

**OBITUARIES**

**Eila Anna-Liisa Rahkola**

**Astoria**

**Dec. 27, 1934 — July 21, 2019**

Eila Anna-Liisa Rahkola, 84, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2019, of complications from Parkinson's disease.

She was born Dec. 27, 1934, to Anna Vilhemiina Piukkala in Pyhajoki, Finland. She graduated from high school and continued in home economic school, where she would learn skills that served her family all their lives.

Eila married Antti Rahkola in a beautiful outdoor wedding on June 20, 1954, in Kalajoki, Finland. The young couple saw opportunity in the U.S., where relatives lived in Esko, Minnesota. They moved there in 1958 with two little children, and one on the way.

As the family grew, Eila used her many skills to care for her household. She sewed, knitted, cooked everything from scratch and was an exceptional baker. A decision to move to Astoria came after a visit to see relatives. Eila and Antti packed their belongings, five children and Mummo, Eila's mother, to arrive Astoria in July 1969.

The beautiful surroundings, good fishing and Finnish community made Astoria the perfect place to raise a family. So perfect, cousins from Finland arrived in 1971. The Vedenojas lived with the Rahkola family, 18 people, for six months.

After the children were grown, Eila worked in the kitchen at the high school, her first job outside her home. She retired along

with her husband to do some traveling.

Eila was a member of Peace Lutheran Church and the Finnish Brotherhood. Her greatest joy was welcoming new babies into the family; she had a special gift for calming them. She was loved by many, and will be missed.

Eila was preceded in death by her husband, Antti, and her son, Thomas Allan, and granddaughter, Grace.

She is survived by her children, Anne (Rick) Stickel, Marjo Dunagan, Anita (Jyrki) Talus, Karin (Bob) Blair, Allan Rahkola and Tina (Tom) Lips; grandchildren, Griffin, Johanna, Stan, Raija, Pete, Anna, Max, Edie, Mackenzie, Maggie, Lillie, Victoria, Ryan and Evan; great-grandchildren, Ashley, Brock, Henri, Eila, Brooklyn, Greta, Iris and Zoey; and one great-great-granddaughter, Rilee.

A special thank you to the Astor Place and all staff members there for the great care they gave our mother.

A private graveside service will be held. The family invites anyone who knew Eila to join us at Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St., Astoria, Oregon, for a reception on Saturday, July 27, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Donations can be made in Eila's memory to Peace Lutheran Church.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign the online guest book at [caldwellsmortuary.com](http://caldwellsmortuary.com)



**Eila Rahkola**

**Raymond Alfie Freel**

**Astoria**

**May 26, 1954 — July 21, 2019**

Raymond Alfie Freel, 65, of Astoria, Oregon, passed away peacefully at home on July 21, 2019, surrounded by his wife, Mary, his brother, Rodger, and his two dogs, Lincoln and Logan.

Ray was born in Coos Bay, Oregon, to A.V. "Bud" and Clariana "Connie" Freel. He spent the early part of his life in Charleston, Oregon, then moved to the Warrenton area in 1965. He graduated from Warrenton High School in 1972.

Ray married the love of his life, Mary Mullins, in 1973, then moved to Astoria in 1975, where he lived until his death. He loved taking his dogs pheasant hunting in Eastern Oregon each year, and sitting in the pasture where he would feed his two miniature horses apples.

Ray began his towboat career with Umpqua River Navigation in 1972, then Knappton Towboat Co., now known as Foss Maritime, in 1974, where he worked until 2013. In May 2018, he retired from Dunlap Towing of Everett, Washington. Ray ran tugs from the Arctic Circle to Mexico, and on the East Coast. During those years he passed on his vast knowledge to many new mariners.

Ray loved working with wood and metal

in his shop, and working on his 1959 GMC pickup.

Ray is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary, of Astoria; his twin brother, Rodger (Janette) Freel, of Montesano, Washington; sister Trinda (Dan) Bogh, of Warrenton, Oregon; his hunting partner and cousin, Jerry (Brigitte) Hampel and cousin Jack (DeeDee) Hampel, all of Coos Bay, Oregon; his brother-in-law, Bob (Sherry) Mullins, and sisters-in-law, Alice Wilson and Linda (Doug) Flesey, all of Astoria; numerous nephews, nieces and cousins; his beloved hunting companions, his dogs, Lincoln and Logan, and his two miniature horses, Wannabe and Beemer; and many friends from his life working on tugboats.

