

OBITUARIES

Dr. Ben Cockcroft

Seaside

Sept. 22, 1958 — Feb. 15, 2021

Dr. Ben Cockcroft, beloved husband, father, brother, physician and friend to many, died Feb. 15, 2021, while snowboarding in Washington state.

For nearly 32 years, Dr. Cockcroft has been a primary care provider in north Oregon coastal communities. He served thousands of people and multiple generations, from grandparents to babies.

He was a skilled diagnostician committed to whole person care, and dedicated his skills to serving those most marginalized. Many of Ben's patients speak of his non-judgmental nature, endearing honesty and caring heart as he went above and beyond to serve their health care needs. He loved his patients and community.

Ben and his wife, Lindy, have been at the heart of activities in the North Coast communities. They have three adult children, April, Lucas and Travis (and his wife, Janet). Ben was also a proud "dog grandpa" to both Travis' and April's dogs.

Together, the Cockcroft family had many adventures traveling, surfing and being outdoors. More than anything, Ben loved surfing, studying with April and Travis and canoeing and playing chess with Lucas. Ben spent lots of time coaching his children to victory in soccer over the years, and also played keeper for many seasons in a local league.

Those who know Ben know of his deep love of surfing and of the local surf community. Ben placed first in many surfing competitions up and down the coast.

Of the memories being shared, so many speak of Dr. Cockcroft's dedication to serving his community and sharing his spirit so generously. In his local community, he created a path at the Cove in Seaside, moving rocks to make the beach accessible to all.

Ben inspired energy and greatness from all those around him, often exclaiming "use it or lose it!" His quirky sense of humor always left people laughing (if they could figure out that he was joking).

Anyone who knew him would say he was truly an 18-year-old at heart, but with a work ethic that exceeded all others. At home, Ben

could always be found at his computer, finishing the day's work while analyzing the surf. He passed this work ethic on to his children, of whom he was very proud.

Ben was the pillar of the Cockcroft family near and far, always checking in and taking care of others, exhibiting bravery in the hardest of times. Ben has two brothers, Peter and Eric, whom he loved very much. He is preceded in death by his parents, Eva and James.

Dr. Cockcroft was a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He earned his medical degree from the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine and completed an internship in Fresno, California, before serving his residency in family medicine at San Pedro Peninsula Hospital in California.

He moved to Seaside 32 years ago, and has been serving his patients in Clatsop County ever since. He loved his patients and Providence team members, whom he deeply valued and enjoyed working with every day.

Additionally, he had the opportunity to serve the community of Oaxaca, Mexico, as a physician on multiple medical trips over the years. Dr. Cockcroft is the past president of the Clatsop County Medical Society and a former chief of staff at Providence Seaside Hospital.

The Cockcroft family is grateful to all who have extended care and concern, with particular appreciation to Detective Ed Christian and the team at King County Search and Rescue for their heroic efforts, as well as the team of volunteers who endured severe weather during the search and always took time to listen to and engage with the family.

The family also wants to thank KSWB and John Chapman for broadcasting the memorial service, everyone who participated, and the community, for their support.

Online remembrances can be shared, and the service heard (under Gallery/Audio) at: [forevermissed.com/ben-david-cockcroft/about](http://forevermissed.com/ben-david-cockcroft/about)

A future paddle-out in the spring or summer, once conditions allow, is being planned for a later date.



Dr. Ben Cockcroft

SPORTS

Yamhill defeats Knappa football

The Astorian

For the Knappa football team, playing a reduced-game schedule this spring may just help a program in a rare, but definite rebuilding phase.

It showed Thursday night at CMH Field, where Yamhill-Carlton defeated the Loggers 34-0.

Tiger running back Jacob Preston scored three first half touchdowns and Yamhill sophomore quarterback Jacob McGhehey threw for two scores in the third quarter.

When players graduated in the past, Knappa just reloaded and came out and kept winning. But the 2021 spring season features a total rebuild.

Key Knappa losses from the 2019 season include the league's offensive and defensive players of the year along with the offensive and defensive backs of the year, defensive lineman of the year and coach of the year, as Aaron Barndse stepped down following the 2019 season.

Chris Jackson takes over, and the cupboard isn't nearly as full as it used to be.

Only three all-league players return — which for Knappa is unheard of.

"We are going to be both young and inexperienced," Jackson said. "We have a lot of new faces this year stepping into multiple

positions. We have two returning seniors that have played key roles in the past."

That would be Devin Hoover (receiver/safety) and Cameron Miethe (running back/middle linebacker), while junior Trevor Ogier is the third all-league returner.

"We will be relying heavily on their experience and leadership to get us through this season," Jackson said. "Cameron Miethe will be returning as our running back and middle linebacker while Devin Hoover will be at wide receiver, safety and could end up seeing some outside linebacker."

Paul Miller (receiver/place kicker) is one of just three seniors on the roster.

Logger juniors include Tanner Jackson, Mark Miller, Jonny Lenhard and the Morrill brothers (Carter and Logan).

