

COMMUNITY

Meeting

• UNION — The Union Rural Fire Protection District will meet Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. online via Zoom. For more information and a link to attend the meeting, contact Kim George, Union RFPD clerk, at 541-910-3114 or union.rfpd@outlook.com.

Briefs

Community generosity helps brighten holidays for local families

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rural Fire District Volunteer Association announced it received adoration totaling \$2,262.50 for its Shop with a Firefighter program.

The association in a press release reported it was not able to hold the Hog Wild Days pancake breakfast — the association's primary fundraiser — so donations from Community Bank, Certified Personnel, Legacy Ram and several individuals helped keep the holiday program on sound financial footing and allow for volunteers to purchase gifts and items for 10 households this past Christmas.

Anthony Swales, the association president, said in the press release, "It is great to give back to those less fortunate in our community and bring them joy and some happiness when so many have struggled."

Due to COVID-19, the association modified the program with firefighters using lists instead of taking the children shopping.

— The Observer

Lottery

Megabucks: \$6.9 million
23-26-31-38-43-48
Mega Millions: \$625 million
12-14-26-28-33 — 9 x2
Powerball: \$470 million
14-26-38-45-46 — PB 13 x2
Win for Life: Jan. 11
10-11-22-69
Pick 4: Jan. 12
• 1 p.m.: 9-7-4-7
• 4 p.m.: 6-0-1-2
• 7 p.m.: 7-3-2-8
• 10 p.m.: 5-5-1-5
Pick 4: Jan. 11
• 1 p.m.: 2-0-3-2
• 4 p.m.: 2-5-7-7
• 7 p.m.: 6-7-9-4
• 10 p.m.: 7-4-4-3

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DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

Ruth (Walden) Metlen

1928-2021 • Formerly of Union and Wallowa counties

Ruth Walden Metlen, 92, of Baker City and formerly of Union and Wallowa counties, died Jan. 6. At her request, there will not be a service.

Ruth was born Nov. 7, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, to Lee and Ninon (Wright) Walden.

She resided in Chicago; Pocatello, Moscow, Grangeville, Boise, Seneca and Winthrop, Idaho; Omak, Twisp and Mazama, Washington; and Unity, Joseph, Vale, La Grande and Baker City. Ruth graduated high school in Chicago and attended Idaho State University. She married Robert W. Metlen on Aug. 15, 1947.

Ruth was a substitute school teacher. She was a devoted wife and mother to her three children. She enjoyed skiing, horse-back riding, camping, gardening, reading and Bible study groups. She received an award for National Ski Patrolter 1963-1995 and First Aid Instructor from the American Red Cross.

Surviving relatives include her sons and daughters-in-law, Kit and Meryl Metlen of Olympia, Washington, Kim and Anita Metlen of Olympia, Washington, and Scott and Sherri Metlen of Moscow, Idaho; seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and five nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and sister, Carol Jean McDonald.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com.

Mary "Linda" Iles

Enterprise

Mary "Linda" Iles, 73, of Enterprise, died Jan. 9 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.

William "Bill" Ziegler

1924-2020 • Formerly of La Grande

William "Bill" Ziegler, 96, formerly of La Grande, died Dec. 20, 2020, at St. Luke's Hospital in Nampa, Idaho.

Known as Bill, he was born July 20, 1924, in La Grande. As a young man he went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad. He later worked for Amtrak, retiring after 42 years of service to the railroad.

Bill served his country as a Merchant Marine in the Pacific Theatre during World War II and later became an instructor for the Coast Guard Artillery.

Some of Bill's favorite memories were of his early years hunting and fishing with his father and family. He carried these interests with him throughout his life whether it was on the Pacific Ocean as a charter boat captain or trolling for salmon out of his boat, appropriately named "The Z Gull," or on the banks of Brownlee Reservoir with a simple bobber and jig catching crappie. He also really enjoyed being outdoors with his buddies and a good chainsaw cutting firewood.

Bill was a master wood-worker, building things for family and friends as well as his own house in Bay City. For years he shot competition trap and was very rarely beat. He earned countless trap shooting trophies and awards and served as the president of the La Grande Trap Club.

