

OBITUARIES

Forrest William Harding**Imbler****March 3, 1941 — April 1, 2017**

Forrest William Harding, of Imbler, Oregon, and many years in Elsie, Oregon (aka Bill to his family, and Weasel to his friends) left this earth on April 1, 2017, after 76 years of living life to its fullest on his own terms.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017, at the Elsie Cemetery on U.S. Highway 26 at 1 p.m., officiated by Brian McKelvey.

Forrest was born on March 3, 1941, to Forrest E. Harding and Ruth (Gagnon) Harding in Astoria, Oregon. He graduated from Seaside, Oregon, in 1959 and joined the U.S. Army in July 1959 until January 1963.

Forrest married Carolyn Mae Rackley in 1962, and had two sons, James and Scoot. He married his wife of 45 years, Joan Thomes, on Dec. 3, 1975.

Forrest was a logger his whole life, starting with Crown Zellerbach in the 1960s. But it wasn't until 2010 that he fulfilled a dream

of seeing the redwoods, those beautiful big trees. He also was a fisherman several times in Alaska, when he decided to find a "safer" job than logging.

**Forrest Harding**

He was a lover of hunting, motorcycles (in his younger days), fishing, gardening, shooting, growing roses and listening to good music.

His surviving family include his friend and partner for life, Joan Harding; four children, James Harding, Scott Harding, Jessica Harding Bogard and April Harding Scurr; his brother, Gary Harding; 11 grandchildren, Rachael, Stephanie, Mekenzi, Austin, Stephen, William, Michelle, Brandon, Finnegan, Imre and Annabelle; three great-grandchildren; and eight nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Forrest and Ruth; and brother in spirit, if not in blood, Bruce Thomes.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com

Doug Heiner**Ocean Park, Washington****Oct. 19, 1941 — April 1, 2017**

Doug Heiner, age 75, of Ocean Park, Washington, went on his final drift with the Lord on Saturday, April 1, 2017, and is no longer in pain.

Doug is preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Bernice Heiner, and his sister, Kathy Zilmer, all of Altoona, Washington.

Survivors include his sons, Scott Heiner of Montesano, Washington, Dale Heiner of Cathlamet, Washington, Doug Heiner of Naselle, Washington, Dave Heiner of Aromas, California, Will Heiner serving in the Army at Tomah, Wisconsin, and Rick Heiner of Pasco,

**Doug Heiner**

Washington. He is also survived by two nieces, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Doug graduated from Naselle High School in 1960, and served four years in the U.S. Navy. He was a logger and gillnetter throughout his working years, and was a loving father and loyal friend to many.

Doug did not want a memorial service, so anyone wishing to get closure in his passing, just look upon the mighty Columbia River, where he spent his life, and reflect on your times together.

Kaisa K. Saari**Naselle, Washington****May 29, 1938 — March 24, 2017**

Kaisa K. Saari, a Naselle resident, 78, died March 24, 2017, in Portland, Oregon. She was born in Kuopio, Finland, on May 29, 1938, to Tauno and Rauha (Miettinen) Kankkunen. The

oldest of five children, she spent her early life in Finland, growing up in Kuopio, and later, Jyväskylä. After graduating from high school, Kaisa fed her interest in language by traveling to the U.S., where she intended to learn English, and return to Finland as an English teacher. Instead, she met Wilho Saari, whom she married in June 1957, a few months after their first introduction.

Wilho and Kaisa settled first in Seattle, where Wilho was finishing his student teaching. Shortly after, they moved to North River, Washington, where Wilho taught for two years, and where they welcomed their first child, son Riki, in 1959. The following year, the family moved back to Seattle, so Kaisa could attend Seattle Pacific University.

During her four years of study, Kaisa received her bachelor's degree in Spanish, and had her second child, daughter Karen, in 1962. She immediately went on to obtain her master's degree in Spanish from the University of Washington.

In 1965, the Saaris accepted teaching positions at a mission school in Liberia, West Africa, where they lived until 1969. Upon finishing their African adventure, the young family moved to Wilho's hometown of Naselle, Washington, which they made their permanent residence. Until her retirement from Naselle High School in 1995, Kaisa was a well-loved, fun-spirited foreign language teacher of Spanish, German and Finnish.

Kaisa was a consistent presence in the Naselle community. She and Wilho could always be spotted in the crowd at school sporting events and performances. They seemed to serve as unofficial community grandparents, with residents of all ages referring to them as

"Mummi" and "Ukki" — the Finnish terms for "grandma" and "grandpa" used by the couple's six grandchildren.

She loved music, and lent her voice to several community choirs. She was also a devoted member of the Naselle Assembly of God Church, where she could always be found sitting in her same spot: in the front, off to the side. Her faith was her greatest passion and solace, and fueled every decision she made.

