

**OBITUARIES**

**Theodore Willard Swanson**  
**Naselle, Washington**  
**May 30, 1929 — March 21, 2022**



Theodore Willard Swanson was born on May 30, 1929, in Rosburg, Washington, to Theodore Swante Swanson and Litta Sadie (Knifong) Swanson. He passed away on March 21, 2022, at his home in Naselle, Washington.

The youngest son of eight children, Teddy was the delight of his mom and six sisters, Lillian Whitten, Olive Johnson, Lenore Sorenson, Florence Cutsforth, Wilma Clark Bond and Gloria Friddle Clark. His brother, Willard, died before Teddy's birth.

Teddy was raised on the Grays River at the Johnson & Swanson shake mill. He grew up running on log rafts and finding daily mischief at the mill. Teddy attended the brand new Rosburg School, boating there daily with a few of his sisters on board.

He was a school bus driver at the age of 16. He graduated from Naselle High School in 1948. It was here that he found the love of his life, Sally Sue Manula.

After graduating, Ted enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He and Sally were married in 1951, and moved to Sacramento, California, where he was stationed. They moved back to Naselle after Sally's mother passed away, and they were needed to help care for her 9-year-old brother, David.

Ted and Sally settled in Naselle, where they raised their four children. Ted worked in the logging industry with Grays River

Logging. In his later years, he worked at the Naselle Rock & Asphalt Co.

In 1980, Ted and Sally donated land and a building to house the Naselle Clinic. They were happy to be able to help their community by offering a place for medical services.

A staunch Republican, Ted could be found listening to Rush Limbaugh every day. He could also be found enjoying happy hour every afternoon. He loved having folks stop by for a visit and a drink. Teddy loved his Tanqueray.

He will be forever be remembered as "Bachi" to his 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his six sisters; grandson, Carson Burkhalter (1998); and his beloved wife, Sally (2020).

Ted leaves behind his four children, Roxanne (Chuck) Hendrickson, Mike (Barb) Swanson, Mark (Karen) Swanson and Susan (Gary) Burkhalter.

In his later years Ted accepted Jesus as his savior.

There will be a memorial service for Ted and Sally at Valley Bible Church in Rosburg on April 9 at noon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Carson Burkhalter Scholarship Fund, in care of the Naselle-Grays River Education Foundation, P.O. Box 12, Naselle, WA, 98638.



Theodore Swanson

**John 'Russell' Graham**  
**Warrenton**

**May 19, 1950 — March 24, 2022**



John "Russell" Graham passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 24, 2022, at the age of 71.

Russ was born to John and Harriet Graham in Oakland, California, on May 19, 1950. He grew up in Hayward, California, where he attended Tennyson High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating in 1968.

He was married to Darlene Leger from May 1969 until 1985, and they had three children. He then married Rebecca Bartruff in Vallejo, California, and with her two daughters made a family of seven.

He moved the family up to Salem to be closer to Rebecca's family. He spent his life working as a computer engineer until the recession of 2007 hit, and he moved to Astoria to find work. In 2014 he retired to Warrenton with his wife of 36 years and adopted daughter by his side.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Graham; his children and stepchildren,

Jenni (Ron) Lockwood, Kara (Sean) DuRée, Dennis (Kristi) Graham, Cathie (Don) Hogan, Joie (Brad) Bartruff, Janessa Graham and Debra Damico. He is also survived by his siblings, Linda (Rick) Barker and Glen (Gail) Graham; grandchildren, Sharayah, Austin, Tommy-Lee, Parker, Jasmine, Benjamin, Elliot, Kendra, Alyssa, Garrett, Emilee, Jaiden, Noley, Austin, Gianni and Bonita; and four great-grandchildren, and three more on the way.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Dianthia Patterson; and granddaughter, Tiana Ballinger.

Russ loved his family with all his heart and was very proud of all of them.

He was an avid reader in his earlier years, and loved watching sci-fi movies and TV shows. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren as much as possible.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held at Peace First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. in Astoria on Tuesday at 2 p.m.



John 'Russell' Graham

**Benedine Mary Cram**  
**Seaside**

**May 23, 1944 — Dec. 29, 2021**

Benedine Mary Cram, 77, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt passed away peacefully in her home on Dec. 29, 2021.

She was born to Carl and Kathleen Green on May 23, 1944, in Tillamook.

She went through school in Tillamook, where she met the love of her life, Douglas Cram. The couple married on June 9, 1962. They would go on to have two children, Robert and Carla, whom they raised in Seaside.

She worked for seafood canneries in Astoria for many years, and retired from Fred Meyer. She loved spending time with her large family and hosting family gatherings. She enjoyed stained glass, collecting antique glass and

gardening. She is preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Cram; father, Carl Green; mother, Kathleen Benfield; stepfather, Latt Benfield; daughter, Carla Cram; granddaughter, Chelsea Strickland; and her brothers, Carl Green Jr. and William Green.

