

OBITUARIES

Dick Allen Unruh

April 19, 1939 – Jan. 7, 2015
Dick Allen Unruh, 75, of Monmouth died Jan. 7 after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer.

He was born in Clatskanie to Alex and Katherine Unruh. He attended his first two years of elementary school in the Clatskanie area prior to the family's move to Monmouth. Dick graduated from Model Elementary School, part of Oregon College of Education, and later graduated from Central High School in 1956.

He enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Germany; he received an honorable discharge. Dick returned to Monmouth and pursued his college education, graduating with honors.

Dick was a talented musician and played several instruments. He excelled in percussion and pursued a full-time career as a drummer and drum teacher. He played with many bands and groups throughout the western United States. After a brief stint working for the musicians union in Portland, he returned to Monmouth, where he resided until his death.

He was an active participant in community endeavors and gave freely of his time when called. He was a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge and held office as worshipful master of Lyon, Rickreal and Jennings lodges and worthy patron of Adah Chapter Order of Eastern Star. He also held memberships in the Woodburn Masonic Lodge, and Little Falls and Grand Mound Masonic Lodges of Washington, Salem Valley Scottish Rite, Multnomah Chapter No. 1 York Rite and Al Kader Shriners. He was honored to be appointed as grand chaplain for Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Oregon from 2012-2014.

Memorial service is Friday

at Scottish Rite Temple in Salem.

Contributions are suggested to a charity of choice. Crown Memorial handled arrangements.

Mary Louise Ridgeway

June 26, 1921 – Jan. 25, 2015
Mary Louise Ridgeway, 93, of Salem, formerly of Sheridan, died Sunday in Salem.

Adamson's Mortuary, Sheridan, is handling arrangements.

Christopher James Clothier

Jan. 23, 1990 – Jan. 19, 2015
Christopher James Clothier, 24, of Dallas died Jan. 19. He was born in Salem and lived most of his life in Dallas.

Chris graduated from Dallas High School with the Class of 2008. He participated in cross-country and was on the high school wrestling team.

Chris enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, rock climbing and sky diving. He loved the outdoors and adventure. Some of his hobbies included beekeeping, archery, taking care of animals and charity work.

He was known as a bright, loving and caring person with a warm contagious sweet smile and great sense of humor. Chris was a loving and protective brother to his three sisters and a comfort to be around. Chris' compassion for others led him to become a certified nursing aide (CNA) as he hoped to pursue a career in the medical profession.

He is survived by his family.

Service is Wednesday (today) at 2 p.m. at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

Contributions are suggested to be made to the local EASA Program of Polk County, 503-623-9289, in the form of gift cards only (Visa, food cards, etc.) to help those who struggle as young adults.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute

Center handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Krystal Lenar McPherson Ferdig

May 28, 1980 – Jan. 8, 2015
Krystal Lenar McPherson Ferdig, 34, of Falls City died Jan. 8 in Portland.

She was born to Kenneth McPherson and Shanna Calvo in Salem.

Survivors include her brothers, Kenneth McPherson and Keinan McPherson; sisters, Lacey McPherson and Angel McPherson; grandmother, Lois Sallee; and extended family.

No service will be held.

Miriam Edwards Gilbert

March 4, 1927 – Jan. 23, 2015
Miriam Edwards Gilbert, 87, of Boise, Idaho, formerly of Dallas, died Friday in Boise.

She was born in north Idaho to Jack and Dora Edwards.

The family moved in 1941 to southern Idaho, where Miriam attended schools. She was a cheerleader at Meridian High School and graduated in 1945.

Miriam went to the College of Idaho in Caldwell, where she obtained a teaching certificate and met the love of her life, LeRoy "Gib" Gilbert. They were married in 1948. Miriam taught school in Hailey, Idaho, and at Lakeview in Nampa, Idaho.

In 1957, they adopted a baby boy, who was the "apple of their eye," and named him Christopher.

In 1968, the family moved to Dallas, where Miriam and Gib both worked for the school district. After Gib died, Miriam moved back to Boise and lived there until her death.

She was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy; son, Christopher; and sister, Jackie Edwards.

Survivors include her sister, Joan Williams of Boise; three grandchildren; one great-grandson; and extended family.

Service is Monday at noon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5009 Cassia St., Boise. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise.

Contributions are suggested to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or a charity

of choice.

Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel, handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.summersfuneral.com.

Sam Guida

June 5, 1937 – Jan. 22, 2015
Sam Guida, 77, of Pedee died Thursday in Pedee.

He was born in Tampa, Fla., to Delores and Sam Guida.

Sam graduated from Jefferson High School and in 1955 went into the Air Force, where he spent time stationed in England and North Africa.

He lived in a variety of places in California and Oregon including Lake Tahoe, Sunnyvale, Rogue River, Corvallis and Monmouth, and then settled in

Pedee, where he designed and built a home in 1983.

Sam beat the odds with a challenging type of Leukemia and lived five years longer than was expected. That gave him much more time to enjoy and appreciate his family, grandchildren and friends, plus a chance to add a few more travels.