Though her earlier years were filled with travel and adventure, Kaisa's later life was, as she said, "gentle." She enjoyed racing Wilho in daily crossword and Sudoku puzzles; she usually won. She spent many hours a day knitting — she never used a pattern, and hardly even needed to look down, but always produced works of art that were gifted to family members and community members alike.

She invested deeply and quietly in the lives of the people she loved. When retirement spurred a new musical career for Wilho, she traveled alongside him as his "roadie." She personally and prayerfully rooted her grandchildren on in each venture. She welcomed visitors warmly, treated all graciously, and is remembered, especially, for the sincerely kind smile that always accompanied any greeting.

Kaisa was preceded in death by her brother, Kauko Kankkunen, and sister, Kerttu Gustavson. She is survived by Wilho Saari, her beloved husband of 59 years; two children and their spouses, Riki Saari and his wife, Jill, and Karen Nelson and her husband, Greg; six grandchildren, Kyle, Kirsten and Kenny Saari and Kelsi, Karli and Kayti Nelson; her sister and brother, Kirsti Mustonen and Kari Kankkunen of Finland; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held Saturday, April 8, at 1 p.m. at Naselle Assembly of God.

Arrangements are being provided by Penttilä's Chapel By the Sea, and her guest book is available at www.penttilaschapel.com

**Kaisa Saari**

Astoria assault suspect jumps into Columbia

Birrell ran from police officersBy JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police's pursuit of an assault suspect Wednesday night ended in the Columbia River.

Police attempted to arrest Ian Travis Birrell, 35, of Astoria, for an alleged assault at on the 100 Block of Flavel Street early Wednesday morning. Birrell had fled prior to officers' arrival, and a woman was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Police were notified just before 7 p.m. that Birrell would be meeting someone on Bond Street between Second and Third streets. But when officers arrived and attempted to arrest Birrell, he ran toward the river and then west on the Astoria Riverwalk.

He then leaped into the river when an officer attempted to cut him off. Soon after, Columbia River Pilots pulled Birrell from the water and returned him to shore. He was then treated at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

After his release from the hospital, Birrell was arrested



Elizabeth Hayes/Submitted Photo

An Astoria man wanted for assault fled police and jumped into the Columbia River Wednesday.

for fourth-degree assault, escape and second-degree strangulation, third-degree disorderly conduct.

Opponents of short-term rental rules fault Gearhart

Claim city clouded their ballot proposalBy R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — City officials misrepresented the meaning of a ballot proposal to repeal and replace Gearhart's vacation rental dwelling ordinance, an initiative organizer said Wednesday.

Gearhart vacation homeowner Jim Whittemore said the city's ballot title summary was prepared without input or review by those who wrote it and does not reflect the purpose and intent of the initiative petition, a response to short-term rental rules enacted last fall.

The petition was authored by a large committee of Gearhart property owners, including the three sponsors, Sarah Nebeker and Joy and Brian Sigler, Whittemore said.

According to the document submitted to the city, the initiative's purpose and intent "is to assure that the interests of vacation homeowners and permanent residents remain in a sustainable balance that is good for the community, that every property owner's rights are fairly protected and that no property owner is economically

harmled by excessive rules and regulations."

The 2 1/2-page petition offered 15 rules for short-term vacation rentals, including owner contact details, transferability, occupancy and health and safety details, among others.

The city's summary of the document was issued in a city blog post. The full initiative petition was not posted.

"The city misrepresented (what) was the essence of our initiative petition," Whittemore said. "The summary was written by (Gearhart City Attorney) Peter Watts and clearly seeks to misguide and misinform the public."

Watts did not respond to a request for comment.

Discrepancies between the summary and the document can be found in details throughout, Whittemore said.

According to the city's

summary, the proposed initiative would "eliminate off-street parking, residential appearance and garbage service requirements."

"We are not eliminating parking, appearance or garbage service requirements," Whittemore said.

Other areas of difference run throughout the summary, he said, including inspection issues, permit caps and a proposed public vote on future vacation rental ordinances.

"There is an obvious appeal procedure that (the) group may take if they feel this is not accurate," City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

This includes an opportunity to appeal the draft ballot summary within seven days.

"We will challenge and our attorneys are preparing that challenge now," Whittemore said.

**Peter Watts****Jim Whittemore**

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Dentist hit with environmental fine

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The state Department of Environmental Quality has issued a \$12,078 civil penalty to Dr. Roman Alexandroff for failing to implement an erosion and

sediment control plan at the construction site for Alexandroff Dentistry. Alexandroff's stormwater discharge permit requires a plan at the Ensign Lane site.

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