

obituaries

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Orville Downer

May 10, 1937 – February 5, 2015

Orville Downer was born in Roscoe, South Dakota May 10, 1937 to William and Elodie Downer. He moved with his family to Salem on his 12th birthday. He attended Buena Crest Elementary and Salem Academy, where he graduated in 1955. He married Geri Gale in 1958 and they had five children. After a long illness, he died on Feb. 5, 2015 at his home.

Orville was an entrepreneur in the agriculture industry, including farming, custom harvesting, custom fertilizing, hydraulic sales, and grain bin sales. In January 1963 he joined the Brooks Fire Department. By the end of that year he was promoted to captain and after another year assistant chief. In 1968 Brooks merged with Four Corners and together they became Marion County Fire District No. 1. Orville was deputy chief of the North Battalion and led the district in that capacity for 27 years. He resigned in 1995 to serve on the Marion County Fire Board of Directors until posting his resignation 20 years later, in January of this year.

Orville loved to serve the community and was on several boards. He had a passion for snowmobiling, stock car racing, and ran a dirt track for three summers in Yreka,

Calif. He was member of the Capital Park Wesleyan Church from 1949 through 1973 and the Salem First Church of the Nazarene until his death. Orville had many community friendships and had several close life-long friends. His home was open and became a place of welcome... sometimes people just stayed. He had a special place in the farming community of the mid-Willamette Valley. He was often called upon in crisis and responded day or night to those with a need.



O. Downer

Orville was preceded in death by his father, mother and sister Joyce Downer Imel. Survivors include his wife Geri, sister Velera Vreugdenhil, (Ralph) of Puyallup, Wash., children Kathi Kinnaman (Greg) of Hillsboro, Michelle Truax (Tony) of Buckley, Wash., Steve Downer of Brooks, Sandi Beck (Doug) of Aurora and Mike Downer (Tiina) of Keizer, eight grandsons, three granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m. at Salem First Church of the Nazarene.

Mark William Garvey

September 20, 1967 – February 3, 2015

Mark William Garvey, devoted husband, ever-present father, loving son, caring brother and loyal friend went to his eternal home to be with his Heavenly Father, surrounded by his family and friends on Feb. 3, 2015. He was 47.

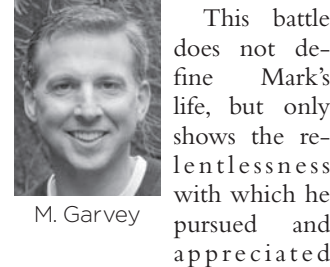
Mark is survived by his wife, Debbie, his son, Lucas, his daughter, Alyssa, as well as his parents, Bob and Marlene Garvey, his sisters, Lisa and Laura, his in-laws, Bob and Earlene Beko, and his siblings-in-law, Darren, Tony, Jillice, Chris and Kim, in addition to his six nieces and nephews.

Born and raised in Lake Oswego, Mark graduated from Lakeridge High School and received his bachelor's degree in business at Linfield College.

Mark and Debbie met in 1989 and four years later began their 22-year marriage and started their family, the main priority and source of joy in Mark's life.

Mark was a man of great strength – strong in his faith in Christ, his dedication to his wife and his support (and own volunteerism) with her work at The Boys & Girls Club, his commitment to serve as a coach, friend and courageous example to his two children, his loyalty to his 19 years of work at Country Financial,

his maintenance and pursuit of real and lasting friendships, and unbelievably strong in his 17-year battle with a rare form of cancer.



M. Garvey

This battle does not define Mark's life, but only shows the relentlessness with which he pursued and appreciated each moment of it. Mark's zest for life, his refusal to complain or quit and his ability to find humor in even difficult circumstances will leave a lasting legacy for all who were blessed enough to know and love him.

Services will be held on Monday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. at Dayspring Fellowship in Keizer.

Donations may be made, in memory of Mark, to the Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties or a contribution may be given to the education fund set up for the Garvey children at Pioneer Trust Bank.

Group still looking to redo skate park

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Plans to renovate the Carlson Skate Park at Chalmers Jones Park behind Keizer Civic Center are one step closer.

That doesn't mean anything is guaranteed, however.

In November, Keizer's Joe Bazan teamed up with the owners of Lincoln City-based Dreamland Skateparks and came to a Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting with a request for help in renovating the skate park, opened in July 1999 but maintained little since then.

The original request at the time was for \$12,000 of the Parks Board's matching grant program funding to help pay for the project. Then-chair Brandon Smith called for a decision to be postponed at the time.

In the time since that November meeting, Bazan has worked with former Parks Board member Jason Bruster to revise the request.

Thus, Bazan attended Tuesday's Parks Board meeting and requested \$5,000 in matching grant funds. That would be in addition to \$25,000 Bazan hopes to raise in private cash or material donations, plus an

estimated \$2,800 in labor.

"We're asking the Parks Board for \$5,000," Bazan said. "Jason Bruster explained it all to me how it would work."

Parks Board member Richard Walsh wanted to make sure he understood the request.

"You're asking, in summary, for \$5,000," Walsh said. "You're representing that you will match with \$25,000 in cash, materials and sponsorships. You'll also have work value of \$2,800. So Keizer citizens will receive a project worth \$32,000."

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, said the work would need to be done before the city pays project leaders the \$5,000.

"The project needs to be completed before reimbursement," Lawyer said.

Marlene Quinn, the Keizer City Councilor who serves as the council liaison to the Parks Board, pointed to an added benefit of the project.

"Remember that the price includes maintenance," Quinn said. "The whole cost to the city would be \$5,000 for redoing the whole thing and maintenance. In the October submission, the lady helping them, Danyel Scott, said this price includes maintenance."

Even if more is spent down the road for maintenance, Quinn felt it was a worthwhile use of funds.

"This is still a pretty cheap project to us," she said.

Bazan noted the maintenance hasn't been done since 1999, which means the facility is hard to use. Skateboarders and bicyclists alike use the facility.

"The skate park hasn't been kept up for more than a decade, so it's in rough shape," Bazan said.

In his revised November proposal, Bazan wrote about why he started what he's calling Project Lift.

"Since I was 15 I've been going to the Carlson Skate Park or, in my opinion, a poorly made death trap," Bazan wrote. "I can appreciate that we have a skate park and this is where I learned how to skate, but the problem is that you can easily get hurt for the fact that it hasn't been maintained correctly and wasn't built right. The point I'm getting at is it's time to fix the Carlson Skate Park and also make it challenging for those who go."

Bazan wrote that there are "cracks forming everywhere" and added the skate park wasn't built correctly.

"The majority of the park has no real transition, a lot of obstacles weren't positioned correctly and they added pointless things," he said.

Lawyer said he wanted to see more specifics about the proposal.

"I need to know what the plan is," Lawyer said. "I want to know what additions and repairs are being proposed. I need to know details. I want to make sure that is clear."

Bazan's proposal calls for work to start in August, with an estimated completion date of August 2016.

Please see SKATE, Page A7

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