

OBITUARIES

**Carolyn Jean Knapp**

**Astoria**

**Nov 20, 1941 — March 9, 2021**

Carolyn Jean (Thomassen) Knapp, of Astoria, loving sister, wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully at home on March 9, 2021, surrounded by her family.

The oldest of three children of Bjarne and Margaret (Rasmussen) Thomassen, Carolyn was born shortly after Thanksgiving Day dinner on Nov. 20, 1941, in Port Angeles, Washington. It would be the only time in her 79 years that she would get to celebrate her birthday on Thanksgiving Day.

In 1950, her father took a job building the Astoria Plywood Mill, which moved the family of five to Astoria. Carolyn attended school in Astoria, and graduated from Astoria High School in 1960.

She went on to attend Pacific Lutheran University for one year, until she met her future husband, while home on summer break. Carolyn married Lowell G. Knapp on Dec. 2, 1961, in Astoria; they celebrated 59 years of marriage this past December.

In 1964, the couple settled in the John Day area, building their forever home along the waterfront in Fernhill, shortly after their first son's birth. The family expanded later to five, with the birth of two daughters. Later in life, Carolyn and Lowell adopted their oldest granddaughter, Cari, whom they raised from the time she was four months old until she went off to college.

It was important to Carolyn to pass family traditions and her heritage onto her family. One way that she did this was through cooking, baking and Christmas ornament making.

Unfortunately, her love of cooked cabbage was not one that her family inherited. However, it did make a lasting impression on her older grandchildren, who still remember the stinky smells that would sometimes come from grandma's kitchen.

Carolyn also enjoyed sewing, knitting, and needlepoint, as well as scrap-booking.

Carolyn will be remembered for all of her volunteer activities in our community. She was very proud of her Norwegian and Danish heritage, and worked with her dear friend, Bonnie Ladd, over the years, helping teach many, many young people Scandinavian dance.

Carolyn also danced in the adult group with her husband, Lowell. She

was a very active member of the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival and the Lower Columbia Danish Society. She developed many special friendships from all of these activities.

Over the years, Carolyn also taught Sunday school at church, and served as a 4-H leader, and was a Start Making A Reader Today reader in local schools, a cruise ship host, a Court Appointed Special Advocate program volunteer and much more.

After her children started school, Carolyn began working at Astoria High School. She has helped many students through their high school years, and kept in touch with many of "her kids." She also worked for a short time at Peter Pan Market, and enjoyed visiting with the neighborhood people.

Carolyn developed many dear friendships throughout her lifetime, but perhaps the one she treasured most was the one she shared with her best friend, Becky Nelson. She and Becky were truly sisters at heart, having both grown up with only brothers. Carolyn's family is especially grateful for Becky and the special friendship they shared.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 59 years, Lowell. She is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Anita Knapp; and daughters and sons-in-law, Melinda (Mindy) and Keith Landwehr, Kimberly and Ben Lebeck and Cari and John McGrath. She leaves behind her grandchildren, Jon Landwehr and great-grandson, Jameson, Nick (Haley) Landwehr and great-grandson, Hudson, April (Jamie) Lebeck, Kaitlyn (Mason) Hoover and Jason Lebeck.

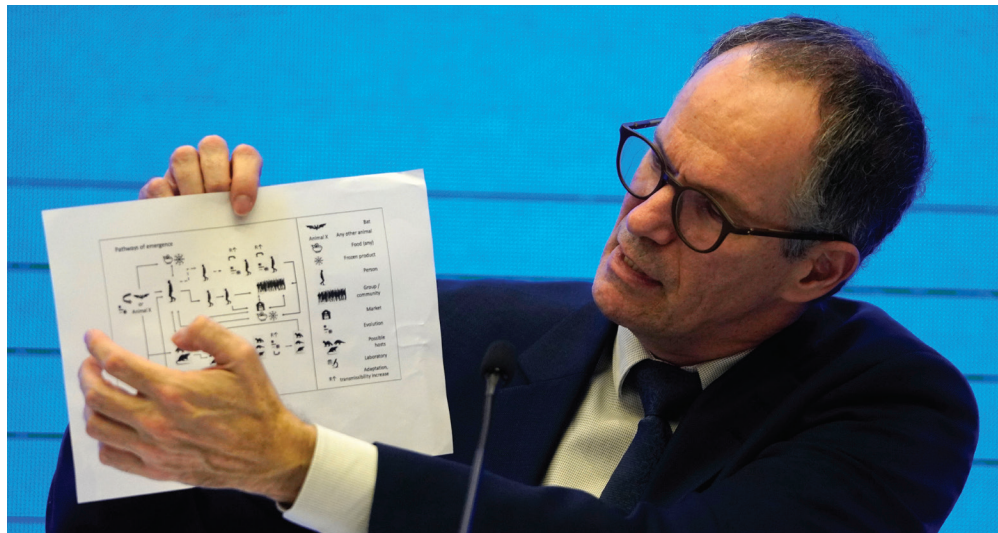
Carolyn is also survived by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Dennis and Annie Thomassen and Jim and Joy Thomassen; brother-in-law, Mike Koskela; and sister-in-law, Joan Knapp. She is also survived by many nephews, nieces and cousins, with whom she spent cherished time in their younger years.

The family requests donations be made to hospice, First Lutheran Church Memorial Fund or Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association.

A small service was held on March 12, 2021, at First Lutheran Church, which was recorded and can be viewed by searching "Carolyn Knapp Memorial, 3-12-21" on YouTube.com or by requesting a link from the family.



