

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Alan Shepard

Astoria

June 23, 1956 — Dec. 28, 2021

Jeff Shepard was born in Akron, Ohio, on June 23, 1956, to parents Mick and Carol Shepard. He passed away Dec. 28, 2021.

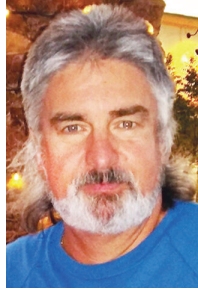
He moved to Astoria when he was 6 years old and attended Lewis and Clark Elementary School. There, he performed in the school circus. He attended Astoria High School, where he excelled in sports until he graduated in 1975.

He worked at Bumble Bee Seafoods cannery, drove school bus for the Astoria School District and was a shareholder at the Astoria Plywood Corp. When the mill closed, he went to work for Astoria Builders Supply, eventually transferring to Gearhart Builders Supply, coordinating the delivery trucks.

He later worked for City Lumber, where he retired in 2018. That is when he took on his favorite job, as a professional papa to his grandson, Landin.

He loved all sports, whether he was playing the game or mentoring his kids,

especially baseball, softball, bowling and volleyball. He was also passionate about the outdoors. He loved hunting, fishing and riding his utility task vehicle in the mountains of Eastern Oregon.



Jeffrey Shepard

He is survived by his wife and best friend of 38 years, Arja; son, Jason; daughter, Lisa (Neil); beloved grandson, Landin; parents, Mick and Carol; brother, Bryon (Joyce); mother in-law, Raiili Vedenoja; and a large family of close relatives.

He was preceded in death by his son, AJ, and father-in-law, Reino Vedenoja.

There will be a memorial service held at the Astoria Christian Church, 1151 Harrison Ave., at 1 p.m. on Saturday. A reception follows at the church.

Donations can be made to the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, 2611 S.W. Third Ave., Suite 320, Portland, OR., 97201 or give to a charity of your choice.

Loretta Jean Soukkala Ray

Warrenton

Sept. 6, 1950 — Jan. 4, 2022

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of troubles; and he knows those who trust in him.” — Nahum 1:7

Loretta Jean Ray, 71, died Jan. 4, 2022, in her Warrenton home, with family by her side.

She was born on Sept. 6, 1950, in Astoria, to George and Elsie Soukkala. She graduated from Warrenton High School in 1968, and married the love of her life and best friend, Mark Ray, on March 28, 1968.

Loretta was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and leaves behind a legacy of love, faith and helping those in need.

She ministered by her husband’s side as a pastor’s wife in the Assemblies of God for over 30 years. She was also a school bus driver both in Myrtle Point and Astoria for 10 years. During the last few years of her life, she was a transport vehicle driver for the Ford and Toyota dealerships in Warrenton.

Loretta had a strong faith in God, and had a personal relationship with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She loved the Lord with all of her heart, and ministered to others through her music. She played the piano, and was the worship music leader at Mission Christian Fellowship in Warrenton. She loved to sing unto the Lord!

Loretta enjoyed nature, and over the years always looked forward to camping, hiking, beach combing, gardening, raising chickens and growing the prettiest dahlias in Clatsop County. Many people were blessed by the flowers that she sold in her flower stand every summer.

Loretta Jean Ray is survived by her loving husband, Mark Ray; two daughters, Kari Ray Connell, of Warrenton, and Rachel and Joe Padilla, of Martinez, California; one son, Luke Ray, of Warrenton; three brothers, Raymond Soukkala, of Warrenton, Keith Soukkala, of Anchorage, Alaska, and Michael and Karen Soukkala, of Chehalis, Washington; one sister, Rayla and Steven Goldberg, of Warrenton; a widowed sister-in-law, Nikki Soukkala, of Nehalem; a widowed brother-in-law, Buddy Bradley, of Springfield; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Mark David Ray; both of her parents, Elsie and George Soukkala; two of her siblings, Wesley Soukkala and Caroline Bradley; and one sister-in-law, Colean Soukkala.

