

Fire: Fast response gets blaze controlled

Continued from 1A

The fire was contained before it got that far, thanks to changes in wind and the diligence of the fire crews, Welsh said.

"The crews working so diligently and aggressively on that fire was just remarkable," she said.

Several agencies came from Yamhill, Marion and Benton counties. Units were on their way from Lincoln City and Linn County.

"We had called in for Washington County's strike force, but they may have been called off," Welsh said.

It wasn't just the sheer number of departments, vehicles and resources that responded to the fire, but how quickly they arrived, Welsh noted.

"It was really beneficial (to combating) this fire," she said.

Other factors that contributed to getting the field

fire under control quickly included the weather conditions being cooler than they had been in previous weeks.

The response from the community — volunteers and family members — was equally amazing, Welsh said. "They pulled together resources and food and water, and took it up to the crews that were working," she said. "It was an incredible display of support."

Welsh noted that she appreciated the patience and understanding of the community when Dallas Fire had to cancel Friday evening's Summerfest events.

"It was a difficult decision," she said. In fact, Welsh did not want to officially call off the water games until 5 p.m. "In the long run, it was the right thing to do."

Red Cross erects shelter at Central

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — When Dianne Mekkers arrived at Central High School, the would-be American Red Cross shelter during Friday's wildfire, she had an important announcement to make.

Mekkers, a site manager for the Red Cross, told everyone they could go home.

She had just heard from officials that the fire was out, and families who had been evacuated were able to return to their homes.

"We train, train and train," she said. "And we are really happy when we don't have to use it."

If not for the well-organized effort of firefighters and volunteers from throughout the region, Friday's 250-acre fire could have been a time when all

the training and preparation was needed.

Seemingly able to set up an emergency shelter instantly, the Red Cross has a detailed "behind the scenes" process. Volunteers train, of course, but supplies are gathered and stored, and possible shelter sites are surveyed long before an emergency occurs, allowing the organization to move fast.

That process was tested Friday.

"This is a small event and we hope it stays that way," said Ann Fenderson, the shelter manager, during a walkthrough of Central.

She said in most emergencies, about 10 percent of affected people show up at a shelter. At that point, five homes had been evacuated and several more were on notice.

Central Principal Greg Mitchell said the school

had been surveyed several months ago to be placed in a database of possible shelter locations. They had a "table top" plan in place in case the school was called upon.

"Use anything you need," he said.

Logistics coordinator Kate Redding was impressed, noting the school could shelter many more people than those who may have needed help Friday.

"This is like the Taj Mahal," she said. "We could probably put up all of Monmouth and Independence here if we needed to."

The Red Cross depends on agreements like it has with Central School District and the time and effort of local volunteers. Mekkers said the agency might be best known for its work on large-scale emergencies, but people

don't have to travel far to lend a hand.

"They (volunteers) have a passion for this type of work and they are here to serve their community," Mekkers said. "We can always use folks ... and they can do this in their own community."

That dedication was on display Friday.

Volunteers were notified through an emergency dispatch-like system at about 5 p.m. Shortly after 6 p.m., it wasn't fully set up yet, but still ready.

"If they need us, the doors are open," Fenderson said.

About 20 minutes later, Mekkers arrived to report: "They have knocked down the fire. We are breaking it down. Everybody can go home."

For more information: RedCross.org.

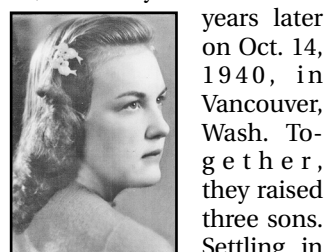
OBITUARIES

Ruby Weiss

June 13, 1924 – July 21, 2015
Ruby Weiss, 91, of Dallas died July 21 in Salem.

She was born to Hans and Allice Sund in Clarissa, Minn.

The family moved to Texas and later settled in Hopewell when she was a preteen. She met her husband George when she was 13, and they married three



years later on Oct. 14, 1940, in Vancouver, Wash. Together, they raised three sons.

Settling in Dallas, they bought a small fruit farm on what is now Mistletoe Road and raised prunes, gooseberries, marionberries, cherries and peaches.

After George's death in 1989, Ruby kept busy with gardening, crocheting, volunteering with the Dallas Food Bank and going to Curves five days a week until a back injury prevented her from doing so.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; grandson, Jeff; three brothers; and a sister.

