

OBITUARIES

William 'Crow Man' Ritter

Astoria

March 27, 1945 — May 18, 2022

William "Crow Man" Ritter was born in Astoria on March 27, 1945, and died in Astoria on May 18, 2022.

He grew up at the Big Creek fish Hatchery near Knappa, where his father was the hatchery superintendent.

Will attended college at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico, and eventually graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in geology.

His obsession with the outdoors led to a career working on commercial fishing vessels out of Astoria. Whether catching king crab or halibut, this is a hazardous occupation, and he was finally sidelined with a burst appendix while at sea.

In retirement, Will devoted much of his time to his shell collection, and became a true expert on northeast Pacific mollusks. He was generous with other collectors and dealers around the world, trading not only shells,

but knowledge and mentorship. He collected and meticulously catalogued tens of thousands of seashells from all over the world.

He fished countless miles of ocean from here to Alaska. He never met a dog he didn't love, and always had a pocket full of treats. He wouldn't pass up a chance to tell a questionable joke. He loved odd foods. He held tightly to 37 years of sobriety, and he loved Astoria with everything in him.

Will passed surrounded by a loyal and committed team of caretakers and friends. He is survived by his sister, Jean, and her husband, Quentin; nephew, Michael, and niece, Celia; as well as lifelong friends Amber, Gene, Lynn and Denise; his "girls" Audrey and Kirista; and "his" dogs, "Snax" and "Patchouli."

There will be a celebration of life on June 26 at 2 p.m. at Cambium Gallery, 1030 Duane St. in Astoria. All are welcome. Bring your best stories and worst jokes.



William Ritter

John A. Pedersen

Svensen

May 9, 1940 — May 15, 2022

John A. Pedersen, "Pete," 82, passed away at Swedish First Hill Medical Center in Seattle of an unexpected brief illness.

John was born in Astoria, on May 9, 1940, to Enid and John G. Pedersen. He loved his childhood memories from living in Svensen, and made long-lasting friendships.

He left for California, and when old enough, joined the U.S. Army.

John met his wife, Wanda, in 1960 in San Bernardino, California, and they married in Las Vegas in March 1961. It wasn't long before John received his orders for Germany, and Wanda joined him a few months later.

It was there they had their only child, Donna, and came back to the U.S. when she was 2 years old. John served in the Army for 20 years, and retired in 1977 with honors.

He worked at the U.S. Postal Service in Del Rosa, California, until 1990. He wanted to return to his roots and the outdoor life that he enjoyed.

He loved to hunt, fish and clam dig, and

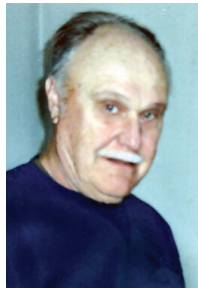
often did them all. He also held part time jobs for the Wickiup Water District and Astoria Public Works.

John is survived by his wife of 61 years, Wanda Pedersen, daughter, Donna Pedersen, granddaughter, Meghan Pedersen, and two great-granddaughters, Madisyn and Raelynn Pedersen, all of Astoria; his sister, Patsy Cacren (Dennis), of Rio Dell, California; brother, Richard Timonen (Gail), of Penn Valley, California; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Enid and Ray Timonen; father, John G. Pedersen; and his sister, Judith Whitehurst.

John will be laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery, with full military honors, on Thursday.

There are no words that can express how much John will be missed by his family and close friends. He was loved by those who knew him, and never met a stranger. He was an honorable man who always had our backs.



John Pedersen

Donald Jordan Obad

Lebanon

April 10, 1948 — May 1, 2022

Donald Jordan Obad, "DJ," was born on April 10, 1948, in Watsonville, California, to Alice and Mike Obad. He is the oldest of three children.

He was raised in Tracy, California, and graduated from Tracy High School in 1966. After high school, DJ went to Delta College, and later worked on the railroads.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1968 for four years during Vietnam, and reenlisted for two more years as a reserve. DJ was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1974.

DJ moved to Astoria, where he had three daughters. DJ moved to The Dalles for a few years and then moved to the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon until his death.

DJ loved playing bingo on Sundays and participating in events at the nursing home. He was a very soft, caring person.

DJ has four granddaughters, Monica Obad, Natalie Obad, Rebecca Obad, all of Ocean Park, Washington, and Sophia Obad, of Astoria; and two grandsons, Angel Obad, of Ocean Park, and Donte Obad, of Astoria. He loved spending time with his family.

