

OBITUARIES

Maria Loviisa (Niskanen) Wirkkala
Naselle, Washington
Feb. 14, 1943 — June 3, 2021

Maria Loviisa (Niskanen) Wirkkala was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Surrounded by her family, she went to meet her heavenly father on June 3, 2021, at the age of 78.



Maria Wirkkala

She was born to Emil and Ida Niskanen in Pielavesi, Finland, on Feb. 14, 1943. Maria lived in Finland and worked as a licensed practical nurse until the age of 23, when she came to the U.S.

She worked in Washington, D.C., as a nanny for U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, an Oregon Republican, for about a year, until her family needed her back in Portland, where she then worked at Providence Hospital.

She met Wallace Wirkkala in 1968 through a mutual friend, who remained a dear friend throughout their lives. They married in 1969.

Together, they had three children, Regan, Timothy and Lamar. Maria was a fiercely dedicated mom to all of her children; Jesus and family came first, and were above all else to Maria, a value she instilled in those around her. The hole left by her absence is impossible to fill.

She especially loved her role as "Mummu" to her grandchildren. She loved to share her passion for the Lord, and would never miss an opportunity to lead them to Christ.

She enjoyed spending time in the kitchen, creating delicious meals for her family and friends. She opened her home to anybody and everybody, often having a house full of people for as long as she could. She would find any reason she could to bake and provide the most delicious treats to anybody who was lucky enough to receive them.

Maria was instrumental in the creation of the Naselle biennial Finnish American Folk Festival. She along with her best friend, Carole Alves, and Aunt Eva Wirkkala, designed a Finnish costume that is made in Finland and sold around the world. Maria was an avid weaver and was invited to the Smithsonian to display and demonstrate her talents.

Maria was active in the Naselle Assembly of God Church. She and Wally lead the youth group for many years, touching many young lives, who still talk about them today.

She was active in the Christian women's organization, speaking all over the Northwest to as many women as she could. She was also active in the Gideons International Auxiliary, was the president of the Lower Columbia Gideon Auxiliary, and handed out Bibles to anyone she could. She was a true servant of Jesus.

Maria is survived by her husband of 51 years, Wally; her sons, Regan (Sara), Timothy (Sabrina) and Lamar (Rebekah); her grandchildren, Taylor (Donny), Levi, Emily, Sawyer and Carter; and her great grandson, Rowan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Riku, all of Finland. She is survived by her sister, Liisa Goeller, of San Diego, California, and brother, Heikki Niskanen, of West Linn.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Naselle Assembly of God Church.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Gideons International, or Naselle Assembly of God youth ministries, to help spread the good news in honor of Maria.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside outlasts Warrenton, 46-35

The Astorian

Seaside's junior combination of Cash Corder and Conner Langmo scored 11 points apiece, leading the Gulls to a 46-35 nonleague boys basketball win Saturday afternoon at Warrenton.

Dawson Little led the Warriors with 15 points while both teams struggled from the field in the low-scoring contest.

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY
Boys Basketball — Knappa at Warrenton, 6 p.m.

The teams missed a combined 39 3-pointers in the game, 20 by the Gulls.

Seaside junior Ever Sibony made a trio of 3-pointers for his nine points, while freshman Ruger Thompson's turnaround trey at the buzzer to end the first half gave the Gulls a 24-13 halftime lead.

Little connected from long range to bring the Warriors back to within seven points midway through the third quarter, and teammate Elijah Whitsett beat the buzzer to end the third period to bring Warrenton within 35-29.

The Gulls answered with 3-pointers by Sibony and Tanner Kraushaar to highlight an 8-0 run to start the fourth.

Warrenton hosts Knappa Tuesday to finish a stretch of three games in five days, while the Gulls were scheduled to play Monday at Valley Catholic, their third of five straight road games.

Warriors 44, Willamina 42

The night before, Warrenton scored a huge league victory at Willamina, pulling into a first-place tie with a 44-42 win over the Bulldogs.

Warrenton won it in typical Warrior fashion, as Hordie Bodden Bodden's steal with 12 seconds left resulted in an easy score for Josh Earls.

The Bulldogs were unable to get off a shot as time expired.