He and his wife, Judy, traveled to Asia, Mexico, Central America and Europe, as well as taking RV trips throughout the western and southwest parts of the U.S.

Sam loved building projects, working with stained glass, reading and exercise of all types, including biking, weight lifting, yoga and running.

He enjoyed having lively discussions with friends. He had a wonderful sense of humor that lasted up to the very end. He took not much of anything too seriously.

Sam worked in the electronics field for most of his career and retired in 1990 from Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. He then received his real estate license and worked in Corvallis for five years as a Realtor. He thought retirement was great.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Judy; brother, Joe Guida of Houston; children, Matt (Amanda) of Bremerton, Wash., Tony and John (Gina), all of Houston; four grandchildren; and extended family.

Memorial service is March 7 at 11 a.m. at Pedee Memorial Church.

Contributions are suggested to Medical Teams International or Heifer International.

Farnstrom Mortuary, Independence, handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man arrested on sex abuse charges

MONMOUTH — Monmouth Police arrested a 50-year-old transient Jan. 18 on sex abuse charges after an incident reported recently in the 300 block of Whitesell Street West.

Peter Robert Furman, who told police he was living in a rock quarry in Salem, was charged with first-degree sex abuse for allegedly subjecting a minor to sexual contact. Police believe Furman may have had contact with other minors.

Furman, who reportedly left the residence on foot, was later found and arrested in northeast Salem.

Anyone with more information regarding this investigation or other information about Furman is asked to call Monmouth Police at 503-838-1109.

Salem Police Department and Polk County Sheriff's Office assisted with the arrest.

Fire 'Wall of Honor' induction set

DALLAS — The Dallas Fire & Emergency Medical Services will hold its inaugural induction of its Wall of Honor on Thursday at the Dallas fire station, 915 SE Shelton St.

The induction ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. and the inaugural class includes Delbert Fredricks, Curt Lamb, Pete Peters and Harpy Bovard, who will be honored for their "exemplary lifetime service to the Fire and EMS Department and the community."

The event is open to the public.

For more information: 503-831-3530.

Independence seeks input on parks

INDEPENDENCE — The city of Independence will host an open house Thursday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. for citizens to discuss the future of city parks.

Draft plans for every city park, including the entire riverfront, will be presented. City staff will propose a variety of improvements that would be completed over the next 20 years, said Shawn Irvine, Independence economic development director.

A few new parks will be proposed as well. Irvine said Thursday's presentation is the result of taking input from the community during the first phase of the parks master plan.

The open house will be in the Riverside Rooms at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.

Dallas receives budgeting award

DALLAS — The city of Dallas has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the U.S. and Canada's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The award was for the city's 2013-14 budget and recognizes "the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting."

In order to receive the award, a governmental agency's budget must meet nationally recognized guidelines to serve as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communication device.

Sheriff seeking reserve deputies

POLK COUNTY — The Polk County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting reserve deputy sheriff applications for the reserve academy that starts in November.

Applicants must be 21 years of age and will be required at a minimum to pass a written test, interviews, criminal background check, psychological evaluation, physical fitness test and drug screening.

Applications for the position are now available online at <http://www.co.polk.or.us/volunteer-opportunities-polk-county> and select the volunteer application. The application deadline is Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. Send the completed applications to the Polk County Sheriff's Office, 850 Main St., Dallas.

For more information: Detective John Williams, Polk County Sheriff's Office, 503-623-9251.

City of Dallas to host 'citizen's academy'

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The city of Dallas is hosting its first "citizens academy," a six-class seminar designed to offer citizens an overview of how the city operates.

The academy is free and is an opportunity to become familiar with the services provided by the city and to meet the staff responsible for providing them.

Those interested in participating need to register online at www.ci.dallas.or.us by Feb. 13.

The first class is Feb. 19 and will cover the history of Dallas, city management and leadership, and local budgeting and finance. The next five classes are scheduled every two weeks.

Session two, on March 5, will provide an overview of the city infrastructure and

its maintenance.

On March 19, at session three, city staff will cover leisure activities available, including the Dallas Public Library and parks.

Session four, on community development, scheduled April 2, is dedicated to land-use planning, economic development, building safety, urban renewal and the Dallas Aquatic Center.

Session five, April 16, will explore Dallas' public safety agencies, including police and fire and emergency medical service departments.

The final session on May 4 will have academy participants meet the Dallas City Council and an academy "graduation."

To register or for more information about session schedules and topics: www.ci.dallas.or.us.

Obituary Information

Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.

Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. However, information can also be submitted directly from family members.

Color and black-and-white photos can be submitted, but photos will only be published in black and white. The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.

Obituaries — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, emailed to nadams@polkio.com, or fill out the online form at www.polkio.com.

For more information: Nancy Adams, 503-623-2373.

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If you're one of the family members we've served, we'd like you to know you're still in our thoughts.

Experiencing a loss can affect your own life in a profound way, and we'd like you to know that you can call on us for grief resources, recommended reading, or just to hear a voice that cares.

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