

OBITUARIES

Allan W. Gray

Aug. 29, 1927 — Jan. 6, 2017



Allan Williamson Gray was born in Portland, one of seven children to William and Eliza (Duncan) Gray.

Following his service in the Army during WWII, Allan earned his master's degree at Oregon State University. He wrestled and played football through a scholarship for the Beavers. He taught for five years in the Salem area before returning to Portland, where he taught math at Woodrow Wilson High School for 29 years. He loved coaching football and wrestling. Allan worked as a geologist during the summer months. During retirement, Allan began a second career in the insurance business.

He shared over 47 years with his first wife, Margaret Bennett. They had two daughters, Trudy and Greta. Margaret preceded him in death in 2000. Allan then

shared 14 years with his wife, Gerrie Faessler. Together they resided in Silverton.

Allan is preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Mary, Jessie, Duncan, Billy, and Elza. He is survived by wife Gerrie Faessler-Gray; sister Patty Hildreth; daughters Trudy Kenyon and Greta Gray; grandchildren Joni Sweetman, Joe Schmeer, and Amber, Rachael, Heather and Brian Kenyon; eight stepchildren; and 22 step-grand and great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at The Aerie at Eagle Landing in Happy Valley. A memorial service with the extended family will be held at Willamette National Cemetery.

Arrangements with Unger Funeral Chapel.

Margaret Harmon-Usher

March 10, 1947 — Jan. 16, 2017

On Monday, Jan. 16, Margaret Harmon-Usher earned her angel wings and



reunited with her family that arrived in heaven before her.

Margaret battled cancer for two years with such a positive attitude, sense of humor and amazing fortitude that she inspired all those who knew and loved her. Cancer did not dim her shining spirit. She remained fiercely independent almost to the very end.

Born in Jenkins, Kentucky, Margy moved to Silverton in 1957 with her family, including 12 siblings, and made the town her home for most of her life.

Margy was known as the family historian, an exceptional cook and talented craftswoman. On any summer day you could find her in her garden tending her plants, by the riverbank fishing or scouring garage sales for her next treasure. She had a ready smile and open heart.

Margaret is survived by daughter Brenda Hinau; son-in-law Kenneth Hinou; grandchildren Andrew Lee, Kait-

lynn Hinou and Konnor Hinou; and siblings Don Harmon, Lucky Harmon, Bruce Harmon, Patsy Stroud, Carol Sundet, Ellen Goldblatt and Jane Fish. She is also survived by her loving companion of these last years, Corbie Chance.

In the favored words of the Harmon clan: "We love you more."

A remembrance service will be held this summer.

Obituary Policy

Free obituaries run on a space-available, first-come, first-serve basis, and are subject to editing. Maximum length is 250 words. Photos may be submitted, but are not guaranteed to be published.

Paid obituaries are handled by advertising and are also subject to editing.

Deadline for obituaries is 11 a.m. Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

To submit: email sanews@salem.gannett.com, fax 503-399-6706 or call 503-399-6794.

Salem Health offers 800 free flu vaccines

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Flu season is in full swing in Oregon. To combat the rise in new influenza cases, Salem Health is offering 800 free flu vaccines through the Mid-Willamette Valley.

It is the first time in recent history Salem Health has offered free flu shots. Hospital officials said the free vaccines are being provided in response to the needs of the local community.

"We want to reach out to people living in Marion and Polk counties to help protect them from the flu virus," said Leilani Slama,

vice president of community engagement at Salem Health. "This has been an especially bad year for the flu and it's not too late to get a shot. Our main goal is to make it convenient as possible for people to get those shots."

Salem Health's emergency room, along with hospitals across Oregon, saw a spike in the number of patient visits in December and January. Normally, the department treats about 300 patients a day, but the recent flu season — combined with a growing population — led the number of daily patients to increase by about 20 percent.

In the past two weeks,

about 350 people were admitted to Salem's emergency room each day. All area hospitals are experiencing similarly high volumes. Local emergency response crews are also reporting "unprecedented activity," according to hospital officials.

More than 1,400 patients tested positive for the flu in Oregon during the first week of 2017. Data from the Oregon Health Authority indicates the number of flu cases will continue to climb.

On Jan. 18, 49 patients at Salem Health hospital tested positive for influenza A. The free vaccine offered by Salem Health will protect against strain

A. With 98.2 percent of positive tests in Oregon confirmed to be influenza A, it is the most common strain this flu season.

