

OBITUARIES

UPCOMING FUNERALS
AND VISITATIONS
Sponsored by

April 8

Mary Turner, of La Grande; 2 p.m. memorial service; Summer-ville Cemetery Chapel.

April 12

Julie Gregory, of La Grande; 2 p.m. celebration of life; La Grande Church of the Nazarene.

April 13

Kenneth Kennedy, formerly of La Grande; 10 a.m. memorial service; La Grande Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

April 15

Erin Endicott, of Cove; 11 a.m. memorial service; Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, La Grande.

April 19

Keith Hescocock, of Summerville; 5 p.m. celebration of life; Elgin Stampede Hall; potluck dinner follows (meat provided, bring a side dish or dessert).

Elva J. (McKinnis)

Hoffman

La Grande
1928-2019

Elva Jeanne Hoffman, 91, of La Grande, died April 5 at her home. A funeral service



will begin at 11 a.m. April 10 at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene. A committal service will be held at 2 p.m. the same day at the Summerville Cemetery.

Elva was born Feb. 13, 1928, in La Grande, to John and Velma (Conklin) McKinnis. After graduating from Imbler High School,

she attended what is now Eastern Oregon University.

On Nov. 1, 1945, Elva married Marcus Studebaker in La Grande. They moved to John Day in 1950 then to Burns in 1957. Elva was active in 4-H with her children in John Day and Burns. She was also a millworker for the Edward Hines Lumber Company until the company closed in 1980. She loved to laugh about the pranks that were pulled at work.

Marcus passed away Dec. 23, 1980. In 1981, Elva went back to school and graduated from the La Grande Business College. She then became a licensed tax preparer in Burns and later was the bookkeeper for the Harney County Senior Center. Elva's sense of adventure really showed as she took many road trips.

On Nov. 12, 1988, Elva married George Hoffman in Winnemucca, Nevada, and they lived in Crane. She and George took several road trips to Wisconsin to visit his family. In 1995, they moved to La Grande, where Elva enjoyed reconnecting with family members and old classmates and making new friends. George died on Jan. 1, 1998.

Elva enjoyed camping and was always ready for the annual deer hunt. She also enjoyed gardening, was an avid reader and loved family get-togethers. Elva liked to write letters and authored her family history. She was also very active in her church.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Marvin and Maria Studebaker of Eugene and Beverly and Leroy Poe of Island City; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Dean McKinnis in 1996; son, Steven Studebaker in 2007; and granddaughter, Debbie (Studebaker)

McMenomy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the La Grande Church of the Nazarene Missionary Fund. Online condolences may be made at www.daniel-sknoopp.com.

Thelma Jean (Berry) See

La Grande
1929-2019

Thelma Jean See, 89, of La Grande, died April 3 at a local care facility. A viewing will be held from noon to 12:45 p.m. April 9, followed by a funeral at 1 p.m., at the Island City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Thelma Jean was born June 27, 1929, in La Grande, to Merton and Golda (Beck) Berry. She attended several grade schools in the area, and graduated from La Grande High School. On Jan. 10, 1948, Thelma Jean married Norman Richard See. In June 1950, this union was sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple.

Thelma Jean and Norman lived in La Grande until 1951. While they were raising their family, they lived in Pendleton and Hermiston. In 1974, Norman was transferred to Pasco, Washington, where Thelma Jean attended Columbia Basin College, graduating in general studies in 1977. They lived in the Tri-Cities area until Norman's passing in December 1986. Thelma Jean lived in Portland and in St. George, Utah before moving back to La Grande in August 1996.

Thelma Jean was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in all of the church auxiliaries and went on a church mission to Atlanta, Georgia. Being an Ordinance Worker in several temples was a highlight in her life. Thelma Jean sang in ward and stake choirs

wherever she lived and was also a choir director. Other choirs she sang in include the Hermiston Women's Chorus and the Columbia Basin College Choir.

Thelma Jean enjoyed baking pastries and sewing. Her latest hobby was using the computer to write her autobiography, short stories and poems.