Bill was witty and had a droll humor. He enjoyed being a member of the Elks for more than 40 years. He was a member of the city council in Bay City for eight years.

Bill had three children with his first wife, Ellen Davis: Jim Ziegler (mar-



OBITUARIES

Upcoming local services



Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.

Jan. 16 — LOIS EBEL: 10 a.m. celebra-

tion of life; attend virtually via the livestream at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com (click on "Funeral Videos" near bottom of home page just before 10 a.m.).

Jan. 16 — LINDA RUTH: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Summerville Cemetery Chapel; casual dress preferred.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Claytie "Lori" Greenway

Joseph

Claytie "Lori" Greenway, 61, of Joseph, died Jan. 10 at her home. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.

Richard Crabb

La Grande

Richard Crabb, 76, of La Grande, died Jan. 11 at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Linda G. Ruth

La Grande

Linda Gay Ruth, 71, of La Grande, died Jan. 10 at her residence. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Summerville Cemetery Chapel. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Casual dress is preferred by the family. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande..



Albert Hurshel Quebbeman

January 25, 1934 - January 8, 2021

Albert Hurshel Quebbeman, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully at home on January 8, 2021, a few days short of what would have been his 87th birthday. He was born January 25, 1934, in Miles City, Montana, to Albert Loren Quebbeman and Opal May Bottles. When he was three his family moved to the Grande Ronde Valley, eventually settling in Imbler. Just days after his ninth birthday, his mother died. He gained a true second mother in his father's second wife, Blanche Whiting. Hurshel attended every grade of school with his future wife, Elva Mae Hunt, until their graduation from Imbler High School in a class of six boys and six girls. They married on June 22, 1954, and were sealed in the Los Angeles Temple on April 26, 1956, after Hurshel's 1955 baptism into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They made their home in La Grande, Oregon, where Hurshel lived the rest of his life. After Elva's death, Hurshel married Donna Donahue on October 18, 1997, in the Boise Temple.

Hurshel used his significant mechanical talents in service of his career, the stewardship of his household, his historical interests, his artistic pursuits . . . and courting! A hot-rod enthusiast, teenage Hurshel could be heard before seen as his souped up car would approach Elva's family's farmhouse. His role as an aviation mechanic for the Air Force took him to Guam for a year after his first child was born. Upon returning, he embarked on a lifelong career as a heavy equipment mechanic for Western States Caterpillar. The job required many hours of field work in extreme conditions, about which he never complained. He counted at least seven close calls that could have ended his life while in the field, but he loved working in the beautiful mountains of eastern Oregon, which he captured over the years in landscape photography.

In his spare time, he restored antique tractors and Caterpillar equipment, in addition to black-powder weapons. Inspired by the legacy of both of his blacksmithing grandfathers, he built a turn-of-the-century replica blacksmith shop from logs he milled on his homemade sawmill. There he crafted tools and sculptures alike, often with the help of grandchildren; many a Boy Scout received his Metalworking merit badge there. His home and cars benefitted from his careful repairs, camping trips were improved by his resourcefulness (which once led to a log-turned-canoe via chainsaw), and children enjoyed the go-carts, zip lines, and swing sets he built. Even the family dog, Spot, profited from Hurshel's hands in his most cozy and efficient of doghouses. Hurshel's sixteen years as an exceptional Scoutmaster included the building of an entire log cabin with his Scouts and teaching them to start a fire with bows and sticks—inside the scout room. Like his grandfather before him, Hurshel was an inventor. Some of his most ingenious creations aimed to make life easier for his first wife, Elva. Elva and Hurshel made a wonderful team, complementing each other's strengths. Their motto was "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without."

Elva suffered from a severe neurological disorder that resulted in quadriplegia soon after the birth of her third child. Hurshel gave loving, devoted care to her for the decades that followed, not only attending to her necessities but also curling her hair, turning pages of her newspapers, and becoming her hands in the kitchen. There he became an excellent baker of bread, cookies, and pies and led all his grandkids to believe that holding oven-ready dough to their cheeks was essential to his culinary success.

