

OBITUARIES

Ryan Michael Clarence Smith

March 18, 1980 – Oct. 15, 2015
Ryan Michael Clarence Smith, 35, of Salem, died on Oct. 15, 2015, unexpectedly of natural causes while at home in Salem.

Ryan was born in Salem. Ryan was a child of God and will always be remembered for his kind heart and loving spirit. Though his life was short, he left his family and friends with a lifetime of wonderful memories.

Ryan attended Sprague High School in Salem and was attending Chemeketa Community College for engineering at the time of his death. He was awarded the President's Club honor for his academic achievements.

Ryan worked at the Statesman Journal in the distribution center and as an engineer for Stonecreek Furniture in Phoenix, Ariz.

He loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping, crabbing, and snowboarding. Ryan loved animals, especially his beloved dogs Rosa

and Doc.

Ryan is preceded in death by his grandparents, Jack and Betty Crider, of Dallas, and Chuck and Helen Smith, of Salem. His great-grandparents, Tom and Jesse Harwick, of Deer Lodge, Montana and Clair and Peggy Baldwin, of Dallas, and his brother-in-law, Dale Williams, of Salem also died before he did.

Ryan is survived by his parents, Karen Smith-Hudson, of Scottsdale, Ariz, and Mike Smith, of Salem; sisters, Bradi Johnson, of Phoenix, Ariz., and Kelli Smith, of Portland; step-father, Tony Hudson; and extended family.

Celebration of life will be on Saturday at the Dallas City Park in Dallas. His final resting place will be at the Dallas Cemetery next to his grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humane Society of the Willamette Valley in Oregon in Ryan's honor.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

Donald Cox Sr.

May 11, 1952 – July 1, 2016

Donald Cox Sr., 64, of Dallas, died July 1 in the Salem Hospital.

He was born in Portland to Marvin and Romaine Hall Cox. He graduated from Pacific High School in Port Orford. His father was in the Marines, and so the family lived all along the West Coast.

He married Nancy Rose Whalen on Feb. 11, 1972, in Roseburg. They celebrated 44 years together. They lived in Bandon, where Don was a part of the volunteer fire department from 1975 to 1980.

Their family moved to Dallas in 1980.

In 1989, he joined the Polk County Sheriff's Department Reserves. He graduated from the Police Academy in Monmouth in 1996, and was hired full time as a deputy sheriff for Polk County. He was with Polk County for 25 years.

Don Sr. and his son, Don Jr., started the cadet program with the sheriff's office during the time Ray Steele was in office.

Don loved to fish, hunt, and camp, was a Green Bay Packers fan, enjoyed NASCAR racing and followed driver Tony Stewart.

He was a Cub Scout leader, baseball and softball coach with Kids, Inc., in Dallas. Don received two life-saving awards with the sheriff's department while working at the Polk Jail and was named Employee of the Year.

He is survived by wife, Nancy, of Dallas; daughter Terisha Mott, of Beaverton; son Don Cox Jr., of Sheridan; two grandsons; sister, Janice Blanchfield, of Winston; and brothers, Marvin Cox Jr., of Canyonville, and Jerry Cox, of Portland.

Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on July 23 in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

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

John Walter Lekkerkerker

Nov. 10, 1950 – July 6, 2016

John Walter Lekkerkerker,

"Big John," 65, of Monmouth, died on July 6 following an accident on his farm.

He was born to Walt and Nellie Lekkerkerker in Pasadena, Calif.

John and Gloria were married in Paramount, Calif., in 1972. They moved to Enumclaw, Wash., in 1977, where they soon started their own dairy. John and Gloria lived in Enumclaw until 1990, when they moved to their present family farm in Monmouth.

He worked hard every day of his life and had a natural talent of caring for his cows, not just for production — but for his genuine love of animals. He lived his life the way that he wanted others to, with honesty and integrity and humor.

He enjoyed watching his boys play sports and then, as they grew up, watching sports with his boys.

John is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife, "Glor"; five sons; seven grandchildren; two sisters; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walt and Nellie, and older brother Bill.