Salem Health is offering a total of 800 free flu shots on a first-come, first-served basis at several locations.

On Jan. 21, free flu vaccines were available at the Salem Free Clinic, 1300 Broadway St. NE, #104, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free vaccines will also be administered today at the following locations:

» Salem Health Convenient Care, 1002 Bellevue St. SE, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

» Salem Health Medical Clinic, 966 12th St. SE,

from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Salem Health Medical Clinic, 2925 River Rd. S, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Salem Health Medical Clinic, 1049 Edgewater St. NW, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

» Salem Health Medical Clinic, 550 Dietz Ave. NE in Keizer, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Salem Health Medi-

cal Clinic, 555 SE Washington St. in Dallas, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

» Salem Health Medical Clinic, 512 Main St. E, Suite 300 in Monmouth from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Thousands rally during the Salem Women's March, a Washington, D.C., sister march, beginning at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on Saturday.

March

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donned "pussy" hats and clutched signs bearing calls for universal health care, reproductive rights for women, equal rights for the LGBTQ community and equal rights for immigrants.

The march asked for unity among "marginalized" groups including women, immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, communities of color, people of the Muslim faith, and Native Americans, according to Peter Bale, an organizer of the Salem march.

BJ Andersen, executive director of the Willamette Humane Society, took the stage overlooking the thousands of people bearing the cold rain and told them that her voice was not more important than the voice of the attendees.

"I'm here with each one of you and - trigger warning - I'm here with each of you because rape culture is alive and strong in our universities, in our military, and it just moved into the White House," Andersen said, her voice shaking.

The crowd erupted in boos and marchers wildly shook signs embellished with the words "Pussy grabs back," alluding to comments Trump caught on camera where he spoke of kissing and groping women because "when you're a star, they let you do it."

Andersen, who said she came out in 1979 as a "radical lesbian feminist," said while she can only speak on behalf of being a middle-aged white woman, said she stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and any other group who feels marginalized, not just women.

"Black Lives Matter is asking us to imagine what its like to be black, to raise black children and live black in America and it's asking us to stand up for the equal rights for our sisters and brothers," Andersen said. "(We're) out here in the rain, in the cold, standing with strangers, and wear our pink hats and say 'we're here, we're here, we're here.'"

Shelaswau Bushnell Crier, a former Willamette University law professor, shared her initial misgivings regarding how she would tackle her Women's March speech with the crowd that ran the length of the Capitol Mall and even on the steps of the Capitol Building behind the stage.

"I wasn't sure how much I should say about race, or how much of my personal story I should share because I didn't want anyone to turn their ears off and I didn't want anyone to tune out to message that I had to share," Bushnell Crier said.

Her message focused on the marriage of unity and action born from the spirit of listening - an idea she said was necessary from disembarking from the culture of division she

said was cultivated from Trump's campaign and election.

Bushnell Crier pointed to Trump's past comments of referring to Mexican rapists and accusing them of bringing crime and drugs to the United States, and his initial proposal of calling for a temporary ban on immigrants from Muslim countries and adopting a Muslim registry, as examples of what she said were tools to divide the country.

"That division was effective and we cannot allow that division to hold us back anymore," Bushnell Crier screamed into the mic. "When we continue to divide ourselves over gender, over sexuality, over class, that does not help us as a whole but it helps the one percent. It helps the oligarchy."

Oregon Governor Kate Brown donned a "pussy" hat adorned with rainbow colored bows and spoke to the crowd before embarking on the march through downtown Salem.

"In my Oregon and under my leadership, women are in charge of their own bodies. In my Oregon, diversity is celebrated," Brown said.

Oregon State Police troopers overseeing the march estimated 2,000 marchers participated in the demonstration.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, of Salem, carried a Mexican flag as she walked within the dense crowd winding through downtown Salem.

Rodriguez, a Nayarit, Mexico native and DACA recipient studying at Che-

meketa Community College, said she fears being an immigrant under Trump's administration.

She joins more than 840,000 immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, and said the possibility of losing her rights if deportation programs are revoked is frightening.

"I hope that President Trump opens his eyes and just gives us a chance," Rodriguez said. "Coming here and seeing everyone together though gave me hope that I'm not alone."

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