

OBITUARIES



DAVID K. GRAY
SOUTHWEST HARBOR - David Kay Gray, 43, died March 6, 2016 in Southwest Harbor. He was born November 9, 1972 in Ellsworth, the son of Jack and Doreen Gray.

He graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1991 and received his B.S. in physical education from the University of Maine in Orono.

David was first employed as a physical education teacher at a variety of schools, working for 6 years in education. He then went to work for Jack Scott at Scott's Lawn Service, before pursuing his passion of owning Gray's Lawn and Yard Care.

David married Jennifer "Jenn" Gott in 2003 and they had three children. His family was a very important part of his life and he was a devoted husband and father. David enjoyed playing sports including, men's softball, basketball and golf. He enjoyed coaching the MDI High School freshman basketball team. He coached at the Junior High level and a variety of Acadian Youth Sports teams. One of David's coaching highlights was coaching his daughters AAU Basketball team this past spring at The ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida.

Besides his wife, Jenn, David is survived by two daughters, Olivia and Mollie Gray; a son, Lincoln Gray; his parents, Jack and Doreen of Ellsworth; a brother, Ronnie Gray of Gorham; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Tim and Beth Gott of Tremont; his dogs, Gunner and Linus; and many other special family and friends.

A celebration of David's life will be held, 2:00-5:00PM, Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Tim and Beth Gott's home, 87 Trophy Way, Tremont. A private spring interment will be at Mt. Height Cemetery, Southwest Harbor.

Those who desire may make contributions in David's memory to the Acadian Youth Sports, PO Box 656, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Arrangements by Jordan-Fernald, 1139 Main St., Mt. Desert. Condolences may be expressed at www.jordanfernalld.com



ANNA BELLE STALEY
BANGOR - To our family and friends, our Mom, Anna Belle Staley, passed away March 4, 2016 at the age of 87. Life this past year or so has been a long journey for her. We know she is at peace to be reunited with our dad, Bill. They truly loved each other!

Anna is survived by her three daughters, Allison Martin of Tiverton, RI, Kathleen Price of Bangor ME, and Bernadette McCune of Mount Pleasant, SC; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; five nieces; and one nephew.

We are especially grateful to the staff of Bangor Nursing and Rehab for the loving care she received every day, and to St. Joseph Hospice for their support during the final weeks of her life.

There will be a private graveside service at the Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com



ROBERT ANTHONY FRENCH
PRESQUE ISLE - Robert Anthony French died unexpectedly on March 5, 2016 at the age of 40. Rob was born on July 31, 1975 in Fayetteville NC.

He graduated from Washburn High School in 1994. Rob had a great deal of friends who were all extended family. Special friends Therron Nichols, Shawn Nichols, James Canales, Terry Grant, and Bill Offria. He enjoyed kayaking, woods rides and heavy metal music. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

Rob is survived by his mother, Brenda Madden French; his daughter, Keegan French; his fiancé, Rachael McDivitt and step-daughter Kaylee McDivitt; his ex-wife, Lucinda French; his grandmother Carla Madden; grandparents Rino and Joan Devost.

He was predeceased by his father, George French; his grandfather Fremont Madden; his brother Ronnie Dow; his sister Nicky French.

Friends may call from 1 pm to 2:30 pm, Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Duncan Graves Funeral Home, 30 Church Street, Presque Isle where a celebration of life will begin at 2:30 pm with Pastor George McLaughlin, officiating. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.duncan-graves.com.



RAYMOND E. MILLER, JR.
DEXTER - Raymond E. Miller, Jr., 73, passed away Monday, March 07, 2016 at his home. He was born September 25, 1941 in Danbury, CT to Raymond and Eva (Johnson) Miller, and grew up in Newtown, CT.

Ray married Karen Frederickson of Newtown, CT on August 25, 1962. They had 6 children and moved to Dexter, ME in 1973. Ray loved spending time telling his hunting and fishing experiences and teaching his children and great grandchildren about sports, outdoors and life in general. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved spending time at camp on the south branch of the Penobscot River on Canada Falls Lake in Hammond Township, Maine. He loved the New York Yankees, golf and being a fishing guide in Labrador for many years.