A memorial and celebration of life will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Mission Christian Fellowship, 525 N.W. Warrenton Drive in Warrenton. Wearing a mask is encouraged but not mandatory.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to one of the following: International Fellowship of Christians and Jews at ifcj.org or Life Changers Outreach, 544 Fir Point Lane, Glendale, OR., 97442.

Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign the online guest book at: caldwellsmortuary.com

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” — John 3:16



Loretta Ray

SPORTS

Lady Fish swarm the Tigers, 57-21

The Astorian

In a game that took just over an hour to complete, the Astoria girls basketball team needed only about nine minutes to score all the points they would need, and went on to crush Clatskanie, 57-21, in a non-league contest Saturday afternoon.

The visiting Fishermen led 20-6 after one quarter, then outscored the Tigers 25-4 in the second period. Astoria’s swarming, trapping defense led to 28 turnovers for Clatskanie in the first half, in which Astoria freshman Shelby Bruney scored all of her 20 points.

Bruney played half the third quarter, and the game finished under a running clock in the fourth period. The Tigers went scoreless in the third quarter and finished with 36 turnovers.

Bruney hit three 3-pointers in the first half, but highlighted her game with a steal and score in the final seconds of the first quarter, and completed it with a free throw for a three-point play. More turnovers off points helped the Lady Fish end the second quarter on a 12-0 run for a 45-10 halftime lead.

Astoria hosts Molalla Tuesday, followed by road games at Corbett and Banks to start the league season.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Girls Basketball — Molalla at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.  
Boys Basketball — Clatskanie at Warrenton, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Girls Basketball — Nestucca at Knappa, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Crosshill Christian, 5:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball — Nestucca at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at Crosshill Christian, 7 p.m.  
Swimming — Astoria at Seaside, 4 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

**ASTORIA 57, CLATSKANIE 21**  
AST (57): Shelby Bruney 20, Nayomi Holmstedt 9, Dundas 9, Peterson 4, Biederman 4, Birdeno 4, Matthews 4, Huber 3, Palmberg.  
CLA (21): Maya Helmen 8, C.McLeod 7, Points 4, J.McLeod 2.  
Astoria 20 25 5 7—57  
Clatskanie 6 4 0 11—21

Timber suit: ‘I’m expecting it’s going to be a pretty big backfire’

Continued from Page A3

tist, made sure he’s safe,” Bloemers said. “It’s easy to pick on the state and say the state isn’t doing enough.”

The plaintiffs say they realize that counties can’t simply legally challenge any state policy they dislike, such as marijuana legalization. However, they argue local governments can’t perform public health functions and carry out other tasks on the state’s behalf if they can’t rely on contracts.

“That would completely blow up the delivery of services in the state as we know it,” Nyquist said.

Critics of the lawsuit point out that Oregon cannot ignore federal laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, which restrict logging under certain circumstances.

There’s no argument that state law requires counties to share in timber revenues, but it’s still allowed to take environmental and recreation considerations into account, said Bob Van Dyk, Oregon and California policy director for

the nonprofit Wild Salmon Center.

“That doesn’t mean it has to maximize timber revenue at the cost of other values,” he said. “Those are perfectly legitimate interests but they need to be balanced against other interests.”

Tillamook County, one of the plaintiffs, is dedicated to environmental preservation but doesn’t believe it conflicts with other values, said David Yamamoto, vice chairman of the county commission.

“People think that if you manage for timber, you don’t care about the environment,” he said. “That’s absolutely wrong.”

The problem isn’t that Oregon follows environmental laws, it’s that state foresters have restricted logging beyond what’s legally required, said DiLorenzo, attorney for the counties. That management strategy has now resulted in Endangered Species Act limitations that have further decreased logging.

“There is nothing in ESA that makes you create habitat if it’s not already there.

They created ESA habitat by allowing trees to age,” he said. “They created the habitat, then blamed their inability to harvest on ESA.”

