

OBITUARIES

Phyllis D. (Collins) Walch

1937-2021
La Grande

Phyllis Darlene Walch, 84, of La Grande, died Sept. 25, 2021, at a local care facility. A graveside service will be held Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

Phyllis was born July 30, 1937, in Perry, to Willard and Leah (Blaisdell) Collins. She resided in Oregon, Utah, Hawaii, Illinois, New York, California, Thailand and New Zealand. She attended elementary through high school in Wallowa and graduated with a bachelor's degree from what is now Eastern Oregon University. She married David Bean Walch on June 23, 1959, at the Salt Lake City Temple.

Phyllis was a second grade teacher at Central Elementary School in La Grande and a secretary at the Institute of Religion at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California. She was an artist and enjoyed playing the piano, dancing and singing. In high school she was a cheerleader and played volleyball. She was a member of the Rotary, Polynesian Cultural Center, Chi Omega and the LDS Women's Relief Society.

Phyllis was dearly loved by her children and grandchildren. She made everyone feel as though they were her favorite. She had

the opportunity to serve five full-time missions with her husband for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The first and fifth



Walch

missions were to Hawaii — the first was a church education mission over the entire South Pacific, and the fifth mission was for preservation of historical records. Their mission to Thailand was as humanitarian directors; New Zealand, as directors for missionary logistics; and church headquarters in Salt Lake City, as family history extraction specialists for Italian records.

Surviving relatives include her husband, David; children and their spouses, Shane and Michelle Walch of La Grande, Shawna and Craig Christensen of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Sherece and Fred Lyons of Mesa, Arizona, Curt and Daina Walch of San Jacinto, California, and Shaleen and Jay Watkins of Saratoga Springs, Utah; 16 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willard and Leah Collins, and brother, Norman Collins.

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

Frederick R. Brown

1951-2021
Elgin

Frederick Robert Brown, 70, of Elgin, died Sept. 21, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise. A private family service will be held in the future. Arrangements are by Boise Funeral Home and Cremation.



Brown

Also known as Fred, he was born March 5, 1951, in La Grande, to Kermit Robert “K.R.” Brown and Donna Jean (Hurd) Brown. He was the eldest of four children.

Fred attended La Grande schools and graduated in 1969 from La Grande High School, where he excelled in art. Passing up an art scholarship, he began working for the Union Pacific Railroad as a maintenance of way worker on June 5, 1969. He became disabled in 1990 after 21 years of service.

Fred married Judith Reeve in La Grande on Jan. 19, 1973. He looked forward to becoming a father, and they had five children before divorcing in 1989.

Fred enjoyed spending time with his children. He was an avid outdoorsman, camping, hunting and

fishing as often as possible. He had a green thumb and enjoyed his yard and gardening. His yards were always showplaces, with hand-made benches, and art made out of wood and stone. He created many beautiful pieces of art out of wood that will continue to be enjoyed for years to come by his descendants.

Survivors include his mother, Donna Brown of La Grande; ex-wife, Judy Dodd of Pueblo, Colorado; children and their spouses, Chrystal and Ashlee Miller of Pendleton, Frederick and Cheryl Brown of Sterling, Colorado, David and Shayni Brown of Coquille, Alexander and Joice Brown of Pueblo, Colorado, and Tracy Brown and Bobby Porter of Pueblo, Colorado; seven grandchildren; long-time companion, Helen Cosner of Elgin; and brothers, Charles Brown of the Oregon Coast and William Brown of La Grande.

He was preceded in death by his father, K.R. Brown, and sister, Sherrie Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

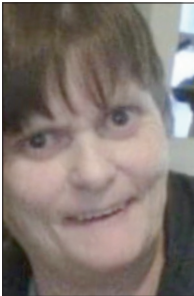
Pamela (Martin) Cantrall

1947-2021
Formerly of La Grande

Pamela Cantrall, 74, formerly of La Grande, died Aug. 12, 2021. A graveside service will be held Oct. 2 at Alpha Cemetery in Cascade, Idaho.

Also known as Pam, she was born Feb. 3, 1947, to Robert and Leezetta Martin.

Pam lived in La Grande for more than 30 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family, playing games and going out to play bingo whenever she got the chance.



Cantrall

Surviving relatives include her brothers, Dick Martin, Keith Martin and Rodney Martin; children, Cary Cooper of Hermiston, Dawn West of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Tammy Peterson of Sandy; stepchildren, Eric Cantrall and Molly Carter; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cal Cantrall; brother, Timothy Martin; and sister, Karen Martin.

