

OBITUARIES

**Lois M. (Rosser) Hough**  
Joseph  
Lois Margaret Hough, 81, of Joseph, died April 1 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 13 at the First Baptist Church in Enterprise. Interment will follow the service at Joseph Prairie Creek Cemetery.

**Belva L. (Amos) Ainsworth**  
La Grande  
1924-2019

Belva Lucile Ainsworth, 95, a lifelong resident of La Grande, died April 6. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. April 13 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. Those attending are welcome to join a dinner at 4 p.m. at Island City City Hall.

Belva was born March 5, 1924, in La Grande, to Lloyd and Roxa Amos. She graduated from La Grande High School with the class of 1942. During and after World War II, she worked as a telephone operator and later in life worked five years for an attorney.

On Dec. 30, 1944, Belva married her high school sweetheart, Phil Ainsworth. Through 69 years of marriage they were an admirable example of love and commitment to each other and to their family. They enjoyed their life together, raising their children.

Belva was a homemaker and excelled at cooking, sewing and quilting. She loved flowers and enjoyed gardening. She was a gracious hostess to her family and friends, always offering food, drink, conversation and laughter. Belva had a great sense of humor, and her smile and solid grace brought many people into her life. She had a brilliant mind and remembered each one's concerns, then with her faith and love of God would pray for all. She simply was generous in her being, offering unconditional love and wisdom.

Belva had a beautiful view of life. She loved watching clouds, wildlife, and the beauty of the mountains and valley. The ocean was a passion for her, she loved walking the beach and soaking in the sound of the waves. Belva will be remembered as a beautiful woman who sparkled from the inside out.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Beccy and Jon Wren of Redmond and Gary and Gail Ainsworth of Rapid City, South Dakota; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and four nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and brothers Clifton and La Vern Amos.

**Kenneth O. Bomberger**  
La Grande  
1930-2019

Kenneth Olin Bomberger, 88, of La Grande, died April 8. A viewing will be held from 10 a.m. to noon April 12 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A funeral service will be held at 5 p.m. the same day at the La Grande Faith Lutheran Church.

Kenneth was born Sept. 17, 1930, in Kearney, Nebraska, to Olin and Louise (Iverson) Bomberger. He resided in Kearney, O'Neill, Holdrege and Central City, Nebraska, and in Scio and La Grande. He attended grade school in Holdrege and graduated from Central City High School.

Kenneth was married for 61 years to Dorothy Darlene Hicks. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Los Angeles during the Korean War.

Kenneth was self-employed before going to work as a cartographer with the Oregon Department of Revenue. He enjoyed gardening, woodworking, coin and stamp collecting, camping, hunting, and watching his grandkids and great-grandkids grow up. Kenneth also enjoyed watching sports. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande and VFW Post 43.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; children and their spouses, Kent A. and Brenda Bomberger of La Grande, Karl O. and Shanna Bomberger of Pendleton, and Keith D. and Lori Bomberger of La Grande; sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Robert Desch of Portland; sister-in-law, Ann Bomberger of Fraizer Lake, British Columbia; brothers and sisters-in-law, Donald and Diana Bomberger of Sheridan and Gary and Diana Bomberger of Spring Hill, Florida; nine grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and

nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Olin and Louise, and brother, Manning G. Bomberger.

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

**Elva J. (McKinnis) Hoffman**  
La Grande  
1928-2019

Elva Jeanne Hoffman, 91, of La Grande, died April 5. A funeral was held April 10, followed by committal service 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. After graduating she 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 during this time of life. The family accused her of keeping a packed suitcase by the door.

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 and belonged to Women's Connection.

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) McMenemy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the La Grande Church of the Nazarene Missionary Fund. Online condolences may be made at [www.danielsknopp.com](http://www.danielsknopp.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 funeral

was held April 9 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, the last being Fruitdale, and graduated from La Grande High School. On Jan. 10,

1948, Thelmas Jean married Norman Richard See in her paternal grandparents' home. 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. Since then, Thelma Jean has lived in Portland and in St. George, Utah. She moved 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 all aspects of homemaking. She especially liked 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 See, 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](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

*Editor's note: The Observer ran incorrect photos for Hoffman and See's obituaries on Monday. They are being run again today with correct photos.*

**UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS**  
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- April 11**  
Mabel Tucker, of La Grande; celebration of life, 4 p.m., Loveland Funeral Chapel.
- April 12**  
Julie Gregory, of La Grande; celebration of life, 2 p.m., Nazarene Church.
- April 13**  
Ken Kennedy, formerly of La Grande; memorial service, 10 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**  
Plan now to be a part of something eggcellent!  
**What:** Easter Egg Hunt  
**When:** Friday, April 19, at 4 pm  
**Where:** Grande Ronde Retirement

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**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. Two brothers Jim (Rita) McMahan LaGrande OR, Lyle (Sharlee) McMahan Edmonds WA, 16 grandchildren, Tara, Jeremiah, Jordan, Paul, Loren, Heidi, Sam, Daisy, Lorinda, Randy, Peter, and 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>.

