

OBITUARIES

Virginia 'Gin' L. Drew

La Grande
1926-2021

a wholesale distribution for eggs and poultry throughout the Northwest from 1955-1969.

Gin was an avid golfer and headed the Ladies Auxiliary at the La Grande Country Club, planned and curated many of their social events and, as a card game fanatic, played and won many rounds of Hand & Foot there over the years. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was also actively involved in the American Legion, the Eagles and the Elks.

Gin was an outdoors woman at heart and enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing and

mushroom picking. She traveled all over Western U.S. via plane piloted by her first husband, Ken; together they were active with friends from Alaska to Mexico. She held a beautiful vacation home in Kona, Hawaii, for more than 20 years with her second husband, Larry.

Gin's talents were many. She was an extremely accomplished decorator and crafter, enthusiastic shopper, passionate storyteller and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend who loved to entertain.

At the celebration of her life next spring of 2022, her family and friends will all put on



Drew

their dancing shoes, kick up their heels and raise a glass to toast Gin's amazing life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William "Bill" S. Rivers and Marie Rivers-Joppa; sisters, Nancy Garmroth and Patricia McAvoy; first husband Frank Kenneth Flanery; second husband, Laurence A. Drew; and daughter, Mary Margaret "Peggy" Flanery-Hervey.

Survivors include her son, John P. Flanery; nephew, Chris McAvoy; niece, Diane Hertz and husband, John; three grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Ladies Association at the La Grande Country Club.

THE POLICE LOG CAN BE FOUND AT
www.LaGrandeObserver.com

Leslie Oliver DuCharme Jr.

July 11, 1944 - November 21, 2021



Leslie Oliver DuCharme Jr. of Union, OR, passed away on Sunday, November 21, 2021 peacefully in his sleep in Milton-Freewater, WA.

Les was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 11, 1944 and raised on a small farm outside of Manteno, Illinois. After high school, Les joined the Navy where his passion for helping people led him to become a medic. During his 3 years of service he developed the skills and training he needed for his time spent as a medic in the Vietnam War.

After the Navy, he returned home to Manteno where he got married and started a family. He continued his medical career by studying Nursing at Kankakee Community College. Les graduated from the nursing program and went on to work at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Les was offered an ER nursing position at Grande Ronde Hospital in LaGrande, OR. He and his 2nd wife Pam found a home in Union and started a new life away from the city where they found the small town atmosphere they both grew up loving. Les had many fond memories of his time at GRH and helped so many people as an ER nurse over the years.

After his retirement, he joined the art program at Eastern Oregon University which gave him a new outlet for his creativity. He found a lot of enjoyment in going back to school so late in life and made many friends during that time. Les also enjoyed being a grandfather. He used to love teaching his grandson, Dalton, about living on a farm and playing in the dirt.

Though he had his share of faults, Les still had a very strong zest for life. He was always willing to give someone a ride into town without needing a reason, he always gave people food when they were too proud to ask for it themselves, and he would literally give someone the shirt off his back without expecting anything in return.

Les enjoyed being enveloped by nature whenever possible. He was an avid hunter and fisherman but nothing seemed to make him happier than taking long drives with his family through the mountains.

Les is preceded by his son's; Joseph and Henry. Les is survived by his wife, Pamela; his children, Clifford, Lola, Leslie 3rd, Anita, Michelle, Peter, and his Grandson Dalton.

Condolences can be sent to PO Box 624, Union, OR, 97883.

Alvin R. Bennett

1940-2021
La Grande

Alvin Richard Bennett, 81, of La Grande, died Dec. 11, 2021, at a local care facility.

Alvin was born March 11, 1940, in La Grande, to Alvin Bennett and Helen (McPherson) Bennett. He was raised in Union and graduated from Union High School. He resided in Union and Wallowa;

Alaska; Adams; and Utah. He was married to Elva Lee Lovely, June Marie Grover and Bernadine Burns.

Alvin worked in logging, trucking, welding, farming and as a mechanic. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, leather work, family and pets.

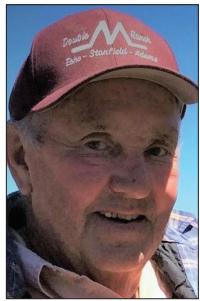
Survivors include his

children, Sherry Odegaard of Orofino, Idaho, Terrie Spalding of Orofino, Idaho, Mike Bennett of La Grande,

Rob Burns of Wallowa, Mark Burns of Lostine, Justin Burns of Wallowa, and Kevin Burns of Wallowa; brother, Alan Bennett of Imbler; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Helen Bennett; daughter, Tonya Bennett; and grandsons, Ryan Bennett and Kyle Flerchinger.