"All have some varsity experience, but will be stepping up into some very key roles this year," Jackson said.

Knappa has four sophomores and eight freshmen who will all see action out of necessity.

"We have been blessed with a great freshmen class this year who will be no strangers to playing time. This year will present many challenges, but I'm confident it will only make us better in the years to come."

Knappa plays at Gaston March 19.

Valley Catholic tops Astoria girls soccer, 2-0

The Astorian

In their previous meeting at CMH Field — Oct. 24, 2019 — the Valley Catholic and Astoria girls soccer teams battled for 80 minutes in a 0-0 tie.

The Valiants were a little more lucky this time, posting a 2-0 win over the Lady Fishermen in a Cowapa League match Wednesday night.

Two first half goals in a five-minute span was all the Valiants needed, helping Valley Catholic to a 2-0 record.

The Valiants were coming off a 5-0 win over Banks while Astoria drops to 1-1.

The Lady Fish controlled much of the action for the first 10 minutes before Valley scored the first goal in the 24th minute as Quin Walker tapped the ball into the net from close range off a corner kick.

Five minutes later, Valley Catholic's Mariella Gunther scored for the 2-nil lead.

Astoria goalkeeper Shelby Rasmussen still turned in an outstanding game, making

a pair of saves on one-on-one point blank chances for the Valiants.

Astoria managed just three shots on goal in the first half. The Fishermen play at Rainier/Clatskanie on Tuesday.

Gulls 1, Mooks 1

Seaside scored just one minute, 15 seconds into the game, but that would be the lone goal for the Gulls, as Tillamook rallied with a second half score for a 1-1 result in a Cowapa League girls soccer game Wednesday at Doc Adams Field.

Seaside's Caleigh Peterson took a short crossing pass from teammate Dawnielle Fenton just over a minute into the game and scored from 15 yards out for a quick 1-0 lead.

On one of their only offensive chances of the game, Tillamook scored in the 10th minute of the second half, with Crystal Hernandez scoring from the top of the box.

Two days earlier, the Gulls defeated Rainier/Clatskanie 3-0.

Dorothy Brown LaPrairie

Springfield

Oct. 13, 1943 — Feb. 10, 2021

Dorothy Estella (Brown) LaPrairie, of Springfield, loving mom and grandma, passed away peacefully in her home on Feb. 10, 2021.

One of the six children of Ralph and Ethel Brown, Dorothy was born at home in Molalla on Oct. 13, 1943. She grew up in Molalla and then later moved to Gearhart in 1951. She attended school in Gearhart and high school in Seaside.

Dorothy married Bernard "Frenchy" LaPrairie in November 1959. Frenchy was a logger and long-haul truck driver. Dorothy and Frenchy, along with their children, resided in Gearhart, Seaside, Kansas and Colorado. They later divorced; Frenchy died in 1991.

Dorothy was fortunate to have two loves in her life. Bob Langa, also from Seaside, preceded her in death in 1984.

Dorothy was a homemaker for most of her life, but her first job was at The Grill in Seaside. She also worked at the Bumble Bee Seafoods cannery in Astoria, but quit the job because the jitneys (small fork-lifts) scared her.

Dorothy was a great mom to her children. As a homemaker, her fried razor clams, fresh from the beach, were everyone's favorite.

Dorothy's summers were spent with her children and family having blackberry pickin' parties with all the cousins, picnics and catching crawdads at Klootch Creek outside of Seaside and sitting in the sunshine visiting with family and friends.

She will always be remembered by family as a tomboy who loved to have fun! She loved looking over old photos and her collections of angels and salt and pepper shakers.

Dorothy was small in stature, and very large in her generosity to other people in need. She opened her heart and home to so many, and impacted their lives in a tremendous way.

Dorothy was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Theresa; her parents, Ralph and Ethel; along with sister, Colleen Schindler, and brother, Ralph "Skeet" Brown.

She is survived by her children, Debby Crawford, of Spokane, Washington, Colleen (Nick) Blagaich, of Springfield, Joe LaPrairie, of Springfield, and Butch LaPrairie, of Springfield; grandchildren, Brandon, Rebecca, Stephanie, Taylor and Taiya; and honorary grandchildren, David, Steven, Andrew, Tayler Quinn and Anna.

She is also survived by two brothers and a sister, Vernon "Sonny" (Tess) Brown, of Tillamook, Ernie (June) Brown, of Marietta, Georgia, and Pat (Jim) Nichols, of Warrenton; and numerous nieces and nephews who miss her dearly.

An outdoor celebration of life will be held during her favorite time of the year, summer, with the date, time and location to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that any donation you can make be to your local hospice — these people are truly angels!



Dorothy LaPrairie

We've gone ABOVE & BEYOND to make sure you are COMFORTABLE & SAFE at your next dental visit.

We have Infection Control Procedures in place for your safety & ours.