A special thanks to Lower Columbia Hospice and the wonderful nurses for the care they provided, and the concern they showed during the last month of his life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the charity of one's choice.

A celebration of life will be determined at a later date.

Caldwells Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at [caldwellsmortuary.com](http://caldwellsmortuary.com)



**Raymond Freel**

**Raymond Cecil Strobel**

**Warrenton**

**May 30, 1930 — July 21, 2019**

Raymond Cecil "Ray" Strobel was born in Hatton, Saskatchewan, Canada, to Marie and John Strobel. He moved to the U.S. as a young boy, and grew up in the Astoria area.

He enlisted in the Army in 1951, served in Korea, and was honorably discharged in 1956.

Ray married Carolyn Wiley on Dec. 5, 1970. Together they raised three children in Warrenton. He worked for the American Can Co. until his retirement, when the company closed down. He went into long-haul trucking, and as the owner/operator he would take Carol along, and they traveled the U.S. together.

He loved to fish and hunt, and he devoted himself to Clatsop Post 12 American Legion in Astoria until his death.

Ray is survived by three children, Ron (Karla) Fortelney, Joanne (Butch) Johnson and Brenda Marugg; seven grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Carolyn; and his sister, Alice Schmitz.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2019, at 1 p.m., at Clatsop Post 12 American Legion in Astoria, Oregon.

Please visit [hughes-ransom.com](http://hughes-ransom.com) to sign the online guest book.



**Senators offer compromise to reduce prescription drug costs**

**Wyden, colleague say bill would limit copays**

**By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Two veteran senators — a Republican and a Democrat — unveiled compromise legislation Tuesday to reduce prescription drug costs for millions of Medicare recipients, while saving money for federal and state health care programs serving seniors and low-income people.

Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley and Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden said the bill would for the first time limit drug copays for people with Medicare's "Part D" prescription plan, by capping patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$3,100 a year starting in 2022. They're hoping to have it ready soon for votes on the Senate floor.

The legislation would also require drugmakers to pay a price-hike penalty to Medicare if the cost of their medications goes up faster than inflation. Drugs purchased through a pharmacy as well as those administered in doctors' offices would be covered by the new inflation rebates.

Political compromises over health care are rare these days. The bill reflects efforts by lawmakers of both parties to move beyond the rancorous debates over the Obama-era Affordable Care Act and focus on ways to lower costs for people with health insurance. Separate legislation to address "surprise medical bills" has already cleared the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee.

The senators said preliminary estimates from the Congressional Budget Office show that the Medicare program would save \$85 billion over 10 years, while seniors would save \$27 billion in out-of-pocket costs over the same period, and \$5 billion from slightly lower premiums. The government would save \$15 billion from projected Medicaid costs.

CBO also projected that Medicare's inflation rebate would have ripple effects, leading to prescription drug savings for private insurance plans sponsored by employers or purchased directly by consumers.

The senators announced a Thursday vote on the package by the Finance Committee, which oversees Medicare and Medicaid. Grassley is the panel's chairman, while Wyden serves as the senior Democrat.

"Pharmaceutical companies play a vital role in creating new and innovative medicines that save and improve the quality of millions of American lives, but that doesn't help Americans who can't afford them," Grassley and Wyden said in a joint

statement. "This legislation shows that no industry is above accountability."

The White House encouraged the Senate negotiations, and spokesman Judd Deere said the Trump administration stands ready to "work with senators to ensure this proposal moves forward and advances the president's priority of lowering drug prices."

Democrats controlling the House want to go further by granting Medicare legal authority to directly negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies. Direct negotiations are seen as a nonstarter in the Republican-controlled Senate, but the bill's drug price inflation penalty may yet find support among Democrats in the House.

Grassley's office said the bill will force drugmakers and insurers to take greater responsibility for keeping Medicare prescription prices in line, instead of foisting increases on taxpayers and beneficiaries.

The lack of a cap on out-of-pocket costs for Medicare's popular prescription benefit has left some beneficiaries with bills rivaling a mortgage payment. That's because with Medicare's current protection for catastrophic costs, patients taking very expensive drugs are still responsible for 5% of the cost, with no dollar limit on what they pay. For example, 5% of a drug that costs \$200,000 a year works out to \$10,000.