In addition to his wife of 54 years, Ray is survived by his children, Donna McDaniel and Denise LeBlanc of Skowhegan, Raymond Miller of Union, Debbie White of Corinna, Robert Miller of Dexter, Ryan Miller of Garland, and their extended families; 15 grandchildren, Emily, Amy and Stephen McDaniel, Jared and Gretchen Miller, Joshua, Danielle, Michael and Christopher White, Brayden Miller, Logan, Lauren and Laney LeBlanc, Kayden and Maddox Miller; 7 great grandchildren, Carter, Colbey, Carson and Cade Mitchell, Jaxson Sterry, Drake Henderson and Kaleb White. Ray is also survived by his brother, Arnold Miller of Dexter, sisters Janet Milhourn of Guilford and Darlene Dami of Dexter. He was predeceased by his parents and sister Gail Scott.

A celebration of life will be held from 1 to 4 P.M. Saturday, March 12th, at the Dexter Fire Department. Cremation arrangements are by Crosby & Neal, Dexter. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dexter Firefighters Association, 148 Ellms Road, Ripley, ME 04930. Those who wish may leave written condolences at www.CrosbyNeal.com

Novelist Pat Conroy dies at 70

Author of ‘The Great Santini’, ‘Prince of Tides’ succumbs to cancer

BY BILL TROTT
REUTERS

Pat Conroy, who turned tales of his painfully dysfunctional family into best-selling novels such as “The Great Santini” and “The Prince of Tides,” died Friday at the age of 70, his publishing company said.

Conroy, who had announced in a Feb. 15 Facebook post that he had pancreatic cancer, died at his home in Beaufort, South Carolina, surrounded by family and loved ones, according to Todd Doughty, a spokesman for Doubleday.

“The water is wide and he has now passed over,” his wife, novelist Cassandra King Conroy, said.

Much of Conroy’s work was inspired by a dark muse — his father, U.S. Marine Col. Donald Conroy. The elder Conroy was a fighter pilot who fought in four wars — World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the long-running conflict with his family. He was a tyrant who beat his wife and children.

“I remember hating him even when I was in diapers,” Conroy wrote in the prolog of “The Death of Santini,” the memoir that put to rest his feelings about his father, as well as serving as a postscript to the novel “The Great Santini.”

Hollywood loved the emo-

tional aspects of Conroy’s works, and “The Water Is Wide,” “The Prince of Tides” and “Lords of Discipline,” as well as “The Great Santini” were made into successful movies.

Conroy once told People magazine his books were an effort to explain his life to himself, which was a complicated undertaking.

He was one of seven children in a family that, because of his father’s military assignments, moved 23 times before he was 18.

Conroy’s mother did not know how to deal with his father much beyond designating hiding places for the children to run to when a rampage started. As the oldest child, Conroy often tried to intervene when trouble started, which meant he would took the brunt of his father’s cruelty.

Later in life, as he exposed the ugly side of his family in his books, Conroy became estranged from some siblings, who he said were in denial about the early days. Some family members were so upset by “The Great Santini” that they picketed his book-signing appearances.

In “Why We Write About Ourselves,” a book about memoirists, Conroy said he actually played down his father’s abuse in his books.

“I wasn’t yet prepared to say he beat us half to death

and left us in the driveway,” he said. “I had trouble getting people to believe me.”

The two reached something of a reconciliation before the elder Conroy died in 1998 and the father would sometimes attend book-signings with his son and autograph books as “The Great Santini.”

Despite his literary success, Conroy would struggle through alcoholism, depression and two failed marriages. Like four of his siblings, he attempted suicide.

“My family is my portion of hell, my eternal flame, my fate, and my time on the cross,” Conroy wrote in “Death of Santini.”