Survivors include her children, Norman Richard See Jr., Kathleene Rae Mitchell, Larry Merton, Cynthia Jean Musser, Marla Kay Madderra and Sherry Lynn Pence; 19 grandchildren and more than 20 great-grandchildren; brothers, Robert, Donald, and Wesley Berry; and sister, Maxine Shinsel.

She was preceded in

death by her husband, Norman; parents, Merton and Golda; brothers, Ray Berry and Glendon Berry; infant sister; and granddaughter, Ariel Masog.

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

Belva Ainsworth

La Grande

Belva Ainsworth, 95, of La Grande, died April 6 at her home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

William R. Coleman

La Grande

William R. Coleman, 89, of La Grande, died April 4 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcom-

ing. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

Henry V. Bruce

Union

Henry V. Bruce, 89, of Union, died April 7 at his home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

Mabel Tucker

La Grande

Mabel Tucker, 92, of La Grande, died April 5 at her residence. A celebration of her life will be held at 4 p.m. on April 11 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

Julie Rae (Obermeier) Gregory

Nov. 26th, 1969 - March 31st, 2019

Julie was the type of person who made lifelong connections with people after only short interactions - her loving heart, bright smile, and giving disposition combined to make others feel loved in an instant. It was with this impact on lives that Julie was woven into the fabrics of the many communities in which she resided over the years.

Born in Berrerton, Washington, Julie spent the first 17 months of her life gracing the town of Hansville with her charismatic smile; a smile which would become a trademark for all that knew her. In the spring of 1971 she moved with her parents, Pastor Roy and Judy Obermeier, to Columbia County, Oregon where she met her life-long friend, Jennifer Winans Crawford. In December of 1973 Julie and her parents moved to Ekalaka, Montana - a place that was filled with loving memories of dear friends, snow tunnels from the front door, and the arrival of her two younger sisters, Jody and Jenny. In the spring of 1978 Julie and family returned to Oregon, living in a little place that Julie often spoke fondly of, Shiloh Basin. The year spent in Shiloh Basin was full of many memories, she was especially joyful at having been reunited with her first best friend, Jennifer. In the summer of 1979, the family moved for the last time, settling in Willowcreek, Oregon, just outside of Vale. After attending Willowcreek through 8th grade she went to Vale High School until her graduation in 1988. From there Julie attended Treasure Valley Community College where she joined the college choir and was privileged with singing in the TVCC VOCAL EXPRESS in Japan. If any experience shows how fully Julie was able to impact lives and make those lifelong connections, it was this trip to Japan - the family that hosted Julie during her Japan trip would later come to Oregon, bringing their children to stay with Julie and her family on two different occasions.

After she completed her time at TVCC, Julie moved to La Grande, Oregon to attend Eastern Oregon University and complete her degree in multidisciplinary studies to further her life goal of working with children. While attending EOU Julie found work at a local daycare center. That job would change the course of her life, as she met her first true loves - Austie, Taylor, and Jesse. It did not take long for Austie to convince her dad, Robb Gregory, to ask her very pretty and very loving daycare lady out on a date. Julie, it seems, had a weak spot in her heart for blue eyes, and found the package deal of Robb and the kids too much to resist! Julie and Robb were married Dec. 12th, 1992 - the same day that Julie officially received her teaching license.

Before long Julie and Robb settled their family in a cozy home in Island City, where Julie spent the next several years as a very beloved part of the Island City Elementary school PTO. Julie had a knack for finding ways in which she could help make celebrations bigger, better, and more memorable for all of the kids. She could often be found heading up decorations for the Christmas program, coordinating the PTO raffle for the carnival, and working to make each class party just a little better than the last. Outside of the school, Julie's bright disposition spread joy to all that she encountered. Her home was often the neighborhood gathering place as children filtered in and out for snacks and playtime throughout the days. She encouraged anyone and everyone to stay for a meal at her table. It was her time in Island City that brought Julie Childs into her life, and soon the Julies became best friends; so close in



fact that the mailman asked if they happened to be sisters, and in a way, they were.

