

# OBITUARIES

## Shirley Mae Klassen

July 3, 2016



Shirley Mae Klassen, 89, of Retsil, Washington, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 3, 2016, with close family by her side.

Shirley was born in Buffalo, Wyoming, to Miles and Sybil Turner. She was the eldest of three children. Her family moved to Grandview, Washington, when she was in grade school. After high school, she married Donald Klassen. They had three children and eventually settled in Salem, Oregon. Shirley moved to Independence, Oregon, in 1960, with her children and parents and attended The Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) where she received her master's in education, with a minor in special education. She taught elementary school in Monmouth for several years. In 1965, they moved to Enumclaw, Washington, where she taught special education. She and her two sons then moved to Guam in 1970 and she taught elementary school there for five years. While living in Guam, she continued to travel extensively throughout Asia. After a quick stint working in Alaska, Shirley came back to Monmouth, put all her belongings in storage, and with only the name and address of a company that was hiring, booked a flight to Iran. She arrived in 1976 and was promptly hired by Bell Helicopter. Her time in Iran was, as she would often describe, very exciting. She witnessed (and directly experienced) the Iranian revolution and fall of the Shah. She stayed on to help evacuate over 4,200 civilian Americans from Iran, a period that proved harrowing on more than a few occasions. In fact, her departure in 1979 was on the final plane to leave the country before the Iranians took 52 American hostages. She evacuated to Germany and met up Bonnie Agahi, a former roommate from her time in Iran who had evacuated earlier. Unfazed by closely witnessing a dramatic and at times violent revolution, they then traveled to Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia. After a short stopover in Monmouth, she moved to Germany and spent two years working for the Department of Defense. After Germany, she once again settled back in Monmouth and worked for Yamhill County Drug and Alcohol until her retirement. Her love of traveling didn't diminish in her later years, and she visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Egypt, Bali, and China. But even though she had a passion for traveling, Grandma Shirley's greatest joy was when her grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to visit her. In 2007, she met Robert Langager and they were married in March of 2008, at age 81. As Shirley's dementia worsened, in 2009, they moved to the Washington State Veteran's Home in Retsil Washington, and remained happy companions until Bob passed away in 2011. Shirley continued to be well cared for until her death. Shirley was preceded in death by her son, Scott Klassen (2005) and her brother, Ted Turner, just eight days prior to her own passing. Shirley is survived by her daughter, Christy (David) Riddell, Monmouth, Oregon; her son Bruce (Suzy) Klassen, West Linn, Oregon; her sister, Marylou Graff, Seattle, Washington; her sister-in-law Patricia Turner, Bremerton, Washington; her eight grandchildren Laurice Riddell, Independence, Oregon; Anissa Branch, Monmouth, Oregon; Carly Ruhnke, Highland, Kansas; Jessy Pfarrkircher, Berlin, Germany; T.J. Klassen, Sarah Al-Karzoun, Michael Barrera and J.J. Klassen, Seattle, Washington; her 11 great-grandchildren Dylan, Rhiana, Nyah Branch, Monmouth, Oregon; Metta Beshay, Independence, Oregon; Rex and Zeke Ruhnke, Highland Kansas; Noah and Elise Pfarrkircher, Berlin Germany; Christopher and Nicholas Barrera and Noah Al-Karzoun, Seattle, Washington; her "adopted" granddaughters Hilary Olsen, Lake Oswego, Oregon; Tamara Shannon, Oakland, California; her "adopted" great-granddaughters Audrey and Candice Olsen, Lake Oswego, Oregon; Eva Shannon, Oakland, California; and numerous nieces and nephews. The family is very grateful to the Washington State Veteran's Home for the excellent care she received. The staff were all very compassionate and treated our Mother/Grandmother with great dignity. A celebration of Shirley's life was held on September 16, 2016, at Farnstrom Mortuary, 410 Monmouth St, Independence, Oregon, 97351. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to your favorite charity.

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## Geraldine Bernice Peel

May 23, 1939 – Sept. 29, 2016

GERALDINE BERNICE PEEL, 77, passed away Thursday, September 29th in Dallas, Oregon. She was born on May 23, 1939 in Kirkland, Ohio the daughter of Edward and Bernice Simmons Dremann. Geri graduated from Grant Valley High School in Orwell, Ohio in 1957. She married Carl Peel in Orwell, Ohio on June 29, 1957. She spent some time in California while her husband Carl went to seminary school. Geri was a loving mother of 5 children. She moved with Carl to Oregon for work. Geri and Carl were missionaries in Ivory Coast, Africa from 1981 to 1983. Geri worked alongside her husband Carl as a book-



keeper for their carpet business for many years in Salem, Oregon. She really enjoyed knitting, sewing, gardening and most of all spending time with family.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Carl Peel. She is also survived by her brother, Mark Dremann, her children, John Peel, Tim Peel, Andy Peel, Becky Kutz, and Suzie Kolka, as well as 19 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Private services for family will be held. To leave a message or a memory for the family go to www.dallastribute.com. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center is caring for the family.

