

OBITUARIES

# Marion Elizabeth Blake

## Seaside

April 29, 1918 — Feb. 6, 2021

My mother wanted me to be brief on this part of the assignment. If you knew my "Mudder," you knew she loved to be the Queen Bee, and was truly a force of nature. Some of her songs, quotable quotes and one-liners included: "To thine own self be true." — Shakespeare

"Accent the positive, eliminate the negative, latch onto the affirmative, don't mess with Mr. In-Between!" sung to the tune of Johnny Mercer and The Pied Pipers.

She loved Voltaire's wisdom: "The pursuit of pleasure must be the goal of every rational person." And of course, Coco Chanel's understanding: "In order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different."

So what were her super powers? She was a good sport, flexible and a straight arrow. What did she believe was her greatest asset? Patience ... patience can be a bitter seed, but it yields rrrrrrrrich fruits!

When asked what she attributes her longevity to, she easily shares: Good genes, red wine, dark chocolate, being with the ones you love, great friends and having fun!

Marion was born April 29, 1918, in Denver, Colorado, to Marion Elizabeth and Donald Twiss. The Spanish flu, one of the deadliest influenza pandemics, was raging. Marion's father was a pharmacist and her grandpa, Dr. Noble Macomber, had to deal with this deadly health issue, which did not have a vaccine to come to the rescue. The Spanish flu had to burn itself out, but not before killing between 50 and 100 million people worldwide.

Marion's mother had been plagued with a serious heart condition, and died at 42, leaving her at age 13, and her older brother Stanley Craig, 17, in the midst of the Great Depression. Her father remarried within six months, believing Marion needed a mother. Her brother enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Marion rarely discussed her heartbreaking youth. She chose to make the best life

for herself. She graduated from North Denver High School and enrolled in the University of Denver. She excelled at writing, sports, dancing and all of the social skills around college life.

She loved her life, and wanted to find her perfect soul mate. She met Mr. Perfect, always calling him the Big Man on Campus! Walter Pershing Blake, a three-sport letterman, all years, smart, 6 feet 2 inches, eyes of blue, great dancer and a veterinarian student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

She transferred to Colorado State so they could be close. They married May 27, 1941, at half past four, the day after he graduated. She always referred to their perfect relationship of 55 years.

Marion and Persh joined his father's veterinary practice in Greeley, Colorado, just after they were married. They had a short assignment at the University of Missouri, where Persh was a professor of medicine and surgery. They started their family and had three beautiful girls.

They wanted to be in a warmer climate, and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1954. Marion raised her three girls while developing her championship golf game and master's quality bridge game.

In 1963, the Blakes moved back to Greeley, Colorado, to take over his father's practice. Marion took on a whole new role in the family. She cared for the kids, managed the household and became a surgical assistant and office manager for the solo practice.

In 1975, they retired and moved to one of their beloved areas, Estes Park, Colorado. From their little cabin they could look down into the village and see where they used to meet and date during the summers at Trout Haven.

In the 1980s, they were drawn back to the warmth of the sunshine in Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona. More deserved time with Mr. Perfect dancing, swimming, golf and bridge, along with the delight of their three daughters and three grandchildren.

More hardship came into Marion's life in 1996 and 1997. She lost the love of her life, her husband of 55 years, followed by the crossing of her middle daughter, Judy, to cancer, at age 49.

She was encouraged, and made her last move to Seaside in 1998 so she could be close to her youngest daughter, Mary. Her oldest daughter, Marny, and her husband, Paul, also were drawn to the beach and to be near this most remarkable and resilient woman. She was living with Marny and Paul when, in 2009, Marny died of cancer, and Paul, in 2010, died of a broken heart due to the loss of the love of his life.

Marion had always had the goal of living to be 100. Not only did she reach that goal, Seaside Mayor Jay Barber got the opportunity to proclaim April 29, 2018, Marion Elizabeth Blake Day. To top that, on her 102nd birthday, a drive-by community parade saw her become an honorary detective for the Seaside police!