Thomas W. Johnson

1954-2021
La Grande

Thomas W. Johnson, 67, of La Grande, died Sept. 11, 2021. A memorial service will be held Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Summerville Cemetery Chapel. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Thomas was born Feb. 19, 1954, in Pendleton, to Silas and Velma (Lewis) Johnson.

He married Mari-beth Ward, and they later divorced. He then married Patty Johnson, and they later divorced.

Thomas worked as a truck driver for KM Neilson. He enjoyed drag racing, working on cars and hunting.

Surviving relatives include his daughter, Lisa

Johnson of Pendleton; sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandy and John Crawford and Carol and Steve Craig; brothers, Paul Johnson and wife, Patsy, and David Johnson; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Silas and Velma Johnson, and brothers, Jerry Johnson and Robert Johnson.

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

LHS class of 2022 welcomes the sun, and senior year



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Seniors at La Grande High School place their handprints on a banner during the Senior Sunrise Celebration on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021. Class officials organized the early-morning event and provided donuts and beverages to the senior class. Students gathered at the La Grande High School track to watch the sunrise, enjoy one another's company and play outdoor games. Several students said the event brought the senior class closer together after COVID-19 made it difficult to bond during the previous school year.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MENU

Union County Senior Center takeout lunches

Pick up between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. For delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$5. All are welcome.

Oct. 4-8
Monday: cashew-chicken stir fry, cucumber-dill salad, fruit, cookie.

Tuesday: spaghetti, Caesar salad, fruit, bread, brownie.

Wednesday: roast pork, baked apples, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach salad, dessert.

Thursday: meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad greens, fresh fruit.

Friday: fish and chips, seasoned fries, coleslaw, baked beans, fruit, dessert.

BRIEFS

VA holds virtual Mental Health Summit

WALLA WALLA — The Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, aka the Walla Walla VA, which serves the region including Union and Wallowa counties, is holding its 2021 Mental Health Summit virtually from Monday, Oct. 4, through Thursday, Oct. 7. The online sessions are free and open to all.

There will be two online presentations each day, at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The series will cover topics such as military sexual trauma, post-traumatic growth, suicide prevention, PTSD 101, reactions to the Afghanistan withdrawal, and more. One of the sessions is a community resource fair with short presentations from local, regional and

national resources.

Connect to these virtual sessions using a cell phone, tablet or computer. Access the full agenda and links on the Walla Walla VA's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/VAWallaWalla.

Cook Memorial Library offers book clubs

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library is again hosting in-person book clubs for teens on the first Wednesday of the month beginning Oct. 6. The free gatherings are held in the Community Room and masks are required. The middle school club meets 3:30-4:15 p.m., and the high school club meets 4:30-5:15 p.m.

For adults, a book club focusing on mysteries meets at 1 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Oct. 11 to discuss “The Runaway” by Terry Kay.

New members are welcome to join at any time. For more information, call 541-962-1339, go to www.cookmemoriallibrary.org or stop by the library at 2006 Fourth St., La Grande.

Pinochle returns to senior center

LA GRANDE — In-person activities are resuming at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. In addition to Tuesday night bingo, the center is hosting pinochle games on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. More pinochle opportunities are offered on Thursdays: 12 Aces Pinochle is on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 1 p.m., and Sassy Senior Pinochle is on the third Thursday of the month, also at 1 p.m.

More activities will begin again soon. For updates, check the center's Facebook page.

— The Observer

DEATH NOTICES

Donald Houtz

La Grande

Donald “Don” Houtz, 85, of La Grande, died Sept. 30, 2021, at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Mae McGinnis

Enterprise

Mae CW McGinnis, 90, of Enterprise, died Sept. 30, 2021, at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Charlene Moffit

Formerly of La Grande

Charlene Moffit, 92, formerly of La Grande, died Sept. 29, 2021, in Springfield. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Halfway.

George C. Thompson

Island City

George C. Thompson, 72, of Island City, died Sept. 30, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



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

Oct. 2 — PHYLLIS WALCH: 10 a.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

Oct. 2 — MIKE BRENNAN: 10:30 a.m. graveside service, Joseph Prairie Creek Cemetery.

Oct. 2 — RICHARD CROFT: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. memorial gath-

ering, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

Oct. 2 — JOHN BENNETT: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, Baker City; reception follows at Coles Tribute Center.

Oct. 2 — DORIS RHOADS: 11 a.m. memorial service, Summerville Cemetery Chapel.

Oct. 2 — LARRY CHRISTMAN: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande



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