In 2004 Julie and Robb moved one more time, into the home which they worked to build together out in the valley. Here Julie was able to get back to her country roots, and before long she was baking her famous cookies using

eggs from her own chickens. This new home had a special place in Julie's heart, from her meticulously designed kitchen to the hand stained porch, she never failed to rise to the challenge of building a house alongside her husband and then making that house into a home. Along with the move from Island City came a transfer of schools for Taylor and Jesse into the Cove High School, where Julie once again became a staple of the community. Whether she was using cookies to bribe the neighboring farmers not to plow fields on windy days, or schmoozing the teachers with her homemade bread - Julie had a wonderful talent for making everyone feel loved through her food! Once again, Julie threw herself into school functions, making many dear friends from fellow parents and staff members alike.

As her children grew and began to start families of their own, Julie did not hesitate to make their spouses feel just as loved as she had made her children feel. She had a unique talent for that, making people feel loved. But when her first grandchild, Cabella, was born in 2007 Julie found a whole new passion in life - she became more than a wife, mother, daughter and sister... she became Nanny. This role, of being Nanny to precious children, was one that she cherished. It was rare that you could find Julie without one of her own 8 grandchildren on her hip or closely in tow. In addition to those that came to her from her own children, Julie embraced many other little hands and hearts over the years - she was truly a Nanny for all that entered her home.

Julie is survived by many - her husband Robert Gregory, who she adored with all that she was. She is survived by her children and their families; Austie and Bradley Baird and their children Isaac, Abigail, Moriah, and Eliza; Taylor and Brandi Gregory and their children Cabella, Hayden, Barrett, and Kember; and Jesse and Kayla Gregory. She is survived by her parents Roy and Judy Obermeier; her sisters and their families; Jody Obermeier-Barlow and her nieces Mikayla and Jorgie; and Jenny and Mark Dayton and her nephews Carson and Troy. She is survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

While no one was ready for Julie to leave this world, she left us all with an incredible legacy of love to pass on to others. By her examples we have all learned how to be more patient, loving, and accepting. We have all learned the value of spreading love through smiles, hugs, and food. She possessed a grace that will live on through those that remember the ways in which she used her own time and talent to serve. As we remember her, we will honor her by continuing to love thy neighbor in the most literal of senses, just as she spent her own life doing.

Funeral services will be held at the Nazarene church in La Grande, OR on Friday April 12th at 2pm. A luncheon will follow.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the grandchildren's future through the account at Banner Bank.

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

LOCAL BRIEFING

LG Rural Fire
Protection Board
meets Tuesday

ISLAND CITY — The La Grande Rural Fire Protection Board will meet at 6 p.m. April 9. The board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the La Grande Rural Fire Hall, 10200 S. McAlister Road. The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District Board oversees the operation of the La Grande Rural Fire Department.

LG City commissions
meet, announce
vacancies

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Community Landscape & Forestry Commission will meet April 9, the Arts Commission meets April 10, and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meets April 11. Each meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation Office.

There are vacancies on the Arts Commission and Landscape & For-

estry Commission. For more information, go to cityoflagrande.org or call Stu Spence, Parks & Recreation director, at 541-962-1348.

LG School Board
meeting includes
executive session

LA GRANDE — The Board of Directors of the La Grande School District will have a regular board meeting at 7 p.m. April 10 in the District Office Conference Room at 1305 N. Willow St. The board will also meet in executive session to hear a complaint brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or agent.

EOU Board convenes
April 11

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's Board of Trustees convenes for its regular meeting April 11 in the Dixie Lund Board Room in Inlow Hall. The board will hear from Tim Nesbitt of the Oregon Business Council about the unfunded liability pre-

sented by the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Later, trustees will continue an ongoing evaluation of potential partnership with The Learning House to support and recruit online students. Other topics will include the TRIO Student Support Services program and the AS-TEO Scholarship program for chemistry students.

Registration is open
for next year's
kindergartners

UNION — Union Elementary School is conducting registration for kindergartners planning to attend the 2019-2020 school year. Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2019, to enroll. Registration packets are available in the Miller office from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Parents are encouraged to begin the registration process as soon as possible. Completed registration packets are due by April 30. Contact Deb Titus at 541-562-5278 with any questions.

I Ask

April 2019

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a campaign to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. The campaign theme, I Ask, champions the message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions.

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