She was still kicking butt, playing competitive duplicate bridge three days per week, up until March 4, 2020, when we all were quarantined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mary moved into Marion's house in 2012, and they and their beloved four-legged friends lived happily together until Marion's peaceful crossing Feb. 6, 2021, just a couple of months before her 103rd birthday.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. W. P. Blake; Judy Wagner, her middle daughter; and Marny Philippon, her

oldest daughter.

Her survivors include Mary Blake, daughter; grandchildren, Kristi Skiba, Laura Warren and Jesse Blake; and great-grandchildren, Bridgette and Hayden Skiba and Brandon Blake Short.

My Mudder wanted to live forever! You could help her do that by keeping her spirit alive in your heart, memory and stories. Always remember to love your mother!

A special thank you to the caring hospice team who gave such good compassionate care to us, and helped my mother cross at home, in the most beautiful and sacred space.

We will have a party to celebrate Marion in the fall, when it's safe for us to gather. Until then ... my Mudder would want you to know she's happy and dancing with the love of her life. She wishes you all aloha, and happy trails to you!

Please, no flowers. If you would like to celebrate Marion, please consider a donation of your time, talents or treasure to your favorite cause or to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter.

Miss Me — But Let Me Go  
When I come to the end of the road,  
And the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little — but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared,  
Miss me — but let me go.  
For this is a journey we all must take,  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick at heart,  
Go to the friends you know,  
Bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.  
Miss me — but let me go.  
Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is handling the final arrangements.

SPORTS

# Dierickx named interim Seaside softball coach

The Astorian

Joel Dierickx is officially the new softball coach at Seaside High School.

Dierickx takes over for Jessica Garrigues, who will step away from her head coaching duties for one year while on parental leave. The news was announced at a school district board meeting on Tuesday.

Garrigues plans to return in 2022. She will continue to serve as a volunteer coach.

A longtime baseball coach with the Gulls, Dierickx becomes the seventh head coach for Seaside softball since 2015.

Dierickx was an assistant to Garrigues last year, after spending 21 years as the Seaside baseball coach, stepping down after the 2018 season.

"I will be stepping back into the head

coach role next season (2022), and we have a plan in place for this season," Garrigues said. "We have lots to accomplish this season and in the future, and we have plans in place to make that happen ... not simply promises and hopes. Stay on the lookout for our continued growth."

Seaside recently opened its Broadway Field batting cage facility, for use by both baseball and softball.



Gary Henley/The Astorian  
Seaside's Joel Dierickx will be trading baseball for softball this spring.





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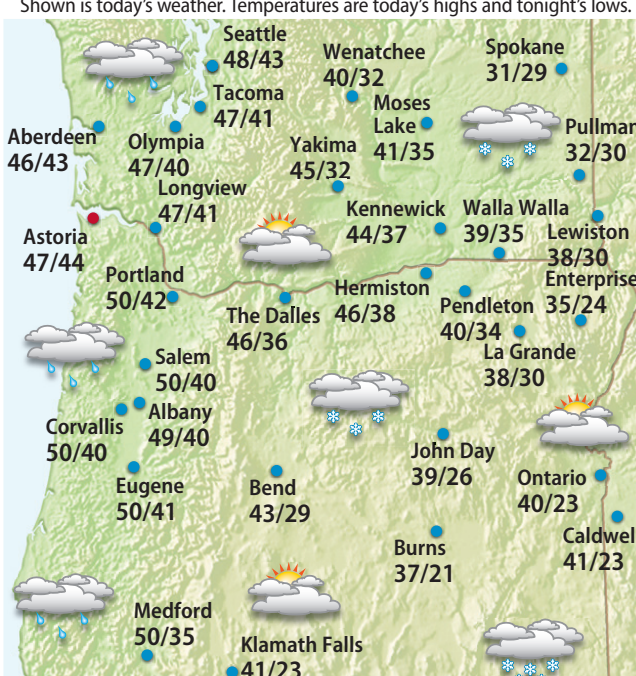
\*The \$1,182 Savings represents the estimated difference in Total Interest Paid on a \$20,000 used vehicle loan (2014 or newer) with a 2.24% APR and a 66 month repayment term (Total Interest: \$1,276) and the same loan term with a 4.24% APR (Total Interest: \$2,458). Total Interest figures reported are estimates provided solely as an example for comparison purposes. Loan terms used are as of December 15, 2020. Special Promotional Terms: Upon loan approval, current and new Wauna CU members who refinance a qualifying loan currently financed elsewhere to Wauna Credit Union become eligible to choose one of two Loan Reward Promotion offers: Option #1. An immediate Cash Reward equal to 1% of the approved loan value, plus 30-Days No Payment (interest will continue to accrue during the No Payment period); Or, Option #2. An immediate \$100 Cash Reward, plus 90-Days No Payments (interest will continue to accrue during the 90-day period). Qualifying Loans: Auto, Truck, SUV, Van, Motor home, trailer, boat, watercraft, motorcycles, side-by-sides, quads, and unsecured loans such as home furnishings, tuition, personal loans, etc. Minimum loan amount to qualify for special terms: \$2,000; Maximum Reward allowed is \$500 per qualifying loan. These special Reward terms are subject to change without notice. Rates & financing are offered based on applicant's credit worthiness and term of the loan. Note: the promotional cash reward paid to a member may be forfeit if the loan balance is paid in full within 180-days of the loan funding date. Membership with Wauna CU required to be eligible for this special offer. Federally insured by the NCUA.

### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>47 44</b>	<b>50 47</b>	<b>51 41</b>	<b>47 37</b>	<b>48 38</b>	<b>48 38</b>	<b>48 37</b>
Cloudy with a shower	Periods of rain	Heavy showers	Spotty showers	Rain	Rain possible	Showers possible

### REGIONAL FORECAST

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



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	48/43	47/41	Wenatchee	40/32	31/29
Aberdeen	46/43	47/41	Moses Lake	41/35	32/30
Portland	50/42	47/41	Yakima	45/32	38/30
Astoria	47/44	47/41	Kennewick	44/37	39/35
Corvallis	50/40	46/36	Walla Walla	39/35	38/30
Eugene	50/41	46/36	Lewiston	38/30	38/30
Bend	43/29	46/38	Enterprise	35/24	35/24
John Day	39/26	40/34	La Grande	38/30	38/30
Burns	37/21	41/23	Ontario	40/23	41/23
Caldwell	41/23	41/23			

### ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 50/39

Normal high/low ..... 52/37

Record high ..... 67 in 1958

Record low ..... 23 in 1955

**Precipitation**

Thursday ..... 0.31"

Month to date ..... 7.74"

Normal month to date ..... 4.70"

Year to date ..... 23.65"

Normal year to date ..... 14.90"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

### UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Nicolas Copernicus' birthday (1473). First quarter moon (10:48 a.m.).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 7:10 a.m.

Sunset tonight ..... 5:49 p.m.

Moonrise today ..... 11:21 a.m.

Moonset today ..... 2:18 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Feb 19	Feb 27	Mar 5	Mar 13

### TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
	6:26 a.m.	7.5	12:16 a.m.	3.7
	8:44 p.m.	5.4	2:15 p.m.	1.7

**Cape Disappointment**

6:16 a.m.	7.3	1:31 p.m.	1.9
8:37 p.m.	5.2	none	

**Hammond**

6:25 a.m.	7.5	1:50 p.m.	1.6
8:40 p.m.	5.4	none	

**Warrenton**

6:21 a.m.	7.9	12:00 a.m.	3.8
8:39 p.m.	5.8	1:59 p.m.	1.8

**Knappa**

7:03 a.m.	7.8	1:17 a.m.	3.1
9:21 p.m.	5.7	3:16 p.m.	1.5

**Depoe Bay**

5:30 a.m.	7.6	1:04 p.m.	2.0
7:56 p.m.	5.5	none	

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	52/32/s	57/44/s
Boston	33/21/sf	34/21/s
Chicago	25/19/pc	33/24/sn
Dallas	46/35/s	54/27/pc
Denver	44/19/pc	38/23/s
Honolulu	81/71/sh	82/71/r
Houston	55/45/pc	66/39/c
Los Angeles	69/49/s	73/49/s
Miami	75/65/s	76/70/pc
New York City	36/22/sf	36/27/s
Phoenix	76/48/s	71/45/s
San Francisco	60/46/pc	62/47/s
Wash., DC	35/22/s	38/30/s

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.