DJ is survived by his three daughters, Ashely Obad, of Ocean Park, Whitney Obad, of Astoria, and Madalyn Obad, of Seaside; and his son, Michael O'neel, of Salem.

A funeral service will be held at a later date in Tracy.



Donald Obad



Leo F. 'Sonny' Brown

Dallas

Oct. 28, 1937 — May 15, 2022



Leo F. "Sonny" Brown passed away May 15, 2022, at his home in Dallas. He was 84 years old, and was born Oct. 28, 1937, in Seaside, the son of Stub Brown and Frances Witte.

A graduate of Gearhart Grade School and Seaside High School, he married Nancy Cheney on Jan. 3, 1958, in Seaside.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Leo served in Denver, Colorado, Homestead, Florida, and Minot, North Dakota.

In 1969, he began work with the Depart-



Leo and Nancy Brown

ment of Transportation in Alaska as a project engineer in many remote native villages, building roads and airports.

He retired from Nome, Alaska, in the early 1990s, returning to Oregon to plant and operate a hazelnut orchard near Dallas.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nancy; sons, Steve, of Homer, Alaska, Craig, of Spokane, Washington, and Randy, of Dallas; daughter, Jorine, of Tigard; two sisters; two brothers; and six grandchildren.

Novel genetic experiment shrinks tough-to-treat cancer

By LAURAN NEERGAARD Associated Press

In a novel experiment, a woman with advanced pancreatic cancer saw her tumors dramatically shrink after researchers in Oregon turbocharged her own immune cells, highlighting a possible new way to someday treat a variety of cancers.

Kathy Wilkes isn't cured but said what's left of her cancer has shown no sign of growth since the one-time treatment last June.

"I knew that regular chemotherapy would not save my life and I was going for the save," said Wilkes, of Ormond Beach, Florida, who tracked down a scientist thousands of miles away and asked that he attempt the experiment.

The research, published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, explores a new method of harnessing the immune system to create "living drugs" able to seek and destroy tumors.

"It's really exciting. It's the first time this sort of treatment has worked in a very difficult-to-treat cancer type," said Dr. Josh Veatch of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, who wasn't involved with the experiment.

It's just a first step and far more research is needed, he cautioned — noting that Wilkes is one of only two people known to have tried this exact approach and it failed in the other patient.

Still, Veatch said the findings are "a proof of principle that this is possible" and that other researchers also are testing this type of immunotherapy.

T cells are key immune soldiers, able to kill off diseased cells — but too often cancer evades them. Doctors already have

learned how to strengthen T cells to fight some types of leukemia and lymphoma. They add an artificial receptor to patients' T cells so the immune fighters can recognize a marker on the outside of blood cancer cells, and attack.

But that CAR-T therapy doesn't work against more common solid tumors, which don't carry that same danger marker.

The new twist: At Oregon's Providence Cancer Institute, researcher Eric Tran genetically engineered Wilkes' T cells so they could spot a mutant protein that's hidden inside her tumor cells — and only there, not in healthy cells.

How? Certain molecules sit on the surface of cells and give the immune system a sneak peek of what proteins are inside. If a complex receptor on the T cell recognizes both the person's genetically distinct "HLA" molecule and that one of the protein snippets embedded in it is the targeted mutant, that immune fighter can latch on.

It's an approach known as T cell receptor, or TCR, therapy. Tran stressed that the research remains highly experimental but said Wilkes' remarkable response "provides me with optimism that we're on the right track."

Dr. Eric Rubin, the New England Journal's top editor, said the study raises the possibility of eventually being able to target multiple cancer-causing mutations.

"We're talking about the chance to distinguish tumor cells from non-tumor cells in a way that we never could before," he said.

Wilkes underwent chemotherapy, radiation and surgery for her pancreatic cancer. Later doctors discovered new tumors in her lungs — the pancreatic cancer had spread, a stage when there is no good treatment.

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Seaside Family Dentistry is looking for a PT Dental Hygienist - Mondays.