\*\* In addition to a filtration system, external vacuum systems, air purifiers, and foggers, we have added negative pressure to all operatories. The safety and comfort of our patients has always been a priority at Klemp Family Dentistry. We are very proud of these innovations. Thank you for your continued confidence in all of us.

Thank you Diamond Heating and JJ Electric Service LLC for completing our negative pressure system.



Excellence in challenging conditions. ★★★★★ Diane G.

I saw the highest standard of health safety practices in effect during my hygienist appointment today—much higher precautions than I'd seen in a local hospital when having tests last month. The new sanitation equipment and attention to patient safety at Klemp Family Dentistry is in keeping with a dental practice I consider cutting edge with respect to all my dental needs. It's wonderful having a world class dental practice here at the coast, one where I can have procedures performed for which I used to have to travel to a specialist in Portland. I have been a patient of several local dentists in the past, but none had the skill and, more importantly, the attention to patient comfort that Dr. Klemp provides.

KLEMP FAMILY DENTISTRY

1006 West Marine Drive, Astoria (503) 468-0116 [www.klempfamilydentistry.com](http://www.klempfamilydentistry.com)



SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
50 39	49 35	51 36	50 36	49 37	48 37	51 38
A passing shower	Mostly cloudy; chilly	Partly sunny	A passing shower	Periods of sun; chilly	Partial sunshine	Showers possible

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low	52/40
Normal high/low	53/38
Record high	68 in 1937
Record low	26 in 2019

Precipitation

Thursday	0.33"
Month to date	0.33"
Normal month to date	1.05"
Year to date	28.25"
Normal year to date	18.44"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Last quarter moon (5:30 p.m.).

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:45 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:09 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:28 a.m.
Moonset today	11:06 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 5	Mar 13	Mar 21	Mar 28

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
6:09 a.m.	8.4	12:03 a.m.	3.1	
8:11 p.m.	5.9	1:45 p.m.	0.7	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
5:50 a.m.	8.3	12:53 p.m.	0.6	
8:04 p.m.	5.8	none		
<b>Hammond</b>				
6:01 a.m.	8.5	1:12 p.m.	0.3	
8:05 p.m.	6.0	none		
<b>Warrenton</b>				
6:04 a.m.	8.8	1:29 p.m.	0.8	
8:06 p.m.	6.3	none		
<b>Knappa</b>				
6:46 a.m.	8.6	1:04 a.m.	2.7	
8:48 p.m.	6.2	2:46 p.m.	0.6	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
5:03 a.m.	8.5	12:27 p.m.	0.4	
7:18 p.m.	5.9	11:59 p.m.	4.2	

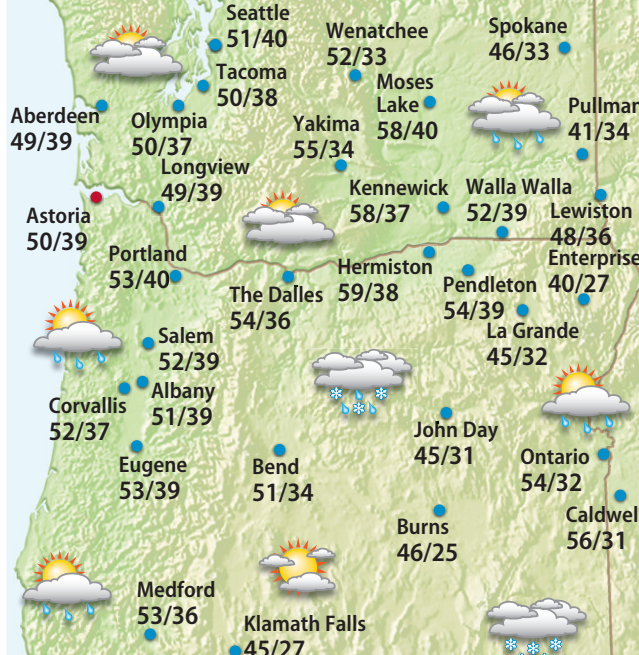
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	56/37/pc	60/34/s
Boston	32/19/s	34/21/s
Chicago	45/27/s	50/42/s
Dallas	64/42/s	67/47/s
Denver	65/37/pc	67/37/s
Honolulu	80/69/sh	80/70/pc
Houston	68/47/pc	69/48/pc
Los Angeles	66/51/pc	65/53/pc
Miami	77/64/t	75/60/sh
New York City	35/24/pc	38/27/s
Phoenix	86/58/s	86/62/pc
San Francisco	61/47/s	60/46/pc
Wash., DC	47/29/pc	45/27/s

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

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



City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Baker City	46/28/pc	46/28/pc	North Bend	52/41/pc	51/37/c
Brookings	48/40/pc	49/38/c	Roseburg	55/38/pc	53/33/c
Ilwaco	48/41/pc	48/38/r	Seaside	49/40/pc	49/34/r
Newberg	52/40/pc	50/30/sh	Springfield	54/40/pc	52/31/sh
Newport	48/39/pc	48/36/c	Vancouver	52/40/pc	51/33/sh