Survivors include her sons, Jim (Sherry) of Gladstone, Tim (Mary) and Larry (Charlene), all of Dallas; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside service was Monday at Dallas Cemetery. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online condolence: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

David Leroy Carlson

July 22, 1947 – July 21, 2015
David Leroy Carlson, 67, of Monmouth died July 21 at Salem Hospital following surgery.

He was born in Raymond, Wash., to Conrad Leroy Carlson and Florence Lillian Harrington-Carlson.

He was born with cerebral palsy and endured multiple surgeries early in life. He was proud to have overcome many of the challenges his

disabilities presented. He had lived in several places in Washington and Oregon throughout his early years, and settled in Monmouth in 1976.

David began his retail career with J.K. Gill in 1969, and by the 1970s was managing the Salem store. In



1981, he became an outside salesman for Commercial Business Supply. He loved that job. It let him do what he enjoyed the most, meeting new people and traveling around the valley. His job afforded him time to spend with his family, as well. After Commercial Business Supply closed, Dave began a new phase of his career working for the Department of Corrections in Salem. He especially enjoyed running the Hobby Shop at OSCI.

He retired in November 2013, which gave him time to pursue his many interests. Gardening, sporting events, traveling, hunting for treasures in thrift stores, spending time at the casino and attending his grandchildren's various functions were his favorite things to do. Dave's greatest love in life was watching his family grow.

He married his wife, Margaret Chambers Carlson, in 1969.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Margaret; daughters, Katie (Garrett) Hardin, Jennifer (Paul) Levesque, and Sarah (Cody) Crockett; son, Will; brothers, Robert (Jerelyn) and Ray (Bev); 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Celebration of life was

Tuesday at Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence. Private family burial will be held.

To send an online condolence: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Vesta Olson

June 20, 1915 – July 20, 2015
Vesta Olson, 100, of St. Helens died July 20 in St. Helens.

She was born in Pedee to Edwin and Denna (Hoppe) Freer.

She married Clarence Olson in Stevenson, Wash., on Aug. 11, 1934. He died in 1996.

Prior to Vesta's retirement in 1980, she worked in the medical field as a nurse assistant at Columbia District Hospital. As a longtime resident of St. Helens, she was very involved with her community. Among other things, she was a member of the St. Helens Methodist Church women's circle, board member and past president of the women's club. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters and had served as Most Excellent Chief, ITTC (travel group), PTA and Brownie's leader. When she wasn't involved with all of her organizations, she enjoyed quilting and hand crafts, such as crocheting and embroidery work, and reading and playing the piano. Vesta also loved the mountains and wildlife they brought, but above all things she loved spending time with her grandkids.

Survivors include her son, Ronald Olson; daughter, Beverly McCutcheon; and several grandchildren.

Private service was held under the direction of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Rosemary Malo

Sept. 13, 1925 – July 23, 2015
Rosemary Malo, 89, of Dallas died Thursday.

She was born in Kulm, N.D., to William and Hulda (Scheidt) Wilken.

Rosemary grew up in North Dakota until the age of 12 and then moved to the Helvetia and North Plains area of Oregon.

She graduated from Hillsboro High School and continued her education as a

teacher at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University). After graduating, she began teaching in Albany and met her future husband, Stan Malo. They were married on Dec. 14, 1946. Stan died in 1995.

In 1951, Stan bought an insurance company in Dallas and the family settled there soon after in 1952. Rosemary co-owned the business "Stan Malo Insurance Company" with her husband, and they made it a very successful business. When they retired, they enjoyed spending time at Black Butte Ranch in the summers and in Yuma, Ariz., in the winters.

Rosemary was very active and loved helping others, even if it was just to make them smile. She loved to volunteer in the community including the senior center in Monmouth. Rosemary was a cancer survivor and lived life to its fullest. She enjoyed things such as skiing, camping, fishing, biking, tennis, crafts, painting, and most of all, travel, as long as there was no flying involved.

She was a member of the Dallas United Methodist Church, the Red Hat Ladies Society and the Dallas Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, and had received her 60-

year pin as an original charter member in 1955.

Survivors include her sons, David and Douglas Malo; daughter, Carolyn Horak; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial service is Thursday at 1 p.m. at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. Private interment will be at Dallas Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested to the United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Lucille Irene Derksen

Nov. 29, 1925 – July 26, 2015

Lucille Irene Derksen, 89, of Salem, formerly of Dallas, died Sunday in Salem.

Graveside service is today (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. at Salt Creek Cemetery in Dallas.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

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, or emailed to nadams@polkio.com.

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

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