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



Bennett

DEATH NOTICES

Judith A. Hunt

La Grande

Judith A. Hunt, 80, of La Grande, died Dec. 10, 2021, at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Dillon L. Rogers

Elgin

Dillon L. Rogers, 38, of Elgin, died Dec. 17, 2021, at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



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

Dec. 18 — JUNE MILLER: 10 a.m. memorial service,

Damascus Road Church, La Grande.

Dec. 19 — MARY REEDER: 1 p.m. celebration of life, La Grande Nazarene Church.

Jan. 15, 2022 — JIM LUNDY: 2 p.m. memorial service, Gilbert Center, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

• **IMBLER** — A regular session of the Imbler School District Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. in Room 1 of the high school. The public is welcome to attend.

• **UNION** — The Union Rural Fire Protection District Board will meet Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at the fire hall. For more information, contact Kim George, Union RFPD clerk, at 541-910-3114 or union.rfpd@outlook.com.

BRIEFS

GRH Auxiliary to celebrate holidays

ISLAND CITY — The Grande Ronde Hospital Auxiliary won't have a Christmas potluck this year, but the auxiliary's next gathering will include treats and a chance to wish others a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be available at 9 a.m., followed by a meeting at 9:30 a.m., at Island City City Hall on Monday, Dec. 20.

Wallowology hosts solstice celebration

JOSEPH — Wallowology and Wallowa Resources invite all to celebrate next week's winter solstice, which happens Tuesday, Dec. 21. From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., there will be activities for the whole family and hot apple cider at Wallowology, 508 N. Main St., Joseph. And at 5 p.m. a Wallowology naturalist will lead a solstice lantern walk, beginning at the main Iwetemlaykin parking lot. Bring your own lantern or drop by Wallowology beforehand to make your own. Visit www.wallowology.org for full details and more information about Wallowology's winter offerings.

— The Observer

Leroy Vincent Bushman

February 2, 1926 - December 9, 2021



Leroy Vincent Bushman, 95, of La Grande, passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at a local care facility. A graveside service will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery on Friday, December 17, 2021 at 2:00pm. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Leroy was born on February 2, 1926 in Pendleton, OR, to Fred and Iva (Eads) Bushman. He resided in Gibbon, OR for 27 years and then lived in Perry, OR, from 1974 until his death. He attended elementary school in Perry and graduated from La Grande High School. He married Beverly Graybeal on June, 24, 1947.

Leroy served in the United States Navy during WWII aboard the U.S. Bosque and the battleship U.S.S. Iowa. He was aboard the U.S.S. Iowa in Tokyo Bay for the duration of the surrender of Imperial Japan.

Leroy worked for Union Pacific Railroad as a Signal Maintainer from 1946 until his retirement in 1988. In their early years of marriage, he and Beverly traveled all over the Pacific Northwest on a signal gang.

He was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the oldest living WWII veteran for the CTUIR.

Leroy enjoyed yardwork and gardening. He was an avid fly fisherman and big game hunter. Camping with his family was always a favorite activity. He was very supportive of his children's and grandchildren's sports involvement and loved attending their games to cheer them on.

Leroy is survived by his children, Julie Alexander (Dale) of Pendleton, OR, Jeffrey Bushman (Lisa) of Summerville, OR and Steven Bushman (Brandy) of La Grande, OR; 11 grandchildren, Joel (Malone) Miller, Neil Alexander, Nicole Alexander, Cristy Bushman, Ryan Malone, Joseph Alexander, Rebecca (Bushman) Varland, Chelsea (Malone) Musgrove, Tylor Ketchum, Jason Bushman and Thomas Bushman; 20 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Bushman; parents, Fred and Iva Bushman; brothers, Clenton Bushman and Berton Bushman; daughter, Diana Malone; and infant daughter, Lora Anne.

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

Donald William Bork

February 1, 1939 - November 1, 2021

Donald William Bork passed away in Tucson, Arizona, on Monday, November 1, 2021, at the age of 82.