She is survived by her son, Robert (wife Dawn) Cram; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; her brothers, Leonard Green, Gordon (wife Janet) Benfield, Joseph (wife Pemina) Benfield and Kenneth (wife Brenda) Benfield; and her sisters, Peggy Larson, Kathleen Morgan and Traci (husband Rudith) Liboy.

A private memorial service will be held.



Benedine Cram

**Cascadia train on track for big bucks**

By TOM BANSE  
 Northwest News Network



**This month, the Washington Legislature allocated a surprisingly large sum to get high-speed rail rolling so bullet trains like these seen in Tokyo might one day traverse the Northwest.**

For more than five years, Washington state, Oregon and British Columbia have collaborated on studies of a possible Cascadia bullet train to run between Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, Canada. This winter, the Washington Legislature approved money for yet more studies. But state lawmakers also set aside a much bigger sum to attract federal support that could advance the bullet train dream toward being shovel-ready.

Project supporters envision a train with a top speed of at least 250 mph operating on a dedicated track. That could whisk travelers from Vancouver to Seattle in one hour and from Seattle to Portland in another hour, in a climate-friendly manner to boot.

The top speed of Amtrak trains today in the Pacific Northwest is 79 mph. Those passenger trains are routinely delayed by congestion on a mainline shared with freight trains.

"Look at Spain. Look at France. Look at Germany. Look at Italy. Look at China, look at Japan," said state Sen. Marko Liias, D-Mukilteo, who serves as chair of the Washington Senate Transportation Committee. "We're not the first ones to this game. Candidly, we're probably in the tail end. We're sort of getting in last into this space following the lead of many of our global competitors."

Democrats in control of the Washington Legislature tucked \$150 million into a recently approved state transportation infrastructure package for what they are branding as "ultra-high speed rail." Liias said the goal is to attract four times as much in matching dollars from the new federal infrastructure law. If the federal Department of Transportation gets onboard, that could total up to \$750 million to get a Cascadia bullet train off the drawing board.

In an interview, Liias said such a sum of money would allow the states and their consultants to "do community outreach, environmental work, designing and planning to get a significant proposal in front of decision makers in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington and our federal funding partners."

He added that the partners still need to figure out how to pay the high cost of right-of-way acquisition and actual construction. A feasibility study completed in 2017 pegged the cost of building a Vancouver-Seattle-Portland bullet train at between \$24 billion to \$42 billion dollars depending on how much tunneling is involved.

Skeptics are already raising cries of "boondoggle" together with warnings to heed what is happening in California. The underway Los Angeles to Bay Area high-speed rail project is suffering from ballooning costs, slow construction and end-

less lawsuits.

"The \$150 million is both a large sum of money and also surprising," said transportation policy analyst Mariya Frost of the conservative-leaning Washington Policy Center. "For me, it's surprising because the state has far bigger and more meaningful priorities in maintaining existing roads and building out the projects they promised in (2015)."

Even within the community of rail advocates, there are mixed opinions about what track to take in Cascadia. Bill Moyer, of Vashon Island, Washington, who co-authored the book "Solutionary Rail," said he fears lawmakers have been seduced by a bright, shiny object, meaning the bullet train.

"It's obscene," Moyer said. "It really takes all the oxygen out of the room for offering common sense solutions in a timely manner."

Moyer argued taxpayers and travelers could get better bang for the buck and environmental goals would be achieved quicker by prioritizing improvements to the existing Amtrak service.

Power players like Microsoft, Amazon, Costco and governors past and present are vocally backing the Cascadia bullet train proposal and sending thank-yous to the Legislature.

Liias said an ideal outcome would be to win federal funding for both a future bullet train and upgrading existing Amtrak Cascades service.

Washington state lawmakers put strings on their bullet train down payment. The \$150 million in state money can't be spent unless it unlocks a federal match. It will probably be another year before the Federal Railroad Administration divvies up the billions in competitive grants for new passenger rail projects across the nation.

In the meantime, the Washington Legislature's latest transportation budget included a separate \$4 million in state taxpayer money to continue planning and outreach on ultra-high-speed rail contingent on Oregon and British Columbia making "meaningful financial contributions."

*Pictured: The Rosebriar Mansion*

assistance league  
 the Columbia Pacific

**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE THE COLUMBIA PACIFIC**  
 presents the 13th annual

**HOME CHEF TOUR**  
 ICONIC ASTORIA

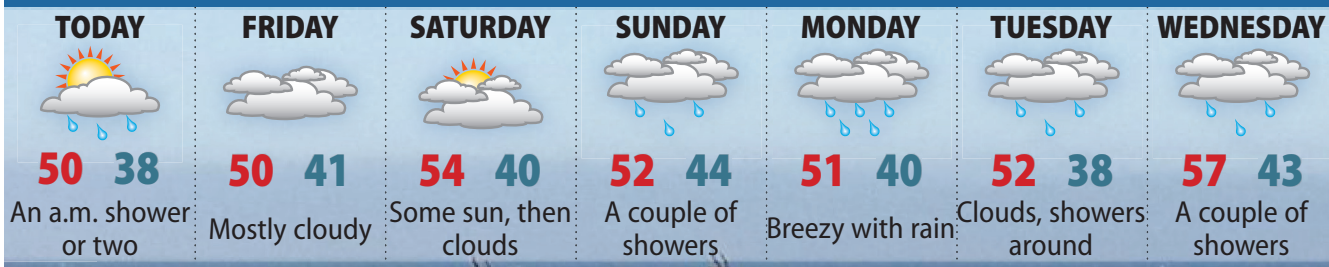
**SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022 • 11:00-3:00** **TICKETS \$35**

