

**DEATH & SERVICE NOTICES**

**Sharon Hargrove**

Cove

Sharon Hargrove, 86, of Cove, died June 6, 2022, at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande

**Jane Hegele**

La Grande

Jane Hegele, 84, of La Grande, died Jan. 25, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A memorial service will be held June 11 at 11 a.m. at the La Grande First Baptist Church. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Gerry Keffer**

Formerly of La Grande

Gerry Keffer, 76, formerly of La Grande, died Oct. 23, 2021, in Portland after a short illness. A celebration of his life will be held June 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Island City City Hall. Lunch will be served.

**Gayle M. Musgrove**

La Grande

Gayle M. Musgrove, 87, of La Grande, died June 6, 2022, at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**MILESTONE**

**Gerald and Mary Hopkins mark 55th anniversary**



Contributed Photo

**Gerald and Mary Hopkins, of Island City, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Thursday, June 9.**

**UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES**



**June 10 — CAROL BOUCHARD:** 3 p.m. graveside military service, North Powder Cemetery; celebration of life follows at Wolf Creek Grange, North Powder.

**June 11 — BARBARA WEISHAAR:** 10 a.m. celebration of life, La Grande Methodist Church (casual dress preferred).

**June 11 — HOWARD BAILEY:** 11 a.m. memorial gathering and lunch, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

**June 11 — JANE HEGELE:** 11 a.m. memorial service, La Grande First Baptist Church.

**June 11 — BOB POLLOCK:** 11 a.m. celebration of life, Pine Valley Fairgrounds, Halfway.

**June 11 — JEFFREY, JAMES AND JOANNE WISEMAN:** 2 p.m. celebration of lives, Mount Emily Building, Union County Fairgrounds, La Grande (casual dress preferred).

**June 12 — ARLAN TAAL:** 11 a.m. celebration of life, La Grande Country Club.

**June 16 — DORIS ROBERTSON:** 11 a.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

**Get a 'Safe Ride' home from EOLS**

The Observer

**UNION COUNTY** — The Loveland Safe Ride Program will again be operating during the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, providing free rides home in Union County to anyone attending the event.

Rides will be provided at the start of rodeo competition through 2:30 a.m. each day except on Sunday, June 12, when rides will be provided until midnight.

Rodeo competition begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9; 4 p.m. on Friday, June 10; 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 11; and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 12.

To receive a ride, call 541-963-5022. Rides will be given with no questions asked. Rides will be provided in vehicles on loan from La Grande car dealers Legacy Ford, Legacy Dodge, Goss Motor Company and The Other Guys.

The Loveland Safe Ride Program has been operating for 21 years and in that time has given rides to more than 110,000 people. This includes rides provided at other times of the year for people who need help getting home after events including rodeos, banquets and New Year's Eve parties.

**Jeremy Scott Richards**

January 30, 1974 – May 24, 2022

Jeremy Scott Richards, 48, of La Grande, passed away on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, in College Place, Washington. A service for Jeremy was held on Saturday, May 28, 2022.

Jeremy was born on Jan. 30, 1974, in Dallas, Texas, and raised by Mickey Richards and Beverly Sanders. He resided in La Grande and Elgin, in Waitsburg, Washington, and in multiple other places. He attended La Grande High School, Cove High School and Waitsburg High School. He then attended Walla Walla Community College. He was married to Kaylee Richards.

Jeremy was employed with Legacy Dodge in La Grande, Oregon. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding his horses and working on his farm. He was a member of the Masonic Freemason's Hiram Lodge #67 in Elgin, Oregon.

Jeremy is survived by his wife, Kaylee; children, Riley Richards (Kylie) of Sonora, California, Haley Larsen of Richland, Washington, Katie Kitchell of La Grande, Oregon, Alyssa Toney of La Grande, Oregon, Edward Toney of La Grande, Oregon, and Macie Richards of La Grande, Oregon; father, Mickey Richards (Tawnya) of Prescott, Washington; mother, Beverly Sanders of La Grande, Oregon; and four grandchildren, Olivia and Austin Hale and Reed and Layne Richards.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).



**Shirley A. (Williams) Gibbs**

1938 – May 17, 2022

Shirley Ann Gibbs passed away quietly in her sleep early on the morning of May 17, 2022, at the age of 83, after a lengthy battle with lung cancer. There will be no formal funeral service. The family will host a memorial gathering later in the year.

Shirley came into the world in 1938 as the first of three children born to Verna and Henry Williams. She was many things to many people. She was a loyal friend, a strong mother, an independent woman, a determined and loving partner, and a sweet and sometimes spicy companion to all of her family and friends. She had a competitive side and played cards and board games with spunk and fire and often came out a winner.

Shirley lived most of her life in and around her much loved Grande Ronde Valley. After retirement, her adventures led her to stay and enjoy other places part-time. She loved to fish and spent many hours of her summer in Richland, Oregon, on the Powder and Snake rivers catching perch, bluegill, bass and the occasional catfish. Many of her winter months were spent snow-birding in Parker, Arizona. She fought hard for many things in her life and she didn't lose many battles. Sadly, her final battle was not a fair fight, and after 3-1/2 years of determined sparring against lung cancer that spread to her brain she succumbed quietly at home with family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings and first husband, Neil Campbell. She leaves behind her loving and dedicated husband, Jonnie Gibbs; four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and a great many other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank all of the caregivers at Heart 'n Home Hospice of La Grande, with extra love going out to two very special people who provided comfort and care beyond that which was necessary.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).



**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**Learn about forest resilience on tour**

**JOSEPH** — On Saturday, June 11, from 8 a.m. to noon, Wallowology is hosting a "Fostering Resilience in Private Forestlands" tour with forester Pat Daugherty and ecologist Dr. David Mildrexler. Meet at Wallowology to join the tour and discussion of place-based solutions in the Wallowa Mountains.