The claim that inadequate logging on state forestlands has harmed counties financially is a “red herring” and “misdirection” from the real problem: Tax breaks for large timber companies, Bloemers said.

If major timber companies paid more in taxes, it would benefit public services much more than increased logging on the tiny fraction of forestland owned by the state, he said. When the \$1 billion judgment is struck down, it’s only going to bring attention to that issue.

“I’m expecting it’s going to be a pretty big backfire,” Bloemers said.

Van Dyk, of the Wild Salmon Center, said he’s also glad that Oregon decided against settling the lawsuit and is optimistic about the state’s chances on appeal.

“One way or another, it should get cleared up,” he said.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
52 49	54 46	50 42	51 41	50 38	49 41	50 42
Rain and drizzle	Cloudy, a little rain	A bit of morning rain	Partly sunny	Low clouds	Showers possible	Mostly cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 56/35  
Normal high/low ..... 49/38  
Record high ..... 60 in 1941  
Record low ..... 15 in 1974

**Precipitation**  
Sunday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 9.00"  
Normal month to date ..... 3.26"  
Year to date ..... 9.00"  
Normal year to date ..... 3.26"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022

UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight’s Sky:** Mercury at highest altitude of 8 degrees altitude southwest at sunset.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 7:56 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 4:51 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 12:38 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 2:19 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 17	Jan 25	Jan 31	Feb 8

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
7:59 a.m.	8.1	1:32 a.m.	2.8	
9:10 p.m.	5.8	3:10 p.m.	1.5	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
7:41 a.m.	8.0	12:51 a.m.	3.2	
9:13 p.m.	5.6	2:38 p.m.	1.7	
<b>Hammond</b>				
7:48 a.m.	8.3	1:09 a.m.	3.1	
9:10 p.m.	5.9	2:50 p.m.	1.7	
<b>Warrenton</b>				
7:54 a.m.	8.5	1:16 a.m.	2.9	
9:05 p.m.	6.2	2:54 p.m.	1.6	
<b>Knappa</b>				
8:36 a.m.	8.4	2:33 a.m.	2.4	
9:47 p.m.	6.1	4:11 p.m.	1.3	
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
6:57 a.m.	8.3	12:15 a.m.	3.3	
8:27 p.m.	5.8	2:09 p.m.	1.9	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	48/29/s	51/35/s
Boston	13/9/s	37/26/pc
Chicago	30/29/s	38/26/pc
Dallas	54/38/pc	62/38/pc
Denver	50/29/pc	55/33/pc
Honolulu	79/69/pc	81/67/pc
Houston	58/47/pc	61/43/pc
Los Angeles	75/53/pc	75/57/c
Miami	74/67/sh	74/63/pc
New York City	19/15/s	36/28/pc
Phoenix	72/48/c	73/51/c
San Francisco	58/46/pc	59/46/pc
Wash., DC	30/23/s	44/31/pc

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	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Seattle	50/49		Wenatchee	30/26	
Tacoma	51/48		Moses Lake		
Aberdeen	51/50		Yakima	32/28	
Olympia	52/50		Kennewick	35/30	
Longview	51/49		Walla Walla	37/34	
Astoria	52/49		Lewiston	39/36	
Portland	53/46		Enterprise	37/30	
Salem	55/46		Pendleton	40/35	
Corvallis	54/42		La Grande	36/30	
Eugene	56/41		John Day	43/34	
Bend	51/38		Ontario	29/20	
Medford	52/36		Burns	38/21	
Klamath Falls	43/25		Caldwell	35/27	

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Baker City	29/20/c	30/20/c	North Bend	57/48/c	57/48/c
Brookings	54/46/c	53/47/c	Roseburg	58/41/c	54/43/c
Ilwaco	50/50/r	50/49/r	Seaside	52/51/r	54/46/r
Newberg	53/46/c	56/48/c	Springfield	58/43/c	59/48/c
Newport	53/49/c	53/46/c	Vancouver	52/47/c	55/48/c

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