband Kent. Like in Portland, Billie Jo and Larry became actively involved in the Elgin community and their Church, where she continued her passionate commitment to serving others. She will be missed!

Billie Jo is survived by her husband, Larry; daughter, Jeannie of Las Vegas, NV; sister, Pat Dutson (Kent), of Elgin, OR; granddaughters, Erica Smit of Las Vegas, NV and Beija Villalpando, of Minnesota. She was preceded in death by her parents, Georgia and Floyd; son, Coley Robbins; brother, Terry Stewart and grandson, Derek Smit.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

## James Patric Morgan (JP)

October 24, 1945 - April 1, 2019

James Patrick Morgan (JP) was born October 24, 1945 to Robert L. and Vila M. Morgan in Nampa Idaho. JP passed on April 1, 2019 at the age of 73 after a short hard-fought battle with cancer.

JP grew up in Midvale Idaho. His tall tales, shenanigans, and great friendships started with his life in Midvale. During JP's years at Midvale High School, JP participated in burning an "M" in the middle of the rival Cambridge football field.

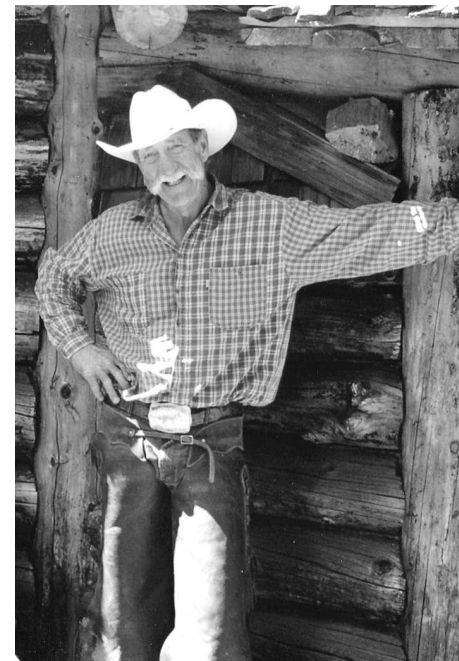
While he was being an amazing father to 2 daughters, he fell in love while living in Post Falls, Idaho with Darlene Petersen. They were married in 1980 in a small ceremony in her hometown of Cascade Idaho. Their lives and careers took them to many different places across Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Their relationship is an example of two people staying strong, devoted and connected with mutual respect and love for each other. And maybe a little shenanigan!

While JP had 20 years with Boise Cascade logging and driving truck, it was his career as a Paramedic that filled him up. During JP's volunteer days as a basic EMT, he got the taste of what it feels like to save a life with his own bare hands and rely on his "gut feelings" in crucial situations. This is what lead him to his true calling in life as a Paramedic. JP treated every patient as if they were his own family. He was an example to his colleagues and greatly respected in his field.

JP could not decide on one hobby! So, he had many. What came first, mules or oil painting? Well, there was an airplane in between! As an empty nester, he leared to fly an airplane and bought a 1947 Stinson tail dragger. His longest flight he piloted was a round trip from La Grande Oregon to Laurel Montana. He frequently flew into Red's Horse Ranch in the Minam Canyon Oregon for breakfast and to Cascade Idaho for lunch.

When JP took up oil painting, it did not take long for JP and Darlene's house to become a personal art gallery. From mountain landscapes, wildlife and cowboy life his eye to detail made his art special. He dabbled in making birthday cards that his grandchildren cherish.

Living a life long dream of having land and mules became a reality as well. JP was a natural cowboy, so of course, caring for pack mules was another passion. There are many stories from packing in for elk hunting, the Winnemucca Nevada Rodeo and mule endurance races. While helping beloved friends check in for one particular endurance race, it was quite evident that the ladies were swooning over the Sam Elliot look a like. The story is told with words like "swooning and gooly eyes."



When JP asked for them to "save me," he heard giggles and "giddy up, we will see you in a couple of hours."

JP is survived by his wife Darlene Petersen Morgan (Emmett, Idaho), Daughter Bentley Morgan (Charles Simak, Bend, Oregon), grandchildren Jennifer Collins (Anchorage Alaska), Lucas Simak (Bend, Oregon) and Jordan Simak (Bend, Oregon), and brother Keith Morgan (Midvale, Idaho). He is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Vila Morgan, sister Ila Morgan, daughter Brooke Morgan, and granddaughter Christina Collins. Also beloved mules Cotton, BR, and Shadow.

Graveside Services will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 1:30 at Eastside Cemetery in Midvale, Idaho. A Potluck Pie Social will follow the service at the V.F.W. Hall in Midvale.

In lieu of flowers, JP requests memorial donations to be sent to Heart 2 Heart Ranch 501c-3 "Where every child feels special!" 26245 Pioneer Lane Parma, ID 83660

Let me tell you about my Dad I'm trying hard to hide my Sad... The man of all men lived with integrity Ask anybody of his Credibility Sit still for a long story telling session Saving lives was his passion Blue eyes and a mustache for days Would drop everything and head your way Hands so strong, you know you are safe No one could possibly replace My Dad lived a big life, and now has wings Being my father was my favorite thing

## MENUS

UNION COUNTY  
SENIOR CENTER1504 N. ALBANY ST.,  
LA GRANDE  
LUNCH MENU

April 8-12

MONDAY: sausages, egg  
casserole, country potatoes,  
fresh fruit, croissants, dessert.TUESDAY: BBQ beef  
sandwiches, steak fries,  
coleslaw, fresh fruit, cookies.WEDNESDAY: fried chicken,  
mashed potatoes & gravy,  
steamed vegetables, Jell-O,  
rolls, cake.THURSDAY: hearty stew in a  
bread bowl, vegetable salad,  
pistachio salad, beer bread.FRIDAY: turkey, bacon &  
avocado sandwiches, pasta  
salad, chips, fruit garnish,  
brownies.