

OBITUARIES

George C. Thompson

1949-2021

Island City

George Cecil Thompson, 72, of Island City, died Sept. 30, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital.

At his request, there will not be a service.

George was born July 16, 1949, in Portland, to George Thompson and Virginia (Atkins) Thompson. He attended Russellville Elementary School and La Grande High School and graduated from David Douglas High School. In high school, he was a varsity swimmer and the 1968 state wrestling champion.

After high school George attended the University of Washington before volunteering for two tours in Vietnam in 1969. He was a highly decorated combat veteran, earning several commendations including the Bronze Star with V for Valor and a Purple Heart.

George’s first marriage was to Kathy Barns. He

later married Bechie Albert. He spent the last 17 years with his life partner, Karen Hinkle. George was a loving



Thompson



father, son, grandfather and brother. He worked as a logger and log truck driver.

He was the youngest licensed falconer in Oregon. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking and caring for his pigeons.

Survivors include his children and their spouses, Daisy and Kyle

Duren of Kuna, Idaho, and George and Lucy Thompson of Cove; sisters and brothers-in-law, Karen and Art Falk of Pendleton and Patricia and Robert Woodburn of Umatilla; and one grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his father, George Thompson, and mother, Virginia Sweet.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.loveland-funeralchapel.com.

Icey R. Hewitt

1940-2021

La Grande

Icey Robert Hewitt, 81, of La Grande, died Sept. 25, 2021. There will not be a public service at this time. Interment will be at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

Icey was born March 10, 1940, in Baker, to Icey Hewitt and Hazel (Hickerson) Hewitt. He graduated from La Grande High School in 1958 and earned a bachelor’s degree from Treasure Valley Community College. On June 12, 1966, Icey married Susan Nantz in Baker. They lived in Baker, Ukiah, Union and La Grande.

Icey worked in logging and was a truck driver, aircraft mechanic, millwright and draftsman.

His last job was with Grande Ronde Hospital, where he worked for 10 years. He was an accomplished draftsman who also manufactured machines.

Icey enjoyed hunting, fishing, ham radio, model trains and helicopters, ammunition reloading, gunsmithing and picking huckleberries. He collected anything eagle related.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Hewitt of La Grande; daughters, Linda Genna of California, Shawn Hewitt of Nampa, Idaho, Amber Hewitt of Richland, Washington, and Sharon Harris of Bothell, Washington; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial donations may be made to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Judy M. (Stoiber) Culp

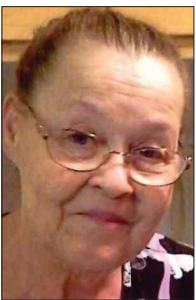
1952-2021

Cove

Judy Mary Culp, 69, of Cove, died Sept. 25, 2021, at her residence. At her request, there will not be a service.

Judy was born July 2, 1952, in Aurora, Illinois, to Richard Stoiber and Gail Perkins. She attended high school in Aurora and went on to earn a degree in nursing from the University of Illinois at Lakeland College in Mattoon. She was the salutatorian of her college graduation. Her first marriage was to Tom Culp. She later married Martin McNamer.

Judy worked as an LPN and RN for the last 40 years. She loved gardening, reading and cooking. She was an avid animal lover and a true



Culp

sports fan. Her favorite teams were the Dallas Cowboys and Chicago Cubs.

Survivors include her husband, Martin McNamer of Cove; sons, Thomas Culp Jr. and Michael Culp of Mattoon, Illinois; daughters, Katrina Farris of Sullivan, Illinois, and Rachel Culp of Mattoon, Illinois; father, Richard Stoiber of Peoria, Arizona; sister, Diane Stoiber of Aurora, Illinois; brothers, Rick Stoiber and Randy Stoiber of Illinois; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Gail Perkins.

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

Inez J. (Block) Locken

1952-2021

Lostine

Inez Josephine Locken, 69, of Lostine, died Sept. 28, 2021, at a local care facility after fighting breast cancer for eight years. A graveside service will be held Oct. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Lostine Cemetery.