Carolyn Knapp



Ng Han Guan/AP Photo

**Peter Ben Embarek of the World Health Organization team holds up a chart showing pathways of transmission of the virus during a joint news conference at the end of the WHO mission in Wuhan, China.**

**COVID-19 virus likely jumped to humans from animals, WHO says**

By **JAMEY KEATEN** and **KEN MORITSUGU**  
*Associated Press*

GENEVA—A joint World Health Organization-China study on the origins of COVID-19 says that transmission of the virus from bats to humans through another animal is the most likely scenario and that a lab leak is "extremely unlikely," according to a draft copy obtained by the Associated Press.

The findings offer little new insight into how the virus first emerged and leave many questions unanswered. But the report does provide more detail on the reasoning behind the researchers' conclusions.

The team proposed further research in every area except the lab leak hypothesis — a speculative theory that was promoted by former President Donald Trump among others. It also said the role played by a seafood market where human cases were first identified was uncertain.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious diseases expert, said he would like to see the report's raw information first before deciding about its credibility.

"I'd also would like to inquire as to the extent in which the people who were on that group had access directly to the data that they would need to make a determination," he said. "I want to read the report first and then get a feel for what they really had access to — or did not have access to."

The report, which is expected to be made public Tuesday, is being closely watched since discovering the origins of the virus could help scientists prevent future pandemics — but it's also extremely sensitive since China bristles at any suggestion that it is to blame for the current one.

Matthew Kavanagh of Georgetown University said the report deepened the understanding of the virus's origins, but more information was needed.

"It is clear that that the Chinese government has not provided all the data needed and, until they do, firmer conclusions will be

difficult," he said in a statement.

Last year, an investigation by the Associated Press found the Chinese government was strictly controlling all research into its origins. And repeated delays in the report's release have raised questions about whether the Chinese side was trying to skew its conclusions.

"We've got real concerns about the methodology and the process that went into that report, including the fact that the government in Beijing apparently helped to write it," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a recent CNN interview.

On Monday, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made an impassioned plea to Americans Monday not to let their guard down in the fight against COVID-19, saying she has a recurring feeling "of impending doom," even as President Joe Biden announced further efforts to expand access to coronavirus vaccines.

Speaking during a virtual White House briefing, Dr. Rochelle Walensky grew emotional as she reflected on her experience treating COVID-19 patients who are alone at the end of their lives.

"We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope," she said. "But right now, I'm scared."

Cases of the virus are up about 10% over the past week from the previous week, to about 60,000 cases per day, with both hospitalizations and deaths ticking up as well, Walensky said. She warned that without immediate action the U.S. could follow European countries into another spike in cases and suffer needless deaths.

Later Monday, Biden addressed the nation from the White House, declaring, "If we let our guard down now, we can see the virus getting worse, not better. People are letting up on precautions, which is a very bad thing."

Biden delivered a direct appeal to governors, state and local leaders to reinstate mask-wearing requirements if they have eased them.

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**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
51 35 Periods of sun; cloudy to partly cool	61 42 Cloudy to partly sunny	51 37 Rain and drizzle	51 38 Variable cloudiness	52 38 Showers possible	50 38 A chance of rain	49 38 Showers possible

**ALMANAC**  
Astoria through Sunday  
**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 47/40  
Normal high/low ..... 55/40  
Record high ..... 75 in 1941  
Record low ..... 28 in 1987  
**Precipitation**  
Sunday ..... 0.57"  
Month to date ..... 4.81"  
Normal month to date ..... 6.80"  
Year to date ..... 32.76"  
Normal year to date ..... 24.19"

**UNDER THE SKY**  
**Tonight's Sky:** Cancer, the Crab, below the Big Dipper, along with Leo, the Lion.  
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today ..... 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 7:42 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 10:37 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 8:16 a.m.

**TODAY'S TIDES**  
Astoria / Port Docks  
Time High (ft.) Time Low (ft.)  
2:56 a.m. 8.9 9:33 a.m. -0.5  
3:35 p.m. 8.0 9:36 p.m. -0.8  
**Cape Disappointment**  
2:31 a.m. 9.0 8:37 a.m. -0.6  
3:06 p.m. 8.0 8:42 p.m. 0.9  
**Hammond**  
2:43 a.m. 9.3 8:57 a.m. -0.7  
3:18 p.m. 8.4 9:03 p.m. 0.6  
**Warrenton**  
2:51 a.m. 9.4 9:17 a.m. -0.4  
3:30 p.m. 8.4 9:20 p.m. 0.9  
**Knappa**  
3:33 a.m. 9.2 10:34 a.m. -0.4  
4:12 p.m. 8.2 10:37 p.m. 0.6  
**Depoe Bay**  
1:44 a.m. 9.2 8:07 a.m. -0.7  
2:21 p.m. 8.2 8:11 p.m. 0.8

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	69/61/pc	73/38/t
Boston	57/47/s	63/49/r
Chicago	61/34/pc	45/25/s
Dallas	78/49/pc	66/41/pc
Denver	40/24/c	51/29/s
Honolulu	82/71/sh	82/70/sh
Houston	83/69/sh	69/47/t
Los Angeles	83/60/s	88/64/s
Miami	86/75/pc	85/71/pc
New York City	60/47/s	63/41/r
Phoenix	86/58/s	88/62/s
San Francisco	74/53/s	77/53/s
Wash., DC	69/56/s	64/44/r

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

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	54/23/s	62/32/s	North Bend	54/40/s	63/44/s
Brookings	62/46/s	61/46/s	Roseburg	62/35/s	75/41/s
Ilwaco	50/38/pc	60/43/c	Seaside	51/35/pc	64/42/c
Newberg	57/32/pc	68/39/pc	Springfield	59/31/pc	70/42/s
Newport	51/36/pc	58/42/s	Vancouver	57/32/pc	68/41/pc

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

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2021