

OBITUARIES

Helen ‘Lynn’ (Cherney) Parker

1934-2021
La Grande

Helen “Lynn” Parker, 87, of La Grande, died Oct. 12, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A graveside service will be held Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. at Grandview Cemetery, followed by a reception at the Grace Place, La Grande.

Known as Lynn, she was born Jan. 29, 1934, in Monroe, Michigan, to Michael Cherney and Bertha (Chopko) Cherney. She resided in Monroe, Michigan; June Lake, Glendora and Orange, California; and La Grande. She married Richard Schmidt and they divorced. She then married Eugene Parker.

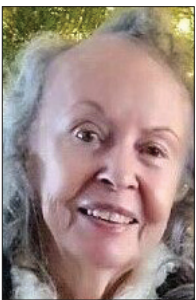
Lynn was a devoted wife and mother and worked in the health care industry. She

enjoyed family gatherings and visiting with friends and family in her home.

Survivors include her daughter and spouse, Carrie and Mike Spalione of Hermiston; sister, Ann Zemeski of Allen Park, Michigan; brother and spouse, John and Gerri Cherney of DeWitt, Michigan; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 11 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Bertha; husband, Eugene Parker; son, Kim Schmidt; brother, Michael Cherney; and sister, Mary Steffes.

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



Parker

Mary A. (Hudspeth) Thompson

1931-2021
La Grande

Mary Alice Thompson, 89, of La Grande, died Oct. 13, 2021, at the Grande Ronde Retirement Residence. A graveside service will be held Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Sumpter Cemetery. A celebration of her life is also planned for Memorial Day, May of 2022.

Mary was born Nov. 26, 1931, in Baker City, to Gaker Hudspeth and Rachel (Hanby) Hudspeth. Her early years were spent on the ranch owned by her father and uncles, now known as the Red Horse Ranch. She enjoyed riding horses with her siblings and living in the mountains. She always had a cheerful greeting for the guests coming to stay at the ranch or to go on a guided hunt.

In 1935, Mary lost her father to a hunting accident. At this time her mother moved the family to Sumpter, where Mary’s uncles Wallace “Spud” Hudspeth and Earnest Hudspeth and families lived. She loved riding her horse to the McEwen School and feeding the cows on the hay wagon in the pasture that is now Phillips Reservoir.

Mary married Sam Valentine in Baker City. They had three children together: Terry, Sammy and Jody. After this union dissolved, she met and married Samuel Thompson. Two more daughters were added to the family: Pam and Cindy. After living in various areas of Oregon, Mary and Samuel settled in Pendleton.

Mary loved to dance, read and ride horses. Her children loved to listen to the stories of her childhood days. She was an avid believer that first impressions were the lasting ones, and she always looked her best and taught her children the same.

Once you met Mary, it was as if you had known her forever. She made many friends while working as a bartender. She was also a certified flagger. She continued working until the age of 80.

Mary was always looking for an adventure. She enjoyed camping, going to flea markets with family and attending the Pendleton Round-Up festivities. And if you were up for the challenge, she was always ready for that next card game.

Survivors include chil-



Thompson

dren and their spouses, Terry and Kathy Valentine of Union, Pam and Lynn Wiley of Pendleton and Cindy and Mark Mecham of Watford City, North Dakota; sisters, Jean Marrs, Joyce Pierson and Sharon Soleseng; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Sammy in 1989; husband, Samuel in 1995; mother, Rachel in 2000; daughter, Jody in 2017; brother, William; and grandsons, Brian, Cody and Hank.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pendleton Fraternal Order of the Eagles #28 in care of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City 97814.

To offer online condolences to Mary’s family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Howard Bailey

La Grande

Howard Bailey, 95, of La Grande, died Oct. 15, 2021. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

Patricia A. Duffey

La Grande

Patricia A. Duffey, 77, of La Grande, died Oct. 15, 2021, at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Frances L. Evers

La Grande

Frances L. Evers, 92, of La Grande, died Oct. 15, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

- PENDLETON —

The Board of Directors of the InterMountain Education Service District will meet Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. at the IMESD, 2001 SW Nye Ave., Pendleton.

BRIEFS

Sign up for free computer classes

LA GRANDE — Training & Employment Consortium, a part of WorkSource La Grande, 1901 Adams Ave., offers free computer instruction. COVID-19 regulations allow the courses to again be taught in person. Classes run from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Space is limited and registration is required by calling Lynn at 541-805-1986 prior to the first day of class.

Two Excel classes will be held in November:

- Introduction to Excel, Nov. 2: A one-day class for the beginner to learn how to develop spreadsheets, use formulas and enhance documents.
- Intermediate Excel, Nov 3-4 and 8-10: A five-day course designed to review formulas; cover creating graphs and absolute function, subtotal and comment features; and explore other functions.

Free movie for teens shown Wednesday

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library’s Teen Mid-Week Movie is 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20. The free gathering is open to anyone in middle school or high school. Call the library at 541-962-1339 or visit www.cookmemorial-library.org for the movie title. Masks are required.

Community meals served in Union

UNION — Community meals are offered the fourth Friday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Catherine Creek Community Center, 667 N. Main St., Union. This is a free program and everyone is welcome.

— The Observer

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



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

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

Oct. 22 — LYNN PARKER: 2 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande; reception follows at the Grace Place.

Oct. 22-23 —

DEXTER HODGE: Friday, 6-8 p.m. visitation; Saturday, 2 p.m. funeral, both at Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.

