

OBITUARY

Joan Kennedy Fransen

Astoria

Feb. 18, 1922 — Sept. 5, 2016

Joan Kennedy Fransen, age 94 — wife, mom, educator, author, welcoming neighbor and friend to those in need — passed away in Astoria, Oregon, on Monday, Sept. 5, 2016.

Born in the wheat country of Condon, Oregon, in 1922, and raised in Pendleton, Oregon, she graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in 1940 and entered Marylhurst College in Portland. In 1942, she suspended her academic plans and jumped into the war effort, becoming an apprentice electrician who helped wire her share of the 455 ships built between 1942 and 1945 at the Kaiser shipyard at Swan Island in Portland.

Following the war, the Irish girl from Eastern Oregon moved to Astoria and took another position of service — with the American Red Cross. Renting a room in the home of Norwegian fisherman Trygve Johansen and his wife Bertha, she embraced the Scandinavian culture and learned from the best to cook and bake Rolle'pølse, krumkake, lefse, fruit soup and prune tarts as good as any Norwegian or Finn.

In the late 1940s, at Amato's Supper Club, she met a handsome young Finn by the name of Walter Fransen; they married in 1950, and together they settled into the south slope of Astoria. They raised a family centered on faith, expectations and compassion ... and lots of fish.

A neighborhood mom, she hosted the annual marshmallow roasts, the backyard carnival, the neighborhood picnics and organized the annual neighborhood climb of Saddle Mountain. She was the neighbor who always brought a welcoming dish to the new neighbors and had a particular soft spot for young U.S. Coast Guard families. Active in Beta Sigma Phi, St. Gregory's Circle at St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Columbia River Maritime Museum and the Astoria Library, gatherings were common at her home.

A strong advocate of reading, she was on the board of directors that oversaw the construction of the Astoria Library. As her children came of age, she returned to Marylhurst College and earned her bachelor's degree in 1970, and commenced a career in education.

She devoted 16 years to the library and teaching at Capt. Robert Gray School. During that tenure, an absence of resource material on Capt. Robert Gray led her to a retirement project: Researching and writing a book for young adults that chronicled Gray's discovery of the Columbia River. "Gray and Columbia's River," published in 1992, took her on research trips to Massachusetts, the Portuguese colony of Macao and the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Children of the Great Depression, she and Walter carried with them an understanding of hard times, and were always very generous to those in need. In an era much less inclusive than today, Joan's best friends came from all cultures and backgrounds. Intertwined through her long life, her achievements, and her children, was a deep and abiding faith in our loving creator.

She was preceded in death by brother Maurice; sister Rita Jean; and husband of 65 years, Walt Fransen, who passed away on April 11 this year. She is survived by her children, Sue Rickey and her husband, Meryl, of Tri-Cities, Washington, Katie Ryding and her husband, Scott, of Astoria, Bill Fransen and his wife, Katherine, of Olympia, Washington, and Trygve Fransen and his wife, Kathy, of Knappa, Oregon.

She was also blessed with 11 grandchildren, Eileen Savoy, Lara Terry, Alison Trumppore, Melinda Rickey, Gregory Ryding, Adriana Ryding, Jeffrey Ryding, Emily Fransen, Alec Fransen, Jennifer Young and Toivo Fransen; and 13 great-grandchildren. In addition, she is survived by three dear sisters-in-law, Shirley Tinner of Astoria, Helen Mack of Palm Desert, California, and Cannon Beach, Oregon, and Audrey Brown of San Francisco; and many, many wonderful nieces and nephews. She was so grateful, and blessed, with a loving, caring family.

The family of Walter and Joan would like to express their deepest appreciation for the kindness, the tender care, and the compassion showered on our parents by the most amazing people who work at Clatsop Care. What a blessing each of you were in their lives, and ours. Please know that we are very grateful.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, Sept. 12, 2016, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Astoria, Oregon. The mass will be preceded by a rosary at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Following the mass, there will be a celebration of her life with a reception at The Loft at the Red Building, 20 Basin St., Astoria, Oregon. Friends, neighbors, family and former students are warmly invited.

Reflecting her compassion for those less fortunate, and her love for the Columbia River and all things Astoria, memorial contributions may be made to: The Maritime Memorial Association, in care of the Uniontown Association, P.O. Box 392, Astoria, OR 97103; St. Vincent de Paul Society — St. Mary Star of the Sea Conference, 1465 Grand Ave, Astoria, OR 97103; or the St. Mary Star of the Sea Education Fund, 1465 Grand Ave, Astoria, OR 97103.