Available now and through event day at:  
**HOLLY McHONE JEWELERS, ASTORIA**  
 We invite you to visit our website at [www.assistanceleaguecp.org](http://www.assistanceleaguecp.org) to purchase your event tickets online.

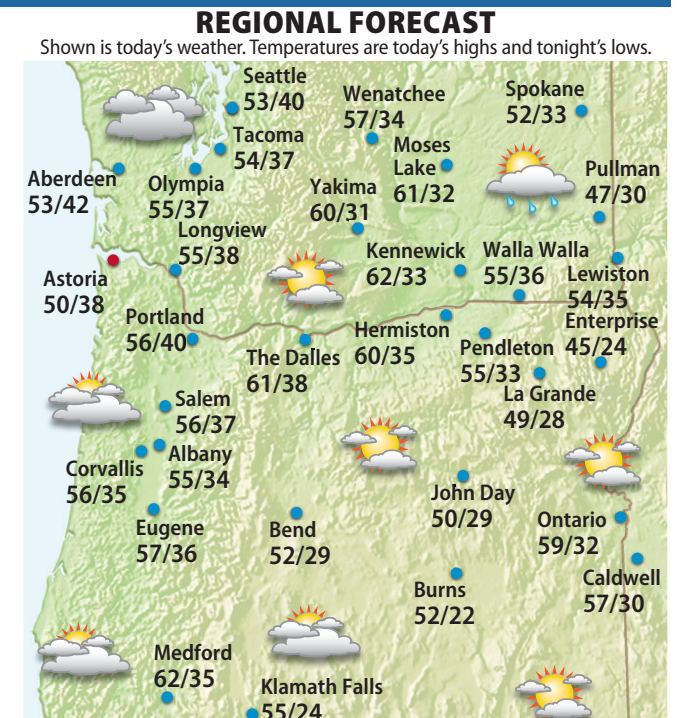
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 please visit our **NEW** website at: **ASSISTANCELEAGUECP.ORG**

Proceeds benefit the 2021/2022 "Operation School Bell" program that will provide school appropriate clothing to over 700 children in need in Clatsop County.

**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**



**REGIONAL FORECAST**



**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Tuesday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 46/39  
 Normal high/low ..... 54/40  
 Record high ..... 73 in 1964  
 Record low ..... 28 in 1938

**Precipitation**

Tuesday ..... Trace  
 Month to date ..... 6.46"  
 Normal month to date ..... 7.44"  
 Year to date ..... 25.48"  
 Normal year to date ..... 25.21"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2022

**UNDER THE SKY**

**Tonight's Sky:** Before midnight, emerging in the eastern horizon is Spica, of Virgo.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today ..... 6:58 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 7:43 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 7:07 a.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 7:19 p.m.

New First Full Last  
 Mar 31 Apr 8 Apr 16 Apr 23

**TODAY'S TIDES**

**Astoria / Port Docks**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:34 a.m.	8.2	7:46 a.m.	0.7
1:37 p.m.	8.1	8:02 p.m.	0.0

**Cape Disappointment**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:13 a.m.	8.1	6:58 a.m.	0.9
1:15 p.m.	8.1	7:14 p.m.	0.2

**Hammond**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:23 a.m.	8.4	7:18 a.m.	0.7
1:26 p.m.	8.5	7:32 p.m.	0.0

**Warrenton**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:29 a.m.	8.6	7:30 a.m.	0.8
1:32 p.m.	8.4	7:46 p.m.	0.1

**Knappa**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
2:11 a.m.	8.5	8:47 a.m.	0.6
2:14 p.m.	8.3	9:03 p.m.	0.0

**Depoe Bay**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
12:26 a.m.	8.2	6:27 a.m.	0.9
12:29 p.m.	8.2	6:42 p.m.	0.1

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	75/48/pc	67/45/pc
Boston	59/53/r	60/36/sh
Chicago	41/29/sh	48/32/pc
Dallas	71/46/s	74/52/s
Denver	62/34/pc	57/31/pc
Honolulu	83/71/sh	84/71/sh
Houston	78/52/s	81/58/pc
Los Angeles	66/53/pc	70/54/pc
Miami	84/77/pc	87/75/t
New York City	67/54/t	58/39/pc
Phoenix	81/59/pc	84/60/pc
San Francisco	63/47/c	64/47/s
Wash., DC	74/52/t	60/37/pc

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