Inez was born Jan. 30, 1952, in McIntosh, South Dakota, to Ernest Block and Frances (Vetter) Block. She resided in McIntosh, Provo and Spearfish, South Dakota, and in Island City and Lostine. She graduated from McIntosh High School where she was an active track runner, cheerleader and diver.

Inez married Robert Locken of Isabel, South Dakota. He was killed in a vehicle accident in 1975. She later married Larry Langerman and they divorced.

Inez worked as a grocery clerk, at Parks Bronze Foundry in Enterprise and as a USPS rural carrier. She enjoyed crocheting, collecting heart-shaped rocks, taking care of her yard and flower beds, and attending her grandchildren’s sports games. She was an active



Locken

member of the Lostine Grange.

Survivors include her partner, Deane Henderson of Lostine; children and

their partners, Toby Locken and Jamie Shirley of Wallowa, Jason Locken of Portland, Tara and Tom Hafer of Wallowa, and Shane and Brooke Langerman of Joseph; sisters and brothers-in-law, Peggy and Harold Koch of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Patricia and Wayne Mollman of Wallowa, and Georgia and Richard Makens of Wallowa; 11 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Frances Block; sister, Bessie Bell; brothers, Jerry “Buddy” Block, Ernest “Smokey” Block, Nick Block and Jackson Block; and husband, Robert Locken.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lostine Grange, 618 Elizabeth St., Lostine 97857.

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

DEATH & SERVICE NOTICES

Patsy A. Lang

La Grande

Patsy A. Lang, 72, of La Grande, died Oct. 7, 2021. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Malcolm A. Letts

Elgin

Malcolm A. Letts, 75, of Elgin, died Oct. 7, 2021, at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Dexter J. Hodge

Formerly of La Grande

Dexter J. Hodge, 83, formerly of La Grande, died Oct. 7, 2021, at his residence in Kennewick, Washington. A celebration of his life will be held Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. at Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.

Hugh E. Barker

La Grande

Hugh Eric Barker, 74, of La Grande, died Oct. 4, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A memorial service will be held Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. at the La Grande First Baptist Church. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Patti J. Comstock

La Grande

Patti Jean Comstock, 68, of La Grande, died Aug. 16, 2021. A memorial service will be held Oct. 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Park Pavilion. Casual dress is preferred by the family. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



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

Oct. 9 — JOSHUA BURRIGHT: 2 p.m. memorial service (casual dress), Imbler High School football field.

Oct. 9 — DAVID O. ROMINE & DAVID R. ROMINE: 2 p.m. joint memorial service, Pine Valley Presbyterian Church, Halfway.

Oct. 9 — HUGH STEPHENS: 2 p.m. memorial service, Moun-

tain Life Church, La Grande.

Oct. 15 — PATTI COMSTOCK: 3:30 p.m. memorial service (casual dress), Pioneer Park Pavilion, La Grande.

Oct. 16 — MEL ELDER: 10 a.m. memorial service, La Grande First Christian Church.

Oct. 16 — INEZ LOCKEN: 11 a.m. graveside service, Lostine Cemetery.

Oct. 16 — BRADLEY FAR-RESTER: 4 p.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande; reception follows.

— *calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

Mary Lou Dean Fiorillo

October 29, 1933 - June 29, 2021

Mary Lou Dean Fiorillo died of pancreatic cancer at home with family on June 29th in Portland, Oregon. Mary was born in 1933 to Leora Green Dean and Gilbert Lincoln Dean in Hutchinson, Kansas. She developed a love of reading and music early in life. She sang in the church choir and was an exceptional student. After college, Mary earned a Master’s Degree in Theology from Drew University. She spent years working in campus ministry at colleges across the United States. She had a great capacity for enjoyment and a quick curious mind.

