

# OBITUARIES

## Carolyn Overstreet Heath

**March 7, 1944 – Dec. 16, 2015**  
Carolyn Overstreet Heath, 71, died Dec. 16 in Salem. There will be a drop-in memorial gathering from 3 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 16 at Annette's Restaurant, 1311 Edgewater St. NW, in West Salem.

## James 'Jim' Francis Feehan

**May 6, 1933 – Dec. 28, 2015**  
James, "Jim" Francis Feehan, 82, of Grand Ronde, died Dec. 28 in McMinnville as a result of Alzheimer's disease.

He was born in Dublin, Ireland. At the age of 20, Jim traveled by boat to America with dreams of eventually reaching Alaska. Instead he fell in love with Oregon and settled in Portland where he worked for the railroad until being drafted into the Army.

After the service, he began his 40-year career at the Oregonian newspaper. He became an American citizen on St. Patrick's Day in 1960.

While working at the Oregonian, Jim met co-worker Barbara McKnight at a Portland Buckaroos hockey match.

It is lost to history whether the Buckaroos won that night; however Jim had a victory when Barbara agreed to accompany him to another hockey game.

They were married in Portland on April 23, 1970.

Survivors include his loving wife, Barbara; daughters, Kathleen and Bernadette; three grandsons; and extended family.

Funeral Mass is Wednesday (today) at 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Church in Grand Ronde followed by interment at the Grand Ronde cemetery.

A fellowship meal will be served at the Tribal Elder's Center.

Contributions are suggested to the Oregon Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.dallastrIBUTE.com](http://www.dallastrIBUTE.com).

Survivors include his wife, Roselle Mattern; children, Sarah Ogsaen, Mandy Mattern, Danae Winder, Teresa Crossley, Jared Brown, and Amanda Brown; father, John Mattern; sisters, Penny Piper, Kathy Hopton; brother, Scott Mattern; and 23 grandchildren.

Service was Tuesday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Dallas. Interment followed at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Hillsboro.

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While Jim loved his adopted home in the states, he also prioritized maintaining connection with his Irish family, traveling home to Ireland regularly.

After retiring, Jim and Barbara traveled throughout the West and Hawaii.

As he had throughout his life, he continued to prioritize his time with family. Jim will be remembered as a loving, humorous, life-loving, and epic story teller.

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## Gary Lee Wilson

**Aug. 30, 1950 – Dec. 15, 2015**  
Celebration of life for Gary Lee Wilson is Friday at 2 p.m. at Partnerships in Community Living in Monmouth.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.FarnstromMortuary.com](http://www.FarnstromMortuary.com).

## Mike Mattern

**Sept. 27, 1951 – Dec. 30, 2015**  
Mike Mattern, 64, of Dallas died Dec. 30.

He was born in McMinnville to John and Helen Mattern.

He grew up with his siblings in McMinnville in the same house his father still lives in.

In high school, he played football and went to state in gymnastics.

He also played the clarinet and saxophone and went to Mt. Hood Community College to study music and play in the jazz band.

He wanted to become a music teacher.

He met and married Terry. After five years they adopted Sarah and later Mandy. He started working at McMinnville Water and Light and continued for 30 years. They divorced and he married Roselle in 1995.

Mike embraced Roselle's five children and he committed to the Water and Light from Dallas until 2004 when he retired.

He took a job at Perrydale Water Association in 2010 where he worked until his death.

Mike was very active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he

served diligently and selflessly in bishoprics, Sunday schools and young men's organizations.

He and Roselle loved taking trips to the coast, eastern Oregon and Mike recently bought a canoe so Roselle could go fishing and "out-fish" with him on the lake.

He was a beloved Papa to his grandchildren. He often had a baby in his arms, a toddler hanging on his leg or little girl coloring beside him. He was a wise and kind friend who could make anyone smile.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dixie Hazelton; and mother, Helen Mattern.

Survivors include his wife, Roselle Mattern; children, Sarah Ogsaen, Mandy Mattern, Danae Winder, Teresa Crossley, Jared Brown, and Amanda Brown; father, John Mattern; sisters, Penny Piper, Kathy Hopton; brother, Scott Mattern; and 23 grandchildren.

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## Wilma Louise Tolley Rogers

**Aug. 3, 1923 – Dec. 19, 2015**  
Wilma Louise Tolley Rogers, 92, of Neotsu, formerly of Dallas, died Dec. 19 in Neotsu.

She was born in Omaha, Ill., to Martin Tolley and Bessie Glover Tolley.

She grew up in southern Illinois and entered college at Southern Illinois University in 1941.

During World War II, Wilma was offered a job as a journalist for The Pantagraph newspaper in Bloomington, Ill. Her journalism career led her to Pueblo, Colo., in 1951, where she met and married her husband, Howard A. Rogers.

The family lived in Colorado and California before a career in the Christmas tree growing industry led them to Olympia, Wash., in 1966.

Wilma started a career as a teacher and librarian at St. Michael's Elementary School.

She continued her education at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., at-

taining a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Library Science.

The couple relocated to Dallas in 1980, where Wilma worked in the library at Chemeketa Community College until retiring in 1988.

In Dallas, she was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church and helped establish the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Wilma made a final move to Neotsu in 2004. She was active in St. James Episcopal Church in Lincoln City.

Wilma will be remembered for her lifetime love of reading and gardening.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Howard A. Rogers and daughter, Melinda Cowdry.

Survivors include her daughters, Julie Peters of Salem and Emily Rogers of Neotsu; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Contributions are suggested to the St. James Santiago School, P.O. Box 789, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

**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. However, information can also be submitted directly by family members.

Photos will be published in black and white. The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of those who served in the U.S. 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 [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).

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## Two Polk gardeners honored

*Jiricek, Walton recognized for years of Extension service*

Itemizer-Observer staff report

CORVALLIS — Two dozen Oregonians from around the state received the year's highest honors from Oregon State University's Extension Association at a banquet Dec. 9 at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center in Corvallis.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of Extension," said Deborah Maddy, associate provost for University Outreach and Engagement, in a press release. "They bring so much talent and skills to the organization, including that most precious commodity — their time. We want to honor the dedication of individuals and businesses that have significant impacts on our educational programs."

Three other Extension supporters were honored by Epsilon Sigma Phi, a national organization of Extension professionals.

**OSUEA Cooperator Awards**  
Volunteers with less than 10 years of service from Polk County:

John Jiricek, Polk County: A skilled culinary expert, Jiricek became a Master Food Preserver two years ago and has used his expertise to answer questions and give guidance at farmer's markets and other venues.

He also represents the county's Family and Community Health program on the Polk Extension Citizen Advisory Network.

His many connections in the community have benefited Extension with an increased network of supporters.

Five other volunteers from throughout Oregon were honored with this award.