

Horses: Neighbors concerned about animals

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Those conditions, combined with the seemingly non-stop rain, has turned parts of the pasture into a soupy mess, especially where the animals are fed twice a day and other areas they congregate.

Owner Katlynn Conway said she had to move the horses to the location quickly after her family sold its farm. She leases the property.

She admits the situation is far from ideal, but said it will be remedied as soon as the weather improves.

Materials have already been purchased to build a shelter, but with the ground as soggy as it is now, Conway is afraid it wouldn't be stable.

"I just don't want to put something up and have it fall," she said.

Some drainage work has

been done, but it hasn't been enough to keep the low areas of the field and heavy traffic areas from becoming muddy.

Conway seeded the pasture and some new grass is coming up, but what is really needed is a break from the rain.

"I don't like that they are out here," Conway said Monday, acknowledging the field is looking bad right now.

She said given the situation, she is on the lookout for conditions that could stem from extended exposure to the elements.

"We are doing everything we can," she said.

Conway said she appreciates the concern neighbors have shown for the horses and the offers of help, but refused assistance because the issue isn't financial.

She can afford to care for her animals, but needs the proper conditions to fix drainage problems and build them shelter.

While some interactions with concerned people have been unpleasant, Conway said she doesn't want to interfere with people reporting what they believe to be neglect.

Garton said Conway has been cooperative with the investigations.

"She's allowed us to go on the property without a warrant and to have the vet go, so we are doing what we can," he said.

He also wants people to report what they believe are issues.

"They are trying to be helpful; they are trying to do the right thing, but you also have to respect the current laws," he said. "We are here to enforce those."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Horses in a field near Independence have raised concerns from neighbors during the heavy rain this winter. The field is muddy, but the horses have been deemed OK.

Session: New wage law could be taken to court

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Evans said the law reflects what he and other legislators learned from businesses, economists and others during the public hearings.

"It's the beginning of a really good plan," he said. "Because it's a legislative fix, not a constitutional fix, we can tweak it and adjust it as necessary."

Boquist said the law is against the Oregon constitution because it presents a class system.

"Why does a reporter for the Hillsboro Argus get \$14.75 minimum wage, and \$13.50 here, and the Blue Mountain gets less than that, at \$12.75?" Boquist said. "The minimum wage will get challenged in court and will probably get struck down in court because of the three classes."

Evans said the classes were created because of cost of living differences and because business owners outside of Portland did not

want to pay the same rates as in Portland.

He said the increase to minimum wage will help working families get ahead and increase their purchase power.

"The middle class wage structure had not been keeping up with productivity and wealth generation," Evans said. "Meaning the companies in the United States are actually relatively profitable, but that profit and productivity and

the value therein has not been equally distributed, and that gap's getting bigger."

Both Boquist and Evans said that because the bill was passed, a minimum wage measure will not be on the ballot in November.

Evans said if the measure had appeared, polls showed it would have passed with overwhelming support throughout the state.

Boquist said voters in Portland would have caused it to pass.

The measure would have increased the minimum wage throughout the state to either \$13.50 or to \$15 with a three-year timeline.

Evans said business owners testified they were happier to have more time to phase in the higher wages.

Rep. Mike Nearman, representing House District 23, did not respond to a request for comments about the 2016 session.

OBITUARIES

Ralph Weston

Nov. 28, 1938 - March 15, 2016
Ralph Weston, 77, of Monmouth, died March 15 in Monmouth.

He was born in Hot Springs, Ark., to Oscar Horace and Opal Ella Lee (Mathews) Weston.

Ralph graduated from Central High School in 1958. He married Martha Dell Palmer in Independence, and they raised three children.

He worked at Boise Cascade as a dryer tender and in maintenance until his retirement in 2002.

He enjoyed his family farm, track, camping, rooster fights, and fishing, as well as raising raspberries and guppies.

He was a regular at the breakfast club at McDonald's and at the casino.

His family was his priority, and they always came first.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Doyle and Horace Weston.