Joan Fransen

'Suspicious behavior' on energy tax credits

No direct evidence of fraud found

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Finding no direct evidence of fraud, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins nevertheless has forwarded "circumstantial evidence of suspicious behavior" in 79 projects that received business energy tax credits to the state Department of Justice.

The Secretary of State's Office released Thursday the results of an independent audit of records kept by the program, which was administered by the Oregon Department of Energy.

The tax credits became mired in controversy after allegations of fraud and other suspicious activity surfaced; the program ended in 2014 at the behest of the Legislature.

Between 2007, when the program was expanded, and 2014, when it ended, the department issued more than \$1 billion in business energy tax credits.

In a letter to the state Legislature Thursday, Atkins said there was about \$347 million worth of tax credits where records contained evidence of risk factors that were concerning to auditors.

The auditors, a private vendor contracted for the service earlier this year, performed a forensic data analysis of the 14,494 projects that received business energy tax credits between 2007 and 2014.

Auditors found conflicts of interest, insufficient documentation, projects that never got off the ground, businesses that closed or failed, and "illogical projects," among other issues

that were concerning. The auditors examined most of the large projects — those with costs exceeding \$1 million — individually. Of the 311 large projects they examined, more than 25 percent showed one concerning characteristic, according to Atkins' letter.

Auditors also reviewed a small sample of smaller projects and extrapolated their findings to the rest of the projects, estimating that about \$7.2 million of tax credits issued for smaller projects was concerning.

Atkins also said that the department left itself vulnerable to financial risks by doing only what statute required when it came to "major program controls."

"The records show that the priority for department management was achieving the goals of the program as directed by state leadership," Atkins wrote. "Past leadership of the agency did not further refine the boundaries of the program by employing formalized risk management assessments or by establishing management controls to assure that projects and credits met high standards of financial management. As a result, there were many financial risks for which there were no adequate controls."

Atkins also released a slate of recommendations for improving financial controls at the agency.

The audit of the records kept about the program, which is also referred to by its acronym, BETC, was announced earlier this year.

Energy department Director Michael Kaplan, who has

acknowledged problems with the program and the department's management of it, wrote in a response to Atkins:

"We take full responsibility for BETC's problems in light of glaring and yearslong evidence that shows unequivocally that ODOE simply did not manage BETC well," Kaplan wrote in a letter to Atkins that was also released Thursday.

However, auditors also concluded that the department lacked the necessary internal support to reduce possible financial risks posed by the program.

"The ODOE is an energy agency, not a financial agency, and lacked functional roles reasonably needed to mitigate the BETC risks," the report states.

But Kaplan also said in his response to Atkins that, despite those structural challenges, the agency did not require legislative changes to fix its management problems.

"It is not enough for a state agency to merely flag problems and expect solutions; ODOE also had the responsibility to solve those problems using a variety of tools, including better in-house oversight and management," Kaplan wrote. "Requesting fixes in the Legislature is a resource to address policy issues and not a mechanism to correct systemic management challenges."

Auditors could not find a risk assessment or internal or external audits specific to the BETC program.

According to the auditors' findings, the agency also faced political pressure to keep the tax credit program rolling.

Astoria hosts City Hall Week event

The Daily Astorian

Astoria is one of 17 cities in Oregon participating in "City Hall Week," when city officials will lead a public forum with legislators and candidates on issues that support the economic vitality and stability of Oregon communities.

The Astoria event — scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at City Hall — will provide an oppor-

tunity for city officials, state lawmakers and legislative candidates to share ideas and perspectives prior to the next legislative session.

City Councilor Zetty Nellowill will lead the discussion with City Manager Brett Estes.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, state Rep. Deborah Boone and Bruce Bobek, Boone's Republican challenger, are slated to attend.

Philomath football season canceled

Associated Press

PHILOMATH — An Oregon high school shaken by a hazing scandal will not play varsity football this season.

The Gazette-Times reported the Philomath School Board canceled the season at a meeting Thursday night, but will allow some junior varsity game to be played.

A volunteer assistant coach and six players face criminal charges for a hazing initiation in which a prosecutor says 11 freshmen were targeted. The incident happened during the team's July trip to Camp Rilea on the north coast.

All football activities were suspended during the investigation and players only resumed practice this week.

Superintendent Melissa Goff told board members that outside experts evaluated this week's practices to determine the readiness of the athletes for competition. She said they unanimously agreed the school isn't ready to play varsity football.

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