Conroy was a teenager when his father was assigned to a military base in Beaufort, South Carolina, and the state would become the setting for many of his books, as well as his long-time home.

“It was in Beaufort in sight of a river’s sinuous turn and the movements of its dolphin-proud tides that I began to discover myself and where my life began at 15,” he wrote on Facebook in announcing his cancer.

Conroy graduated from The Citadel, a military college in South Carolina he attended to appease his father, and his novel “The Lords of Discipline” explored the physical and mental abuse heaped on students there. “My Losing

Season” was a memoir about his experiences on the school’s basketball team.

Instead of a military career, Conroy became a teacher on isolated, impoverished Daufuskie Island, where many of his students were illiterate and direct descendants of slaves. He was fired after a year because of his maverick approach to teaching and fights with administrators but came away with material for “The Water Is Wide,” which was made into the movie “Conrack.”

The 1986 novel “Prince of Tides” also bore resemblances to Conroy’s life — a man trying to overcome the psychic trauma from life in a troubled family. The movie version starred Nick Nolte and Barbra Streisand.

Conroy cleaned up his lifestyle in his mid-60s after dealing with diabetes, escalating weight, high blood pressure and a failing liver. He lost weight, quit drinking, began eating healthily and joined his personal trainer in opening a fitness studio in Port Royal, South Carolina.

“He will be cherished as one of America’s favorite and best-selling writers, and I will miss him terribly,” his longtime editor Nan A. Talese of Doubleday said in a statement.

Conroy was married three times.

Cornell leader Garrett dies at 52

BY NICK ANDERSON
WASHINGTON POST

Cornell University President Elizabeth Garrett, the first woman to lead the Ivy League school in upstate New York, died Sunday of cancer less than a year after starting in the position, the university announced. She was 52.

Garrett had been undergoing treatment for colon cancer. She disclosed the diagnosis to the campus community on February 8.

“There are few words to express the enormity of this loss,” Robert S. Harrison, chairman of Cornell’s board of trustees, said in a statement Monday. “Beth was simply a remarkable human being — a vibrant and passionate leader who devoted her life to the pursuit of knowledge and public service and had a profound, positive impact on the many lives that she touched.”

Garrett came to Cornell after serving as provost at

the University of Southern California. Cornell’s 13th president, she was one of four women at the helm of

Garrett was Cornell’s 13th president, she was one of four women at the helm of the eight Ivy League schools.

the eight Ivy League schools. The other three are Christina Paxson of Brown University (who took office in 2012), Drew Gilpin Faust of Harvard University (2007) and Amy Gutmann of the University of Pennsylvania (2004).

Michael Kotlikoff, who had been Cornell’s provost, was named acting president of the 21,000-student university in Ithaca last month as Garrett was being treated for her illness.

Garrett also was a trailblazer at USC as the first fe-

male provost at the private university in Los Angeles.

“There are more of us in the pipeline to take on these jobs as leaders,” Garrett told The Washington Post in January 2015. In that interview, Garrett recalled that when she was in law school at the University of Virginia in the 1980s, she had to make a point of hunting for a class taught by a female professor. Now, she said, there are far more women on the law faculty at Virginia and elsewhere. Women also are making progress, at various rates, in other disciplines.

“It certainly is not a battle that has been won,” Garrett told The Post. “But it is a battle that we’re winning.”

Garrett was named to the Cornell presidency in September 2014 and took over in July 2015, succeeding David Skorton, who is now secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. She was a legal scholar and expert on presidential politics, tax policy and the legislative process.

She clerked for the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Harrison, in his statement, called Garrett “the quintessential Cornellian.”

“From the moment I met her during the presidential search, it was clear to me that she had the intellect, energy and vision not only to lead Cornell, but to be one of the greatest presidents in our 150-year history,” Harrison said. “While Beth’s tenure as president has tragically been cut short, her efforts over the last eight months have set the university on a path toward continued excellence. She will leave a lasting legacy on our beloved institution and will be terribly missed.”