Mary had a lifelong commitment to social justice. She marched on Washington, and organized for civil rights. She worked toward gender equity, and assisted refugees and immigrants. She met Dante Fiorillo, her husband of 51 years, at Dorothy Day’s Catholic Worker Farm in New York. A shared passion for religion, poetry, and serving the vulnerable were foundational to their relationship. They married in 1968 and headed west to start a family, settling in northeastern Oregon. Mary started a second career as a librarian, working first at the Joseph Public Library and then at Eastern Oregon State University as a Reference Librarian. She enjoyed working with both the collections and the community immensely. Mary made friends easily and kept them well. Earnest and caring, she had an easy smile for friends and strangers alike. Mary delighted in many things. She loved books, finishing one every couple of days; reading widely in philosophy, theology, science, history, and literature. She loved to travel and learn about other cultures. She was an avid patron of the arts through writing, theater, dance, music, or fine arts. Mary was civic-minded; involved in dozens of committees and groups from choir, to the LaGrande Arts Commission, Union County Democrats, Union County Historical Museum, the Backpack Program, Arts for All, and countless others.

Mary is survived by her older sister, Berta Lea Dean Newton and younger brothers Carl and Gary Dean. Her husband Dante died in June of 2020 in their long-time home of La Grande, Oregon. Mary is the loving mother of Christopher Fiorillo and his wife Miae Kim Fiorillo of Portland, Oregon, Andrea Fiorillo and her husband William Lensch and beloved grandchildren Anna Lensch and Dante Fiorillo Lensch of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Memorial donations may be made to The National Resources Defense Council. NRDC: https://www.nrdc.org/?_ga Mail to: NRDC, P.O. Box 1830, Merrifield, VA 22116-8030 Email: membership@nrdc.org Phone: 212.727.4432



BRIEFS

Make an appointment for a fall nature walk

JOSEPH — This fall the Wallowology Natural History Discovery Center, based in Joseph, is offering daily Discovery Walks at 9 a.m. by appointment. The two-hour family-friendly walks begin at Wallowa Lake Lodge. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance. To schedule a walk, email judyd@wallowology.org.

Cove Methodist Church meets Oct. 10

LA GRANDE — A service at the Cove Methodist Church begins at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 10. George Hopkins will speak on “The Power of Prayer,” based on Psalm 71:1-6, which asks followers to take refuge in the Lord.

MENUS

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch

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. 11-15
Monday: hot ham sand-

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

wich, tomato-basil soup, fresh fruit, cookie.

Tuesday: chicken pesto, Italian bread, salad greens, fresh fruit, cookie.

Wednesday: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed vegetables, spinach salad, dessert.

Thursday: chicken wrap, potato salad, fresh fruit, veggie sticks, cookie.

Friday: beef taco salad,

chips and salsa, fresh fruit, dessert.

MEETINGS

• **UNION** — The Union City Council will meet for a work session and its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 11, at Union City Hall. The work session will start at 6 p.m. and the meeting follows at 7 p.m.

• **LA GRANDE** — A regular session of the La Grande School Board will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the District Office Board Room. Due to physical distancing requirements, the meeting will be accessible to the public online or by phone. For access information, go to www.lagrandesd.org/page/board-meetings.



U.S. 30 closed at Meacham Frontage Road Bridge October 13-15

The U.S. 30 Meacham Frontage Road Bridge located less than a mile north of Interstate 84 Exit 238 near Meacham will be closed October 13-15. Detour signs will direct motorists around the work site via I-84 Exit 234. The closure is required to accommodate drilling operations that will provide required data for a bridge replacement project scheduled for 2023.

The existing reinforced concrete deck girder bridge was built in 1925. Extensive deterioration, increasing maintenance cost and potential safety concerns require a complete bridge replacement. Engineers will use soil samples and other data collected during next week’s operations to help design the new structure.

ODOT appreciates your patience and support during the time, please drive with extra caution along the detour route.

For more information on other eastern Oregon highway construction projects, contact Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, email: thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us.

For update road conditions check TripCheck.com or call 511, or (800) 977-6368.