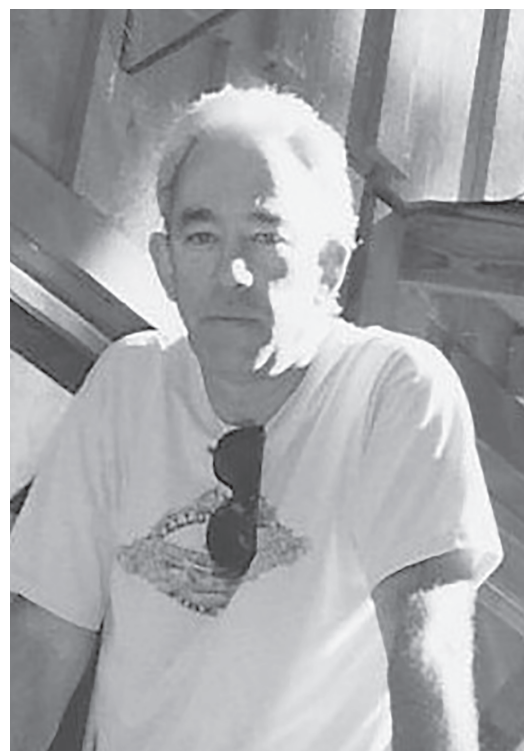
Don was born in La Grande, Oregon, on February 1, 1939, to Lillian Blecha Bork and William John Bork. He attended Greenwood Elementary School and graduated from LaGrande High School, with the class of 1957.

While in his youth, many hours were spent hunting with his father in the Blue Mountains of Oregon. Those mountains soon became Don's passion for prospecting for gold with his childhood friend, Larry Red. He was a miner in the making. In high school, every summer at harvest time, Don drove truck for Claude Anson and the Bork family ranch located in Island City, Oregon. It was these four years of harvest work that paid for Don's college tuition.

Don attended the Montana School of Mines, in Butte, Montana. He received his B.S. in Mining Engineering in 1962. It was there that Don met and married his wife, Barbara Jean Sessions.

Starting his career, Don went to work in the Engineering Department for the Anaconda Mining Company, in Butte, Montana. In 1963, he went to work for Hecla Mining Company at the Mayflower Mine at Park City, Utah. During the Spring of 1966, Don left the U.S. with his young family to live and work in Honduras, Central America. He was employed with the New York, Honduras Rosario Mining Company, at the El Mochito Mine, Santa Barbara, Honduras. From 1966 to 1977 Don developed gold mines in Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic; as well as traveling and working in Spain, Portugal and Algiers, Algeria, North Africa where he worked with the Russians to develop Algeria's mining industry. Returning to the U.S. in 1978, Don developed gold mines in Idaho at Stibnite, and Thunder Mountain, at the edge of the Idaho Wilderness area, until 1994. Don's heart was always with the people of Central America where he was able to speak Spanish fluently, and he returned to Nicaragua where he worked for several Canadian mining companies before returning to the States and retirement in 1997.

While living in Idaho, Don purchased a cabin on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, near the little town of Yellow Pine, Idaho. The cabin is in close proximity to the gold mines he had developed in 1978. The cabin on the river



remained one of the greatest joys in Don's life and the lives of his family.

Don's presence will be missed, but he will not be forgotten. Known as 'Poppa' to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he will be remembered for his "encyclopedia" brain, his razor-sharp memory, his legacy to the mining industry, and the huge impact and influence he had on his family both conservatively and politically in his outlook.

Don is preceded in death by his parents Lillian and William Bork. He is survived by his brother, Robert L. Bork of LaGrande, Oregon. Don is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara Bork; his four children, Victoria Lee (Michael), Jessyka Lavern, Jocelyn Christina, Benjamin Leslie Diego Bork (Yara); and his daughter Patricia Eden Pauls (Edward). Although not born to Don and Barb, Patsy has always been true family. Don leaves behind eleven grandchildren, Bradley, Jordan, Kyle, Malorie, Justin, Zane, Enzo, Nathaniel, Derek, Dryden and Olivia and twelve great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in the Summer of 2022. Memorial cards or messages can be sent to Barbara Bork, 9937 N. Woodstone Trail, Tucson, Arizona, 85742.

Deceased's Funeral Arrangements Cremation, Adair Funeral Home, 8090 N Northern Ave, Oro Valley, AZ, 85704 (Tucson). No memorial service at this time.