Cornell said Garrett was the university’s first president to die in office.

Garrett is survived by her husband, Andrei Marmor, a professor of philosophy and law at Cornell, and two stepdaughters.

Ray Tomlinson, who saved the ‘@’ symbol, dies at 74

ABBY OHLHEISER
WASHINGTON POST

Nobody seems to know for sure exactly where (or when) the “@” symbol was born, or why the visually pleasing symbol spent most of its days in obscurity. But now, thanks to its role in Internet communications, the @ is everywhere. Its savior was Ray Tomlinson, widely credited with inventing the modern email, who died this weekend at age 74, his employer said on Sunday.

In 1971, Tomlinson was developing a messaging system for an early ancestor of the modern Internet called ARPAnet. There was one problem that gave him particular trouble, he told Smithsonian in 2012: how to separate out the name of the message recipient from the name of their computer. He needed some sort of symbol, but it couldn’t be a popular one, or one that computers might know in a different context. It also needed to be present on keyboards at the time. @ was there, and pretty much no one used it. It was perfect.

“I was mostly looking for a symbol that wasn’t used much,” he said in the Smithsonian interview, “And there weren’t a lot of options – an

exclamation point or a comma. I could have used an equal sign, but that wouldn’t have made much sense.”

“The ‘@’ sign made the most sense,” he told Wired that same year. “It denoted where the user was . . . at. Excuse my English.”

Tomlinson was among the first class of people inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame in 2012, by which time the @ had leapt beyond the familiar email usage and into social media (see: Twitter), and colloquial conversation.

“It has truly become a way of expressing society’s changing technological and social relationships, expressing new forms of behavior and interaction in a new world,” The Museum of Modern Art wrote in 2010, when it announced that it had acquired the symbol for its Architecture and Design collection.

MoMA’s research indicates that @ could date back as far as the seventh century, as a way of writing the Latin word ad in one swipe. “ad” means “at” or “toward,” which means that if this is actually the @’s origins, then @ has always carried a similar meaning to its current, popular use. Another similar theory, as Wired noted, is that @ was a shorthand for à

in Italian, which can also mean “at.”

Why would one need this shorthand? Well, the theory goes, it could have been the innovation of some early monk, looking for shortcuts while transcribing the Holy Scriptures by hand.

In any case, the earliest recorded usage of @ comes from Venetian traders in the 16th century, who used it to refer to an amphora, or a jar that could carry grains or liquids and was considered a unit of measurement. A 1536 letter from the merchant Francesco Lapi contained the sentence, “There, an amphora of wine, which is one thirtieth of a barrel, is worth 70 or 80 ducats,” where “amphora” was written as “@,” an Italian scholar explained to the Guardian in 2000.

By the late 19th century, @ had become “the commercial ‘A,’” as the following entry from the 1884 “American Dictionary of Printing & Book-making” indicates:

The mark, retaining almost exclusively an accounting or transactional meaning, was standard on typewriter keyboards in reference to this usage, and was still present on the Model KSR 33 Teletype that Tomlinson was using when he gave @ a new lease on life.

Environmental photographer dies in Australia

REUTERS

SYDNEY — Award-winning American environmental photographer Gary Braasch died on Monday while snorkeling at the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef.

Braasch, 70, from Portland, Oregon, was snorkeling with a companion at the Australian Museum’s Lizard Island Research Station, the museum said in a statement. He was documenting the effect of climate change on the reef.

The cause of death was not immediately clear. Queensland police had been notified and were investigating, the museum added.

A Nikon “Legend Behind the Lens” photographer, Braasch was an active climate change campaigner and had received many major awards and citations for his work.

The Great Barrier Reef, a World Heritage Site, is the world’s largest living ecosystem, with thousands of multi-colored coral reefs stretching over 2,000 km (1,200 miles) off the northeast coast of Australia.

Parts of the reef face permanent destruction if the current El Nino, one of the strongest weather patterns in two decades, does not ease this month, scientists say.

Obituary Department

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