**Breakfast served at VFW on June 12**

**UNION** — The VFW High Valley Post 4060 in Union is serving up a "Cowboy Breakfast" from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, June 12. The cost is \$9 for a meal of omelets, biscuits and gravy, sausage, pancakes and drinks.

— The Observer

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

**MONDAY, JUNE 6**

9:49 a.m. — A caller on the 2100 block of Second Street, La Grande, reported a theft of gas. An officer made contact and logged information.

10:49 a.m. — La Grande police received a call about a burglary at Miller's Home Center & Lumber, 307 Greenwood St. An officer responded and took a report.

11:14 a.m. — A caller reported criminal mischief on the 65700 block of North Powder River Lane, North Power. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded, and the parties came to a civil compromise.

1:46 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about fraud from Washington Federal Bank, 1503 Washington Ave. An officer made contact and took a report.

5:20 p.m. — A resident on the 1100 block of West Birch Street, Union, reported fraud. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and took a report.

8:39 p.m. — A resident on the 2800 block of Minam Court, La Grande, reported a person was riding a loud dirt bike in the neighborhood. An officer made contact and would provide an extra patrol.

9:39 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of people on the stairs to the roof above businesses on the 1100 block of Adams Avenue. An officer checked the roof but did not find anyone there.

10:34 p.m. — A resident on the 2900 block of Third Street, La Grande, reported a person was knocking on the door. Officers checked the area but did not find anyone suspicious.

**Julie "Jules" Brown**

July 8, 1958 - May 17, 2022

We are heartbroken to announce the death of mom, wife, sister and friend Julie Ann Brown. Julie passed away in the early evening of May 17, 2022, in Charleston, South Carolina, while vacationing with her one true love, Vernon T. Brown. She left behind her two daughters, Angie Marzano and Jennie Cupp, both of Eugene, and stepdaughters, Shawna Calhoun, Erica Donnell and Karia Brown. She is survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Our mom enjoyed life to the fullest and walked life's beautiful journey with her heart wide open.

As her daughter, I heard stories of her birth in Julesburg, Colorado, in 1958 - the middle child of Ray and Patricia Blubaugh. She was one of six siblings and is survived by Deborah Nielsen, Deana Coppinger, Jim Blubaugh, Jill Sparks and Kirk Blubaugh. The Blubaugh family moved to the Grande Ronde Valley when she was 11 years old and settled in Summerville, Oregon, where she would go on to graduate from Imbler High School in 1976. The Blubaughs were known throughout the valley as the "new kids in town" - rowdy, blond-haired, blue-eyed, a large, Catholic family. The stories she told of her youth sounded like they came from the pages of "Huckleberry Finn" - go kart races, swimming holes, walking through the forests at the base of Mount Emily, freedom and a life of hard work. My mom was clever and read the dictionary for "fun" as a child; she could always beat anyone in Scrabble and had a wicked vocabulary.

Even if her stories were only half true, these early roots cemented a love of the valley, where she met and married her first husband, Gene Rysdam. The two settled in Elgin, raising two daughters until they divorced in 1982. After the divorce, Julie spent six years living in Ventura, California, where she worked at BorgWarner, an automotive supplier as product lead. She eventually returned back to Oregon in 1988, where she worked as a florist at Safeway and sold telephone advertising until she met and married Vern Brown.

Mom married Vern on Aug. 31, 1996. Their whirlwind courtship was grounded in their strong Christian faith and love of Jesus Christ. All the "signs" kept nudging them to be together, even when naysayers said it wouldn't last. You see, Vern had spent years as a local pastor, whereas Mom received her Lord and Savior in her

late 30s ... You can imagine the stir their courtship caused! In 2000, Vern and my mom started Vern's Plumbing & Heating and grew a successful plumbing business.

Vern handled the day-to-day plumbing calls, while Mom became his steady receptionist, bookkeeper and accountant.

Mom spent a good chunk of her life, during what I call the "golden age," lovingly doing whatever she wanted, whenever she wanted. She loved her family and was always watching grandchildren or traveling to Eugene or Colorado to watch kids' sports, help out with child care and spend time

with her daughters. She loved her friends and continued to make new ones throughout her entire life. She had recently taken up a love of football, watching her nephew and grandchildren play in high school and beyond. She loved horses and volunteered her time with the Blue Mountain Back Country Riders, cooking and feeding the endurance riders. She loved "glamping" and spent many summers surrounded by friends and grandkids at Ritter Hot Springs in her beloved trailer.

Mom was creative. She was in several performances at the Elgin Opera House and loved to dance and sing. My mom knew every song from the 1970s, '80s and '90s and passed her appreciation of music to all her children and grandchildren, often breaking out in show tunes, to get a laugh. She was the daughter of a contractor, so there wasn't anything she wasn't willing to roll up her sleeves and do herself. She designed one of the first "tiny homes" built in Eastern Oregon, doing much of the work herself with Vern.

To explain my mom's life summed up in five paragraphs or how much she meant to those who loved her most is an impossible task, but what I do know, down to my bones, is that my mom was one of the strongest, bravest and funniest people I knew. She was, as one friend wrote, "like a crystal chandelier, sparkly and bright, with a cute smile and laugh that could light up a room." And, for her closest friends and family, SHE was just the right kind of medicine. Rest in peace, Mom. We will miss you every single day.

Please join us for a memorial service being held at the Faith Center, 10300 S. D Street, Island City, on Sunday, July 3, 2022, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., followed by a celebration of life at the Riverside Park Pavilion, 3501 N. Spruce Street, La Grande, from 4-7 p.m.

