

OBITUARIES

Albert D. Boyle

1959-2021
Elgin

Albert Dean Boyle, 62, of Elgin, died Sept. 28, 2021, at his residence. At his request, there will not be a service.

Also known as Al, he was born March 2, 1959, in Medford, to Robert Boyle and Sandy Schofield. He resided in Elgin. He and Barbara Parker celebrated their love of more than 20 years by being married on Dec. 26, 2019.

Al was employed by Tidewater Construction for more than 20 years. He especially enjoyed working on the Minam Road project, helping to make Oregon roads safer for all.

Al loved the great outdoors, hunting, fishing and



Boyle

camping. These activities always made him happy.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Parker of Elgin; children, Geri Holtz of Medford, Frankie Boyle of Medford, Tessa Boyle of Medford, and Leon Parker of Elgin; mother, Sandy Schofield of Medford; sister, Cheri Lea of Medford; 10 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Chadd Boyle, and father, Robert Boyle.

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

Gerald ‘Jere’ C. Kaplan

1936-2021
Formerly of Union

Gerald “Jere” C. Kaplan, 85, of Aitkin, Minnesota, and formerly of Union, died Sept. 4, 2021, in Corvallis, Montana. A graveside memorial service with military honors was held Oct. 5 at Lakeview Cemetery in Aitkin. Arrangements are by Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Aitkin.

Also known as Jere, he was born March 21, 1936, in Faribault, Minnesota, to Felix Kaplan and Hazel (Oerke) Kaplan. He grew up in Aitkin, Minnesota, and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1954. He attended the University of Minnesota in Duluth for two years then transferred to the U of M in St. Paul and graduated with a degree in forest management in 1959.

Jere was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1959. His basic training was at Fort Ripley, Kansas, followed by additional training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He spent the rest of his 28-month commitment at Fort Holabird, the Army Intelligence Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Following his military service, Jere received a permanent appointment with the U.S. Forest Ser-



Kaplan

vice. He worked on several National Forests in the West, including the Deschutes, Ochoco, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman, during his 30-year career. He retired in 1993.

After retirement, Jere lived in and developed several properties in Minnesota, Western Montana and Oregon. He had a passion for bird and big game hunting and usually had one of his Chesapeake or Labradors with him.

He was a member of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Puposky, Minnesota, the NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the American Legion.

Survivors include his daughters and their partners, Katrina Kaplan and Raymond Gore, Kristen Boyd and Brien Jones, and Kelly Biondi; four grandsons and two granddaughters; one great-grandson; brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Paula Kaplan; and four nieces, one nephew and their children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Hazel (Oerke) Kaplan, and his former wife, Marianne (Ereno).

To leave a message of condolence, go to www.srtfuneral.com.



DEATH & SERVICE NOTICES

Shelia M. Evans

La Grande

Shelia M. Evans, 52, of La Grande, died Oct. 9, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Larry D. Anderson

Cove

Larry D. Anderson, 66, of Cove, died Oct. 11, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

William E. Schmidt

La Grande

William E. Schmidt, 58, of La Grande, died Oct. 9, 2021 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Cecil J. Puckett

Cove

Cecil J. Puckett, 89, of Cove, died Oct. 8, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Thomas E. Little

La Grande

Thomas E. Little, 54, of La Grande, died Oct. 10, 2021, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Boise. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Patsy A. Lang

La Grande

Patsy A. Lang, 72, of La Grande, died Oct. 7, 2021, at a local care facility. A celebration of her life will be held Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Union Baptist Church. 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. 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 FARRESTER: 4 p.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande; reception follows.

Oct. 22 — PATSY LANG: 10 a.m. celebration of life, Union Baptist Church.

Oct. 23 — HUGH BARKER: 11 a.m. memorial service, La Grande First Baptist Church.

Oct. 23 — MARK KUBIN: noon to 4 p.m. celebration of life, the Barn at Tamarack Springs, Summerville.

Oct. 23 — DEXTER HODGE: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.

Nov. 20 — BETTY TURLEY: 2 p.m. celebration of life, La Grande First Presbyterian Church; reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

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

ONLINE

Go to lagrandeobserver.com for more records, including public safety reports from weekend police activity.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

• **LA GRANDE** — The Union Soil and Water Conservation District meets virtually and via call-in Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. For access instructions, go to www.unionswcd.org or call 541-963-1313.

BRIEFS

Union Food Pantry open on Friday

UNION — The Union Food Pantry is open from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at the Catherine Creek Community Center, 667 N. Main St., Union. For more information, call 541-562-2038 or email ccccenter667@gmail.com.

Live music at museum society gathering

UNION — The public is invited to the Union County Museum Society meeting on Friday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Little White Church, across Main Street from the museum in Union. There will be brief business and a program presented by John Sheehy and the Sheehy Brothers & Friends including a musical and historical tribute to the French Canadians who settled in Union County in the 1860s.

Science fun set at Oct. 16 farmers market

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University Chemistry Club is providing free, fun and safe

hands-on activities for kids at the La Grande Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 16. from 9 a.m. to noon at Max Square, corner of Adams Avenue and Fourth Street.

Take-home weekend meal orders due Oct. 18

LA GRANDE — Community Connection of Northeast Oregon is now offering a take-home weekend meal for four each month, provided by the Nutrition Department at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany, La Grande. The \$35 meal is available to the public and must be ordered in advance.

The October meal is Friday, Oct. 22, with pickup at 2:30 p.m. The menu is beef, red potatoes, vegetables with hollandaise sauce, bread and berry cobbler for dessert. Order by Oct. 18. Order forms are available in the kitchen at the senior center. Call 541-605-5556 for more information.