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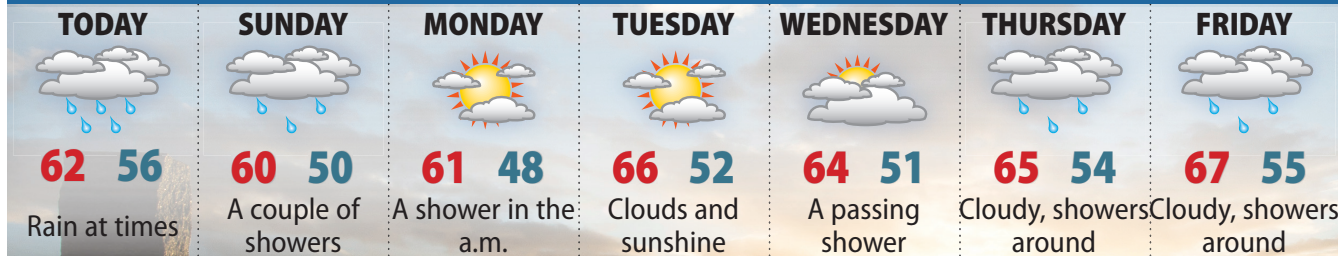
Please send resume and references to [santos@seasidefamilydentistry.com](mailto:santos@seasidefamilydentistry.com)!

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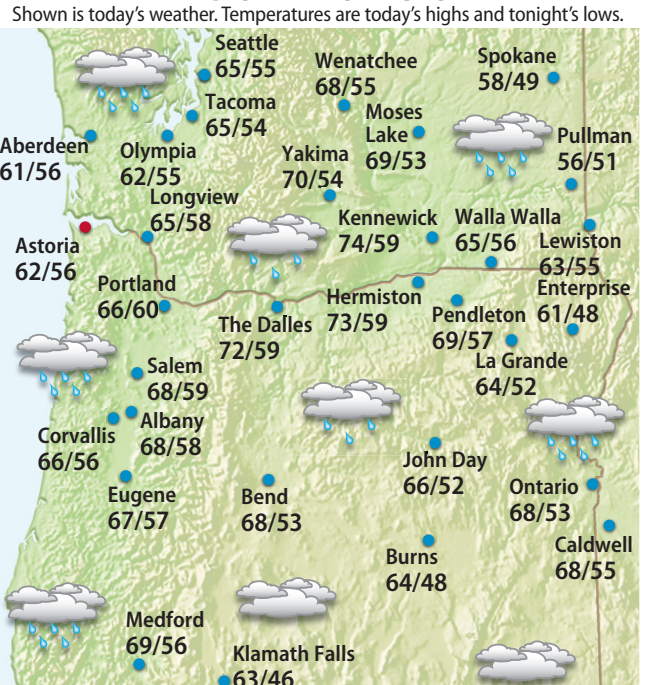
We look forward to meeting you!



SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



REGIONAL FORECAST



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 63/53

Normal high/low ..... 63/49

Record high ..... 79 in 1970

Record low ..... 39 in 1987

**Precipitation**

Thursday ..... Trace

Month to date ..... Trace

Normal month to date ..... 0.20"

Year to date ..... 38.74"

Normal year to date ..... 35.07"

UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Just below the bowl of the Big Dipper and above Leo's head is the constellation Leo Minor.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 5:26 a.m.

Sunset tonight ..... 9:02 p.m.

Moonrise today ..... 9:42 a.m.

Moonset today ..... 12:53 a.m.

First Full Last New

June 7 June 14 June 20 June 28

TODAY'S TIDES

**Astoria / Port Docks**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:04 a.m.	7.6	11:27 a.m.	0.0
6:18 p.m.	6.3	11:30 p.m.	3.6

**Cape Disappointment**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:50 a.m.	7.4	10:47 a.m.	0.0
5:58 p.m.	6.1	10:45 p.m.	4.1

**Hammond**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:00 a.m.	7.6	11:02 a.m.	-0.2
6:06 p.m.	6.4	11:05 p.m.	3.9

**Warrenton**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:59 a.m.	7.9	11:11 a.m.	0.1
6:13 p.m.	6.7	11:14 p.m.	3.7

**Knappa**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:41 a.m.	7.8	12:28 p.m.	0.0
6:55 p.m.	6.6	none	

**Depoe Bay**

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:02 a.m.	7.3	10:17 a.m.	-0.4
5:18 p.m.	6.1	10:16 p.m.	3.9

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/67/s	85/68/pc
Boston	73/56/pc	73/57/pc
Chicago	71/59/c	79/62/t
Dallas	87/69/t	94/74/s
Denver	82/56/pc	81/56/c
Honolulu	86/71/pc	86/73/s
Houston	93/74/pc	96/75/pc
Los Angeles	76/60/pc	76/62/pc
Miami	83/77/r	91/78/t
New York City	80/58/s	77/63/s
Phoenix	102/77/s	102/79/pc
San Francisco	71/61/c	71/56/r
Wash., DC	84/62/s	80/63/pc

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