The Grassley-Wyden bill does not directly address the problem of high launch prices for new medications, but its inflation rebates could put the brakes on price hikes for mainstay drugs such as insulin.

The bill drew a rebuke from the pharmaceutical industry, while AARP praised Grassley and Wyden.

Other provisions of the legislation would:

- Change an arcane Medicaid payment formula through which drugmakers can avoid paying rebates on certain drugs, depending on fluctuations in prices.
- Allow state Medicaid programs to pay for expensive gene therapy treatments on the installment plan, spreading out the costs over several years.
- Require drugmakers to provide public justification for new high cost drugs or steep hikes in the prices of existing medications.
- Require middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers to disclose details of the discounts they are negotiating and how much they are passing on to consumers. The benefit managers negotiate with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of insurers and consumers.
- Provide doctors with new computer tools they can use to estimate out-of-pocket medication costs for patients with Medicare.

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**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>73 55</b> Sunny and pleasant	<b>71 60</b> Partly sunny and nice	<b>71 57</b> Clearing	<b>70 58</b> Mostly sunny and nice	<b>69 57</b> Clouds and sunshine	<b>70 57</b> Abundant sunshine	<b>69 57</b> Mostly sunny

**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Tuesday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 67/55  
Normal high/low ..... 68/54  
Record high ..... 91 in 1924  
Record low ..... 44 in 1977

**Precipitation**

Tuesday to ..... 0.02"  
Month to date ..... 1.53"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.83"  
Year to date ..... 24.40"  
Normal year to date ..... 36.74"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

**UNDER THE SKY**

**Tonight's Sky:** Moon at last quarter (6:18 p.m.)

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today ..... 5:49 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 8:55 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 12:47 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 2:33 p.m.

Last New First Full  
July 24 July 31 Aug 7 Aug 15

**TODAY'S TIDES**

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
7:57 a.m.	5.1	2:06 a.m.	1.7	
8:00 p.m.	7.1	1:35 p.m.	2.0	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
7:23 a.m.	4.7	1:28 a.m.	1.7	
7:51 p.m.	6.7	1:00 p.m.	2.0	
<b>Hammond</b>				
7:43 a.m.	5.3	1:46 a.m.	1.9	
7:59 p.m.	7.3	1:18 p.m.	2.1	
<b>Warrenton</b>				
7:52 a.m.	5.5	1:50 a.m.	1.8	
7:55 p.m.	7.5	1:19 p.m.	2.0	
<b>Knappa</b>				
8:34 a.m.	5.4	3:07 a.m.	1.5	
8:37 p.m.	7.4	2:36 p.m.	1.7	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
6:47 a.m.	5.1	1:00 a.m.	2.1	
7:04 p.m.	7.2	12:23 p.m.	2.3	

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	87/68/s	87/68/pc
Boston	80/66/s	83/69/s
Chicago	84/65/s	88/67/s
Dallas	89/69/s	91/72/pc
Denver	88/62/pc	94/66/s
Honolulu	90/78/s	89/78/pc
Houston	91/69/s	92/73/t
Los Angeles	89/68/pc	88/66/s
Miami	91/78/t	92/80/t
New York City	83/70/s	85/72/s
Phoenix	107/90/pc	110/90/s
San Francisco	73/58/pc	74/56/pc
Wash., DC	86/68/s	88/70/s

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	81/59		Wenatchee	88/62	
Tacoma	83/53		Moses Lake	91/58	
Olympia	83/54		Yakima	91/57	
Longview	84/57		Kennewick	92/56	
Astoria	73/55		Walla Walla	91/64	
Portland	88/61		Lewiston	91/61	
Salem	89/57		Enterprise	85/52	
Corvallis	90/57		Pendleton	91/58	
Eugene	91/58		La Grande	88/53	
Bend	89/54		John Day	92/57	
Medford	97/66		Burns	92/55	
Klamath Falls	91/54		Ontario	97/65	
Caldwell	95/62				

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	91/48/s	93/55/pc	North Bend	70/56/s	69/59/pc
Brookings	73/54/s	71/58/s	Roseburg	93/60/s	90/60/s
Ilwaco	70/58/s	69/60/pc	Seaside	72/57/s	71/60/pc
Newberg	88/57/s	89/58/s	Springfield	90/56/s	90/56/s
Newport	67/53/s	67/57/pc	Vancouver	86/60/s	87/61/s