EO Film Festival passes on sale now

LA GRANDE — Virtual passes for the 2021 Eastern Oregon Film Festival, which is Oct. 21-23, are available at the festival’s website, www.eofilmfest.com. The organization is offering a 10% discount on virtual passes; use the code #EOFFV21.

A limited number of in-person passes are available. Full details are on the festival’s website.

— *The Observer*

Melvin Leroy Elder

June 29, 1924 - July 14, 2021

Melvin Leroy Elder was born in Washington, Kansas, on June 29, 1924 to Harry and Olive Elder. He passed peacefully surrounded by his family in Sisters, Oregon, on July 14, 2021.

He grew up on farms during the depression helping his father farming from the age of 5. Mel’s life changed the day that a truck piled high with furnishings showed up at the house across the road when the Stoffel family moved in with 13 children. Eventually, the eldest Stoffel girl Edna Mae (Eddie), caught his attention before he headed to serve in the Navy in the Pacific. Mel volunteered during WWII for the U.S. Navy, where he served as a radio man on numerous ships including the USS Hinsdale that transported Marines to invade Iwo Jima. He witnessed the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi. From there, they proceeded to the island of Okinawa where a kamikaze pilot attacked and disabled the Hinsdale. He had a job waiting for him at a sign company in Tillamook, Oregon, after being discharged.

Mel and Eddie were married on June 9, 1946. Their son Michael and their daughter Jan were born in Tillamook, Oregon. Soon after, they moved to La Grande, Oregon, where they purchased a sign business, Grande Ronde Sign Co. They owned and operated this business for 29 years. Their third child Melanie was born in La Grande in 1955.



During his life in La Grande, Mel enjoyed hunting, golfing, volunteering, and supporting the First Christian Church where he was an elder. He served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, the JayCees, Red Cross and the La Grande Country Club and was a member of the Blue Mountain Boys.

He lived in Sisters, Oregon, the last 18 months of his life to be near his daughter Melanie. Mel was loved by everyone who knew him. He had a large impact on many lives by just living his life as a caring, funny, honest, moral and most helpful person. His beloved wife Eddie nicknamed him Melder, which many of you in La Grande know him by.

Mel was preceded in death by his wife Eddie; his parents Harry and Olive; sisters, Dorothy, Gerry and Ann and great-grandson William Zachary. He is survived by his children Mike, Jan and Melanie (husband Mark); grandchildren Scott (Carol), Brian (Angela), Ginny (Cary), Jamie, Jeff (Juli), and Megan (Peter); great-grandchildren Amelia, Alleson, Grayson, Kieren, Maren, Hunter and William.

His memorial will be held on October 16, 2021 at 10:00 am at the First Christian Church in La Grande. Masks are required to be worn inside the church. Arrangements are with Loveland Funeral Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, Mel loved his church family at the La Grande First Christian Church. We know your donations to the church would be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Don Houtz

June 8, 1936 - September 30, 2021

Don Houtz, age of 85 of Summerville, Oregon, passed away September 30, 2021.

Don was born June 8, 1936 in Okanogan, Washington, to Cecil Houtz and Geneva Bushnell.

Don graduated from Inchelium High School in Washington, in 1954. He married Gwenn Ott June 8, 1957. He owned his own logging truck and retired from United Grocery in Milwaukie. While driving truck for United, he received several safety awards.

Some of Don’s greatest joys were taking 4-H kids into the High Lakes on horseback. He was the president of the Wallowa Mountain Appaloosa Horse Club for several years. Don passed onto his children the love for animals and an appreciation for foundation quarter horses. Don spent long hours putting up hay, feeding their growing herd of horses, taking his kids to horse shows all over the Pacific Northwest, and teaching them the animals’ needs came before their own. He would bitch when the horses or kids destroyed something or broke through a fence, but he loved them! Don was never without a dog. Most of them did not mind any better than his kids or grandkids, but he loved them!

Don enjoyed having his family and friends on his boat in the summertime enjoying the beauty of the outdoors. He treasured the years he was able to hunt with his son and friends on Thimbleberry Mountain.



If any of his grandchildren had a sporting event, Don could be found walking the sidelines or sitting in the front row. He kept every newspaper clipping and was always so proud of their accomplishments.

After retirement, Don was the caretaker of the Summerville and Lower Cove cemeteries, and was lovingly referred to as “Digger Don”. When Don was not doing yard work and maintenance at the cemeteries, he could be found at home. He loved his little piece of heaven in Summerville with the creek running through the edge of the property. Don would spend days laying out hoses and watering his lawn and then bitch because he had to mow it, but he love it! He was so proud of his yard!

Don rarely missed a sunrise. That old saying “up before the sun” he took literally. He believed in making the most of every day and he instilled in his children the importance of a strong work ethic and to not take a single day for granted.

Don is survived by his wife, Gwen; his children, Deb Houtz Lester, Chuck Houtz and spouse Tracie, and Dona Houtz; grandchildren, J.D. Hearing and spouse Monika, Cody Hearing, Tawni Lester, Kelcie Main and spouse Steven, and Sean Wiley; great-grandchildren, Braiden Carpenter, Madison Hearing, Asher Hearing, and Dustin Main; brother, Mick Houtz and spouse Louise; sister, Joanne Hopkins and spouse Dave; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Geneva Houtz; brother Bruce Houtz; sister, Judy Whitford; and brother-in-law, Ron.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Summerville at 1:00pm, October 16th.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to Imbler FFA, Summerville Cemetery, or Heart and Home Hospice. Mail to PO Box 175, Summerville, OR, 97876

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



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