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

Oct. 23 — BILL DURAND: 11 a.m. celebration of life, La Grande Youth for Christ building.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Shaun Dale Hoyt

THE LAST RIDE!

Sunrise May 21, 1964 - Sunset October 13, 2020

Shaun Dale Hoyt was born in Bend, Oregon, to Kyle Boylen and Linda Standley and was then adopted by Frank and Emma Hoyt and raised in Union. He attended Union High School and worked at Woodgrain sawmill in La Grande, where he passed in an accident.

He was a self-taught builder and enjoyed his work just as much as his hobbies. Shaun had several hobbies. He enjoyed building and driving classic cars, four-wheeling, hunting, being in the mountains and watching old Westerns. He enjoyed spending time with people he loved, and during his life he was surrounded by people who loved him. He had a very active lifestyle and loved to stay busy but always found self-care time. Whether it was breakfast at Subway, having a brew watching the sunset with close friends and family, or quading on his family’s farm, he had his “me time.”

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Hoyt and Emma Hoyt, and his biological mother, Linda Standley. He is survived by his daughter, Emma Hoyt; step-father, John Gothie; biological father, Kyle Boylen and his wife, Chris Boylen, of Elgin and their daughter, Shuree Boylen; Dan and Linda Hoyt of Union, Jim and Sandra Hoyt of The Dallas, Lora and Willis McClammy of Pendleton, and Hilda Hoyt of Orofino, Idaho; as well as several nieces and nephews and many beloved close friends.

There will be a family gathering to spread his ashes next to his parents, Frank and Emma Hoyt, in the Union Cemetery.



Dexter Jenkins Hodge

February 20, 1938 - October 7, 2021

Dexter Jenkins Hodge, 83, formerly of Island City, Oregon, passed away October 7, 2021, in Kennewick, Washington, surrounded by family.

Dexter was born on February 20, 1938, in Sale Creek, Tennessee, to Carl Leslie Sr. and Ethel Lee (Jackson) Hodge. He was the second of four children and maintained a close relationship with his siblings throughout his life. Dexter’s first job was at the family-owned sawmill in Sale Creek, where he worked hard to save for his first car. It was his pale pink Pontiac that caught the eye of Ruth Ann Hartman one day in May 1957. Her cousin, Ed Mayberry, was a close friend of Dexter’s, and introduced them at her request. The two quickly became inseparable and began making plans for their future together. Dexter and Ruth Ann married in the Catoosa County Courthouse in Ringgold, Georgia, on October 25, 1957. Their whirlwind love story was fondly recounted by Dexter often throughout their sixty-four years of marriage.

While living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where Dexter delivered for Independent Paint and Glass, he and Ruth Ann welcomed three daughters into their family: Patti Cheryl born on August 9, 1958; Terressa Gay born on August 2, 1959; and Rhonda DeAnn born on Christmas Day, 1961. In July 1967, Dexter and Ruth Ann moved across the country with their three daughters to Union, Oregon. Although Dexter loved Tennessee, he was excited to begin a new life out West in the Blue Mountains, working at the Union sawmill. It was here that Dexter and Ruth Ann first met David John Locke, born September 28, 1962. At the age of eleven, Dave joined their family as their son.

Dexter and Ruth Ann quickly became an integral part of their community. Following his many years at the Union sawmill, Dexter began a career with Eagle Truck and Machine in 1981, where he drove a chip truck and fabricated line logging carriages. After his retirement, Dexter began driving charter buses for Moffit Brothers Transportation and Construction out of Lostine, Oregon. He always had a story to tell about his trips transporting senior citizens, high school and college athletic teams, and his favorite clients, the Eastern Oregon University Football team. Dexter was a devoted member of the Church of Christ in La Grande and served



as a greeter and committee member, and performed grounds maintenance as a volunteer. He helped build homes with the Grande Ronde Valley Habitat for Humanity and donated his time to the Union County Cancer Society Relay for Life. He spent his leisure time going for drives and fiddling, and was a proud member of the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers Association, where he greatly enjoyed attending shows with Ruth Ann.

Dexter was a true outdoorsman. He was an avid hunter of deer and elk, hiker, camper, and target shooter. He instilled a love of nature in his four children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren that they will carry with them throughout their lives. He visibly lit up when reminiscing about his early life in Tennessee, his time spent in the Blue Mountains, and when talking to his great-grandchildren, who all lovingly called him Papa.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann Hodge; his sisters, Patsy Rorex and Reba Harvey; his four children, and their families: daughter, Patti Elder of Kennewick, Washington; granddaughter, Alyssa and her husband Seth Reil; and great-grandchildren, Harlow, Raleigh, and Ryland; daughter, Terressa and her husband Darwin Spradlin of Maryville, Tennessee; grandson, Zeb Kasemeyer; granddaughter, Rebecca and her husband Josh Robertson; and great-grandsons, Coen and Mac; daughter, Rhonda and her husband Randy Bailey of Ridgway, Colorado; grandson, Damon and his wife Autumn; and great-grandson, Romeo; son, Dave and his wife Brenda Locke, grandson Daner; granddaughter, Britni; and great-granddaughter, Naomi.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Ethel Hodge; his brother Carl Hodge, Jr.; his brother-in-law, Tommy Rorex; and his son-in-law, Ken Elder.

A visitation will be held at Loveland’s Funeral Chapel in La Grande on October 22 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held at the same location on October 23 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations at Dexter’s request to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, 262 Danny Thomas PL, Memphis, TN 38105.

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



Nicole Cathey

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