It was a gift from heaven when Hurshel and Donna found each other after Elva's passing. They have been loving, supportive, and inspiring grandparents and great-grandparents. Hurshel and Donna completed a church mission to Samara, Russia and Stockton, California in 2001 and 2002. They also served in the Boise temple before and after their mission. They enjoyed travelling around the country and abroad, in addition to making improvements on their home and pursuing their hobbies.

Hurshel, or "Daddy," as his grown kids always called him, was kind to all and hard working, showing his devotion to his church and family through service. In his view, the most important Church calling he ever had was Home Teacher. Dependable, loyal, and resourceful, he provided a secure foundation for his family, whom he loved quietly but fiercely and sacrificed much for. He even built them a bomb shelter during the Cuban Missile Crisis, just in case. He was deeply rooted to the land and would regularly tend to and enjoy his property on Pumpkin Ridge. Underneath his strong exterior lay a tender heart and deep sense of nostalgia, which fueled his rich slideshow displays of days past. Fascinated by history, he left a veritable museum of carefully curated objects from his childhood and beyond and once tried taking up the fiddle after reading about a fiddler in old Oregon. His life was governed by order, efficiency, and routine (visitors at his house got oatmeal made at 5:30 a.m., no matter when they woke). But he was an imaginative creator as well, one who would work in his garage on a hovercraft with Elvis playing in the background. Hurshel made the most of what the present moment offered, valued what had been, and pursued what could be.

Survived by his wife, Donna Quebbeman; his three children (with Elva): Susan Quebbeman (Jeff Turley) of Provo, UT, Bert Quebbeman (Julie Head) of La Grande, OR, and Bryon Quebbeman (Christine Romine) of La Grande, OR; his five stepchildren (with Donna): Me'ody Seabold (Mike) of Hillsboro, OR, Margie Eckland (Ken) of Bend, OR, Rosalie Sumsion (Carl) of St. Helens, OR, Duane Boman (Anne), of Baker City, OR, and Dean Boman (Kathy) of Baker City, OR; 12 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Elva Mae Hunt, and sister, Faye Quebbeman Long. No funeral services will be held at this time because of the risks associated with the pandemic. The memory of Hurshel can best be honored by passing along a good deed.

Give me a home where the wild turkeys roam



Dick Mason/The Observer

A small flock of wild turkeys gather Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, about 50 yards west of South 12th Street near Gemini Drive toward the outskirts of La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, JAN. 11

6:30 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism to a vehicle on the 800 block of Jefferson Avenue. An officer made contact and took a report.

9:07 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1800 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers separated the parties.

2:39 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of 20th Street on a report of a burglary to a residence. An officer took a report for trespassing.

3:47 p.m. — A caller reported a burglary to a storage unit at Complex Rental Storage, 1907 U Ave., La Grande. Police responded and took a report.

9:20 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 900 block of Main Avenue

on a report of suspicious males but did not find any suspects.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

7:32 a.m. — A La Grande police officer spotted a tree blocking the entrance to Riverside Park. Police notified the public works department.

9:34 a.m. — A caller reported a wire down on the 500 block of Main Street, Cove. A Union County sheriff's deputy checked it out and determined it was a TV cable.

4:04 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a theft of a license plate on the 200 block of Chestnut Street. An officer made contact with the victim and will follow up.

7:26 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office at North 17th Avenue and Adele Terrace, Elgin,

arrested Kevin Shawn Chamberlain, 20, on a Umatilla County warrant for failure to appear on charges of methamphetamine possession and criminal trespass; a Baker County warrant for failure to appear on charges of harassment, fourth-degree assault and on a criminal citation; and on a Grant County warrant for failure to appear on charges of methamphetamine possession, giving false information to police, driving while suspended and failure to carry or present a license.

11:01 p.m. — A caller reported a pole sheared off at 1980 Public St., Elgin, and a live wire was on a vehicle. Dispatch relayed the report to the Union County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative.



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