

OBITUARIES

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Sharon Kay Smith

May 10, 1949 – Dec. 28, 2015
Sharon Kay Smith, 66, of Monmouth, died Dec. 28.

She was born to Clarence and Dorothy Smith in McMinnville.

Sharon gave the world her sweetness, laughter and love of living in the moment. She had a lovely smile and a wicked sense of humor. She loved new foods, going for rides, and enjoyed hot tubs, swimming and water.

Survivors include her brother, Tom (Deb) Smith, of Amity; and brother, Kerry Smith and his wife, Marcella Weaver, of Eugene.

Sharon's life will be celebrated on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Partnerships for Community Living, 480 Main St. E., in Monmouth.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements.

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

John D. Ratzlaff

Nov. 18, 1947 – Jan. 7, 2016
John D. Ratzlaff, 68, of West Salem, died Thursday in Salem.

He was born in Omaha, Neb., to Alvin and Elvera Ratzlaff.

John grew up on the family farm in Orienta, Okla. He attended Orienta Elementary School and later graduated from Oklahoma Bible Academy. He graduat-

ed with his Bachelor of Arts from Grace Bible Institute, where he met his sweetheart Dee. John and Dee married on Sept. 12, 1970, in Mt. Lake, Minn. In faith, they moved to Oregon in 1971 where John had been hired as the first youth pastor at the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Dallas. In 1974, they moved to West Salem and John started his career with State Farm Insurance. He was also past board chair at Salem Academy and a past board member of the Salem Free Clinics. John was an active member of Salem Alliance Church.

John's faith in Jesus Christ was the most important thing to him, and he reflected that by the way he loved people. He would invite people into his office and talk about hot rods, family, and occasionally insurance. John enjoyed boating on Detroit Lake and teaching people how to water ski. Classic car shows gave him the opportunity to spend time with his high school buddies and visit with people.

John was very proud of his sons and loved his grandchildren. He made it a priority to be present at their sporting events and programs.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Dee; sons, Mitch (Kelleigh) Ratzlaff and Travis (Brandee) Ratzlaff; brother, Stanley Ratzlaff; sister, Ruth Buller; and five grandchildren. Memorial service is Friday at 1 p.m. at Salem Alliance Church.

Contributions are suggested to the Salem Free Clinics in care of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center which handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.



John D. Ratzlaff, 68, of West Salem, died Thursday in Salem.

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Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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4	6	9	3	8	7	5	1	2
6	3	5	8	1	2	7	9	4
1	9	8	7	5	4	3	2	6
7	2	4	9	6	3	1	5	8
2	1	7	4	9	8	6	3	5
5	8	3	2	7	6	9	4	1
9	4	6	1	3	5	2	8	7

BYOD: Screen time helps kids learn

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"I teach all three grades (sixth through eighth) and I teach students from struggling readers to gifted and talented students," she said. "The technology that we have has really helped me be able to reach, personally, all of their levels of development. It's huge."

Richardson said the school still is ironing out the details and piloting other programs for next year. He said about 80 percent of teachers at the school are using technology in some form in their classrooms and more are beginning to see the benefits.

He added students are

LCMS technology standards

- **Creativity and Innovation:** Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and processes using technology.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
- **Research and Information Fluency:** Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.

- **Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making:** Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
- **Digital Citizenship:** Student understand human, cultural and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
- **Technology Operations and Concepts:** Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.

making strides at using their devices and social media — Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are used in some classes — responsibly.

that cellphones are bad — put them away, we don't want to see them," Richardson said. "In the kids own words, they feel trusted. I think that goes a long way,

especially with this age group, when they feel trusted, they have a sense of responsibility."

"I think it's a changed culture in our school," he said.

Dallas district to host meeting on policy

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School District will hold a special meeting Tuesday to address concerns about its policy allowing a transgender boy to use the boys locker room and restrooms at Dallas High School.

Board Chairwoman Lu Ann Meyer said the board will ask questions of legal counsel and representatives from Oregon School Boards Association. Community members also would be invited to ask questions.

Community members packed the board's Dec. 14 meeting and the majority of those who commented wanted the district to change its policy to protect the privacy of all students.

The policy was the subject of several comments at

the board's meeting Monday.

"The students of all Dallas schools deserve to know they are safe and their rights are protected," said Dallas resident Blaine Barklow, who spoke in favor of the policy and thanked the board.

She had signed a petition supporting the policy and spoke Monday after reading about the comments at the Dec. 14 meeting.

"I'm deeply concerned about our community," she said. "What I heard and read doesn't reflect the Dallas I know and the values of our community."

Several others spoke in favor of the policy, including representatives of Basic Rights Oregon and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

Others were not supportive of the policy.

Parents and other community members testified the policy violates the privacy and religious rights of the other students.

"There will be consequences, potentially legal, for your administrators and district staff who must implement faulty policy which does not protect rights of privacy, safety and comfort for all," said Dallas resident Kim Conolly.

Conolly said families may

refuse to move to Dallas or move out of the district because of the policy.

She urged the board to develop a policy that is mindful of all students.

"Let us not look to municipal policies," she said. "They don't offer guidance for school boards. Students are minors."

Learn more: DSD special board meeting is Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Dallas Civic Center, 945 SE Jefferson St.

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