**Mabel Alice Tucker**  
March 9, 1927 - April 5, 2019

Mabel Alice Tucker, 92, of La Grande, passed away on Friday, April 5, 2019 surrounded by her family, at her residence. A Celebration of Life will be held at Loveland Funeral Chapel on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Mabel was born on March 9, 1927 in Flora, Oregon to William and Elizabeth (Wakefield) Murphy. She resided in Day Ridge, OR; Flora, OR; Wallowa, OR and La Grande, OR. She attended Day Ridge School, Wallowa High School, La Grande High School and University of Oregon. She married Collins S. Tucker on February 9, 1948.

Mabel was a devoted wife and mother. She was the family historian, Master Genealogist. She enjoyed crocheting, counted cross stitch and other crafts, collecting and reading books, gardening and her flower beds, quality time with family, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She and Collins enjoyed world travel and both enjoyed making and keeping numerous friends. She was a member of the Home Extension, Rusty Wheels Car Club and an organizer of high school reunions.

Mabel is survived by her husband, Collins; children, Coralee Hasse (Dave) of Anacortes, WA, Corliss Howard (Mike) of Meridian, ID, and Allen Tucker (Pam) of Pendleton, OR; brother, Ray Murphy (Phyllis) of Island City, OR; sister Dorothy Lathim of Kennewick, WA; 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Elizabeth; brothers, John Murphy, Howard Murphy, and Bernard Murphy; sisters Mary Fleet and May Wheeler.

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

**Erin L. Endicott**  
October 5, 1942 - February 15, 2019

Erin L. Endicott, 76, of Cove, passed away on Friday, February 15, 2019. A Memorial Service will be held at the Island City Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, 10501 W 1st Street, on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 11:00 am.

Erin was born to Charles and Alfreda Endicott on October 5, 1942, in Ontario, Oregon. He was raised in Huntington, and that was home to him, although he graduated from High School in La Grande in 1960.

Erin enlisted in Naval Reserve and served two years. In the summer of 1961, he met the love of his life, Barbara Bennett, at a Stampede dance in Elgin. That fall, he returned to California to begin two years of active duty as a radarman on the USS Topeka. Barbara graduated high school from Elgin in 1962, and that winter, Erin returned home on leave and the two were married on December 27, 1962. They made their home in South San Francisco for the final six months of Erin's time in the Navy. In 1963, Barbara and Erin were living in Seattle, and that is where their son, Jon was born in 1964. They soon moved back to the Grande Ronde Valley, where daughters Cinda and Pamela were born in 1966 and 1969. Erin hired onto the railroad and eventually held the east end as an engineer. Erin and Barb settled in Cove in 1976, and the kids graduated from there. In 1990, Erin was medically retired from the railroad due to an accident at the age of 47.

Erin was an avid hunter and fisherman his whole life. His love for the outdoors began as a child running and hunting the hills around Huntington with his brothers, Lyle and Alan. The Fish Lake tradition began when he was a young boy and lives on to this day. Barbara and the kids, grandkids, spouses, and now great granddaughter, Ryver, go to Fish Lake every year. In his railroading days, the family enjoyed many trips to the Snake River with other railroad families for camping, fishing, swimming, and hunting.

Erin became a member of the Masons and was asked to join the grand line of state officers. He accepted the invitation and served as the Grand Master of Masons in 2005-2006 for the State of Oregon. He and Barbara very much enjoyed these years in their lives and made very good friends all over the state.

In their retirement years, Erin and Barb went on an Alaskan cruise, visited Navy friends, traveled to several USS Topeka reunions, and loved spending time fishing and camping on the Grande Ronde River at Troy.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Barbara Endicott of Cove, three children; Jon Endicott of Nampa, ID, Cinda Perkins (Bruce) of Kuna, Idaho and Pamela Thompson of Boise, Idaho; grandchildren, Patrick Perry, Jesse Endicott, Nicole Hageman, Erika Endicott, Travis Thompson, Megan Tenne and Madelyn Thompson; one great granddaughter, Ryver Hageman.

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