Survivors include his children, Sheila Raber, of Salem, David Weston, of Monmouth, and Dell Weston, of Dallas; sister, Mary Carver; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ralph's life will be celebrated on Saturday at the Independence Women's Club, 340 S. Third St., Independence, with a reception following. Inurnment will be at Hilltop Cemetery.

Farnstrom Mortuary of Independence handled arrangements.

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

Claire Marie Angers

July 3, 1955 - March 15, 2016
Claire Marie Angers, 60, of Monmouth, died March 15 in Monmouth of cancer.

She was born in Lewiston, Maine.

Claire graduated from Lewiston (Maine) High School in 1974. She earned higher education degrees from Central Maine Vocational, Pitt Technical, University of Maine, and George Fox University.

She was a registered nurse with a Bachelor in Arts in nursing, and was a certified case manager.

She had been employed in a variety of direct care and administrative nursing capacities in the Willamette Valley since 1991, with her most recent employment as an RN at Salem Hospital.

Survivors include Jack "Andy" Hardwick, Rita Angers, Henry Gaisson III; and a large extended family.

Contributions are suggested to St. Bernard Rescue Foundation, Marion-Polk Food Share, Kora Shriners (Lewiston, Maine) and James 2 Community Kitchen.

Bollman Funeral Home in Dallas handled arrangements.

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

Michael A. Moran

June 24, 1968 - March 17, 2016

Michael "Mike" Moran, 47, of Salem, died March 17 in Salem after a brief battle with Stage 4 Adenocarcinoma of the lung.

He was born in Eugene to Denis and Griekke Moran.

Mike grew up in Monmouth, where he graduated from Central High School in 1986. He attended Western Oregon University and Chemeketa Community College, where he took fire science/rescues classes for two years and earned Oregon Emergency Medical Technician Level 2 status. Mike began working at Polk County Fire District No. 1 as a firefighter/EMT in 1986. He did that through 1994. During this time, he joined the Coast Guard Reserve as a small boat opera-

tor crew member and spent two summers on active duty at Newport Oregon Station, Yaquina Bay.

In 1990, Mike started working as a 911 dispatcher for Polk County. In 1991, Polk County consolidated with Marion County. At that time Mike started working for the city of Salem as a 911 dispatcher, where he worked up until the onset of his illness in November of 2015. From 1994 to 2001, Mike was a reserve police officer in Independence, which he loved and found very satisfying.

In September 1994, Mike married Katie Roe, and moved to West Salem in May of 1996.

Mike always enjoyed watching the boys play sports.

When his work schedule allowed, he loved helping coach his boys' teams as well. Mike also enjoyed taking them fishing, to the movies, and to Oregon Ducks football games.

He was preceded in death by his father, Denis.

Survivors include his wife of 21 years, Katie; sons, Blake and Mason; mother, Griekke, of Monmouth; brother, John (Shawna), of Salem; sister, Monica, of Salem; and a large extended family including numerous relatives in Belgium, The Netherlands and England.

Funeral service is Wednesday (today) at 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1444 Liberty St. SE, in Salem. Interment is at English Cemetery.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements.

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

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Viola Inez May

March 19, 1917 - March 14, 2016

Viola Inez May, 98, of Salem, formerly of Dallas, died March 14 in Salem.

She was born near Armour, S.D.

She moved with her parents to Salem in 1932, and graduated from Salem High School. She lived in Salem for 17 years until moving to Dallas in 1950, and then back to Salem in 1993, and lived at Capital Manor for 23 years.

She married Carl May on Feb. 19, 1946. He preceded her in death in 1992.

Viola worked nine years for the State Revenue Department, and 23 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She retired in 1980.

She enjoyed bowling, traveling and people. She accepted Christ as her Savior in December 1929.

For many years she was an active member of the Salt Creek Baptist Church in Dallas.

Survivors include her daughter, Kathi (May) Menconi; son, Curt May (Sharon); and extended family.

Memorial service is Monday at 2 p.m. at Salt Creek Baptist Church.

Private family graveside service will be at Salt Creek Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested to Salt Creek Baptist Church Building Fund or a charity of choice.

Bollman Funeral Home in Dallas handled arrangements.

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