Celebration of life will be held at the Lekkerkerker Dairy in Monmouth on Saturday at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in loving memory of John Lekkerkerker to any of the three following: Infusion Church, Attn: Scott DeLeeuw, 7707 W. Felicita Ave., Escondido, CA 92025; Santiam Christian Schools, 7220 NE Arnold Ave., Adair Village, OR 97330; or Mario Pastega House, 3505 NW Samaritan Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Arrangements are by Farnstrom Mortuary. Memories and condolences at FarnstromMortuary.com.

Maria De La Luz Gaona

Aug. 31, 1945 – July 5, 2016

Viewing will be Thursday from noon to 5 p.m., followed by funeral service Friday at 1 p.m., both at Farnstrom Mortuary. Memories and condolences at FarnstromMortuary.com.

Donald Richard Cobine

June 2, 1928 – July 7, 2016

Donald (Huff) Cobine, 88, of Independence, died on Thursday.

He was born in Buena Vista to Charles and Willa Cobine.

The Cobine family ancestors arrived in the Willamette Valley in 1898 by steamboat and have been Century Farmers in the area ever since.

Donald attended Independence High School in the 1940s and enlisted with the U.S. Navy in 1944.

As a teenager, he was trained to pilot the Buena Vista Ferry. This nautical experience prepared him for his position as a landing craft specialist in San Diego. He was honorably dis-

charged in 1945 as a World War II veteran. He then joined the U.S. Merchant Marines in 1951 and returned to the Independence area in 1953.

In 1958, Donald married the love of his life, Dalene M. O'Harra.

Donald began his career with hop bundling, logging on the Willamette River, carpentry at Gill Coliseum and finally settled on farming in the Willamette Valley. He was an exceptional farmer raising crops of strawberries, marionberries, raspberries, bush beans, pole beans, wheat and orchards of cherries and Italian prunes.

He farmed for more than 70 years and would still be farming today if he hadn't fallen off of his beloved tractor.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and was a true historian, traveling the United States in his retirement years and documenting local history.

Donald is preceded in death by Melody Cobine Ciotti.

Survivors include wife, Dalene Cobine; children, Daniel Cobine, Cindy Cobine Dale (Rod Killen), Wilona Cobine, Marian Fitts (Robert); and eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial service in his honor will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at Farnstrom Mortuary, with graveside services at Buena Vista Cemetery and a reception to follow at the Buena Vista Community Church. To leave an online tribute: www.FarnstromMortuary.com.

Nina Marie Buce

May 15, 1956 – June 23, 2016

Nina Marie Buce, 60, formerly of Dallas, died on June 23 in Salem.

She was born to Maria Aguilar in Edinburg, Texas. They lived in Alamo, Texas, until moving to Marion in 1962, to Jefferson in 1963, and then to Valsetz in 1967.

Nina was very active in high school, earning letters in track, volleyball and basketball. She was a cheerleader and the Sweetheart's Ball

Queen before graduating in 1974. She loved to throw parties and entertain friends, and she had a wonderful sense of humor, always making people laugh wherever she went.

She married Walter Buce Jr. in 1974.

Nina worked for Boise Cascade in Valsetz as a receptionist before moving to Dallas in 1980. She held various jobs in retail and also worked for Adult and Family Services.

She attended Merrit Davis trade school in 1982 and 1983, to become a medical assistant. Eventually, she decided to be a stay-at-home mom to raise her children and take care of the home.

She enjoyed house projects like painting and making the home warm and inviting. She also enjoyed gardening.

She loved to attend her son's wrestling meets. You would always see her sitting in the stands rooting him on all through middle school, high school and college. She enjoyed family camping trips to Detroit during the summer.

Nina is preceded in death by her mother, Maria Thrift.

Survived by daughter, Rachel Taylor (Ryan), of Salem; son, Jason Buce (Michelle), of West Linn; sister, Carmen Grossnicklaus (Kevin), of Salem; and three grandchildren.

Private family services will be held.

Shirley Mae Klassen

March 11, 1927 – July 3, 2016

Service are currently pending for Shirley Klassen, who died on July 3. Farnstrom Mortuary is handling arrangements.

Melvin B. Lytle

May 15, 1932 - July 8, 2016

Melvin B. Lytle, 84, of Dallas, died on Friday.