## Ronda Hipp

Aug. 20, 1956 – Sept. 27, 2016

Services are pending. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center is caring for the family.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Free lessons for future guitarists

DALLAS — A free guitar clinic will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St., in Dallas.

The clinic is for those aged 10 and older. Participants must bring their own guitar. Donations are accepted.

For more information: 503-559-2600.

### Dallas Chamber to host debates

DALLAS — The Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce' Public Policy Committee is holding three election forums this month and is looking for people to submit question for candidates to answer.

Candidate questions are due to the chamber by Monday. They can be submitted

All three forums will be held at the Dallas Civic Center, 945 SE Jefferson St. The two evening forums are free while the luncheon event (Oct. 17) is \$12 and requires an RSVP by Oct. 14.

The first forum is Oct. 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and invited candidates are Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton and his challenger Todd Whitlow; Oregon House District 23 candidates Rep. Mike Nearman and challenger Jim Thompson; U.S. Congressional District 5: Rep. Kurt Schrader and challenger Colm Willis; and Senate District 12 Sen. Brian Boquist and challenger Ross Swartzendruber.

On Oct. 17 the second forum during the chamber's luncheon is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topics will include Measure 97 – Business Tax Increase and Measure 98 – Career Tech 1.

The last forum is Oct. 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and invited are Dallas City Council candidate LaVonne Wilson, Kelly Gabliks, Ken Woods Jr., Paul Trahan, Marsha Heeter, Jennie Rummell, and Terry Crawford.

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## Dallas set to increase water, sewer rates

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas' Utility Rate Committee has made a recommendation to increase water and sewer rates each year until 2019.

Joe Koubek, chairman of the committee, presented the results of its review of current rates and how they compare with operating costs and necessary improvements of the systems at the Dallas City Council's Sept. 19 meeting.

The committee is recommending increasing water rates by 4.31 percent and sewer by 2.75 percent each year until 2019, when the rates will be reviewed again, Koubek said.

That would have the average monthly water bill for residential customers go from the current \$29.98 to \$33.55 in 2019.

Average residential sewer bills would increase from \$41.67 now to \$45.60 in 2019.

The rates were last adjusted following a 2012 study that recommended the city adopt the Portland-area Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a method of figuring an

annual increase to rates to keep up with costs.

Koubek said the 2012 study made assumptions about growth in the community and increase in costs to provide water and sewer services that were off target. Furthermore, the Portland-area CPI, which calculates the increase in cost for goods and services, showed slower growth in costs.

City Manager Ron Foggin said the study estimated an average CPI increase of 3.1 percent. That didn't happen, with the actual growth at 1.9 percent.

"The CPI was actually going down because energy costs were going down," Foggin said. "That didn't necessarily change the cost of construction over that same amount of time."

Koubek added the committee recommends removing the CPI because it wasn't working.

"The operations costs don't track well with that index we talked about," Koubek said. "That's why we were asked to revisit water and sewer rates."

The council made no decision about the recommendation at the meeting.

## Pool: No easy fix to center's money woes

Continued from Page 1A

Locke didn't see adding workout equipment as feasible unless the facility was expanded.

"This facility was not designed for that and the addition of that type of equipment," he said. "It would have to go somewhere, and in order for it to go somewhere right now, without expanding the facility, you have to take up some of the existing rentable space that we rent fairly often."

He didn't think a contract with an outside agency would save money, either, based on his research.

"It's simply not cost effective without some sort of subsidy," he said. "We are probably going to pay more to do that, and we are not going to have as much control in the operations."

On the expenditure side, Locke didn't find much room for savings given the increasing employee and maintenance costs.

Visits to the facility have increased in recent years, meaning even more employees are required for the pool to operate safely.

"Those costs are going to keep increasing as the minimum wage increases and as we have to staff the facility in order to accommodate all the different user groups and activities and lessons," Locke said. "It's great to be busier, but the flipside of that is you have increased pressure in your personnel costs."

He added a loan used to pay for energy efficiency upgrades will be paid off next year, reducing costs by \$50,000.

Locke did find a way to increase revenue by increasing admission costs and annual memberships by 10 to 20 percent, which could net the facility \$40,000.

Options that would eliminate the subsidy, such as an operating levy or forming a recreation district, need more research before the city committee could accept or reject them in a recommendation to the Dallas City Council, said committee chairwoman Kelly Gabliks.

A recreation district would require voter approval and would create a permanent tax rate. A voter-approved operating levy would provide temporary property tax revenue to the facility.

"Anything that we take to council, I want to make sure that we can explain why we think this is the best way to go," Gabliks said. "I would ultimately like to be able to provide the council a list of everything that we considered and why we ultimately rejected (some options)."

The committee asked Locke to do more research on a levy and district, and bring a report back at a future meeting.

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The *Itemizer-Observer* has changed its Obituary policy. Obituaries now cost \$8 per column inch (25 words). Death notices are run free of charge.

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.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to ionews@polkio.com.

For more information: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373, ext. 117.