Warrenton and Willamina are tied for first in the Coastal Range League standings at 3-1. The Warriors host Willamina June 16.

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Jeff TerHar

Seaside's Lilli Taylor, competing in a game earlier this season, scored 12 points to lead the Gulls past Warrenton.

Seaside downs Warrenton, 44-13

The Astorian

Seaside played its last nonleague game of the season Saturday, hosting Warrenton in the second of five straight home games for the Gulls.

After a slow start, the

Gulls built a 12-2 lead in the first quarter, on their way to a 44-13 win over the Warriors.

Lilli Taylor scored 12 points and Caleigh Peterson added 10 for Seaside, which led 38-13 after three quarters.

Freshman Gracie Duncan

scored seven points as one of three Warrenton players to score.

Coming off a 45-11 loss to Willamina the night before, the Warriors host Taft in a league game Thursday at Clatsop Community College.

J & S

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
61 47	61 47	63 50	61 51	65 52	66 52	68 52
A shower in the a.m.	Partly sunny, a shower	Becoming cloudy	Periods of rain	Showers possible	Showers possible	Chance of a shower

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low 56/49
Normal high/low 63/49
Record high 90 in 1912
Record low 39 in 1933

Precipitation

Sunday 0.58"
Month to date 0.81"
Normal month to date 0.61"
Year to date 36.17"
Normal year to date 33.97"

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

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: After sunset, the bright star low in the northwest is Capella of Auriga.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:25 a.m.
Sunset tonight 9:05 p.m.
Moonrise today 4:26 a.m.
Moonset today 7:43 p.m.

New First Full Last
June 10 June 17 June 24 July 1

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
12:13 a.m.	8.1	7:19 a.m.	-0.3
1:31 p.m.	6.4	6:54 p.m.	2.8

Cape Disappointment

1:17 p.m.	6.2	6:31 a.m.	-0.1
none		6:10 p.m.	3.1

Hammond

12:00 a.m.	8.3	6:51 a.m.	-0.4
1:25 p.m.	6.5	6:29 p.m.	2.9

Warrenton

12:08 a.m.	8.5	7:03 a.m.	-0.2
1:26 p.m.	6.8	6:38 p.m.	2.9

Knappa

12:50 a.m.	8.4	8:20 a.m.	-0.3
2:08 p.m.	6.7	7:55 p.m.	2.4

Depoe Bay

12:35 p.m.	6.2	6:02 a.m.	-0.4
11:34 p.m.	8.1	5:37 p.m.	3.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	82/70/t	86/68/t
Boston	90/72/t	85/65/t
Chicago	83/67/t	81/67/t
Dallas	89/76/t	92/76/pc
Denver	92/58/pc	90/60/s
Honolulu	86/75/pc	87/75/pc
Houston	92/79/pc	92/76/pc
Los Angeles	74/60/pc	76/57/pc
Miami	88/79/pc	87/78/s
New York City	88/72/t	87/70/t
Phoenix	99/76/pc	102/76/s
San Francisco	65/53/s	65/53/s
Wash., DC	89/74/t	90/73/t

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.

Seattle	65/49	Wenatchee	70/49	Spokane	72/51
Tacoma	64/45	Moses Lake	78/53	Pullman	69/47
Olympia	64/43	Yakima	73/46	Kennewick	79/56
Longview	64/46	Walla Walla	74/51	Lewiston	78/56
Astoria	61/47	Hermiston	77/53	Pendleton	69/42
Portland	68/51	The Dalles	73/53	La Grande	69/46
Salem	67/47	Eugene	66/44	John Day	71/43
Corvallis	65/43	Bend	61/36	Ontario	82/58
		Burns	72/41	Caldwell	81/53
		Medford	68/47		
		Klamath Falls	61/37		

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	71/44/pc	67/43/c	North Bend	61/47/pc	62/47/pc
Brookings	56/44/pc	56/46/pc	Roseburg	65/45/pc	68/44/pc
Ilwaco	59/49/pc	60/49/pc	Seaside	60/47/sh	62/47/pc
Newberg	66/44/pc	68/42/pc	Springfield	67/44/pc	69/42/pc
Newport	56/45/pc	56/46/pc	Vancouver	67/49/pc	68/46/pc