He was born in Kalispell, Mont., to Melvin and Ruth Lytle (Rich). Melvin found his way to the area of Dallas, where he would spend the next 60 years of his life.

Melvin spent his time working at the local mill, retiring in 1994 from Willamette Industries. Melvin married

the love of his life, Charlene Tarter, on June 25, 1953.

Brother Kenneth Lytle, sister Ruby Schupert, and granddaughter Tara Kadel died before he did.

Survived by wife, Charlene; daughter, Bev (Don) Teal; sons, Bryan Lytle, Jeff Lytle, and Darren (Tienne) Lytle; brothers, Robert Lytle and Terry Rich; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Viewing will be Friday at 3:30 p.m., with a celebration of life at 4:30 p.m., both at Farnstrom Mortuary.

A potluck reception will follow at Independence Women's Club. Please bring a favorite dish and memory to share.

Farnstrom Mortuary is handling arrangements. To leave an online tribute: FarnstromMortuary.com.

Harriett Marie Guild Wilson

Sept. 8, 1928 – July 1, 2016

Harriett Marie Guild Wilson, 87, of Dallas, died July 1 at her home.

She was born in Independence to Joel Lynn and Lois L. House Guild.

She grew up in Independence, where she graduated from high school.

In 1955, she married Thomas E. Wilson in Stevenson, Wash. They made their home in Dallas.

Harriett worked for the Polk County Assessor's office as a clerk, retiring in August of 1993.

She enjoyed watercolor painting, photography, ceramics and counted-cross stitch needle work.

She is survived by husband, Tom, of Dallas; daughters, Jamie Wall, of Salem, and Tracy Wilson, of Dallas; and one grandson.

Private inurnment will be in the Dallas Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Willamette Valley Humane Society or to Willamette Valley Hospice, in care of the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, 287 SW Washington St., Dallas, OR 97338.

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

Dave Guzman

Dec. 16, 1937 - July 7, 2016

Dave Guzman, 78, of Salem, formerly of Keizer, died on Thursday as a result of complications from a devastating brain disease, progressive supra-nuclear palsy.

He is survived by his four children, Jeffery (Julie) Guzman, of Silverton; Jene' (Derek) Ottele, of Keizer; Brian (Robin) Guzman, of Keizer; and Jolene Guzman of West Salem, as well as 13 grandchildren. Dave is now reunited with his

bride, Judy, who preceded him in death in 2004.

Born in Salem, Dave graduated from Serra Catholic, where he played basketball, ran track and played football. He was voted "Mr. Football."

He graduated from Linfield College, where he played football and ran track. Dave also served in the Oregon National Guard, retiring with a rank of first lieutenant.

He grew up on an onion farm in Lake Labish, near Brooks, and helped his father run the farm throughout childhood and beyond.

Dave's career was in insurance sales, which he did for more than 30 years.

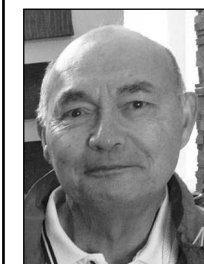
He really poured his life into the many young people he coached in track and field. Known as "Da Guz" by his athletes, at Salem Academy in Salem, then George Fox University in Newberg, and lastly at North Salem High School in Salem. He coached until his disease's symptoms became apparent.

Dave mentored and shaped young lives in a quiet, yet fully engaged way. Many of his "track kids" became lifelong friends.

Although never one to speak of his own accomplishments, he retired as a highly successful sprint and relay coach, coaching many individuals and relay teams to state championships at the high school level. At the college level, he coached numerous athletes to All-American distinction and to a national championship.

Lastly, more than his successes as a coach, Dave excelled as a man of God. He exhibited unwavering faith -- even in times of great sorrow and physical trials -- as a faithful husband, who cared for his wife when she became ill, and as the greatest father a child could ask for. His unconditional love, completely selfless character, and unique humor was rare indeed, and will be missed every day, until we see him again.

A celebration of Dave's life will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Salem Evangelical Church, 455 Locust St NE, Salem. Arrangements are being handled by Keizer Funeral Chapel. To send an online condolence, go to www.keizerchapel.com.



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