

OBITUARIES

MCNEFF — Elizabeth “Lizzi” Ann McNeff, 62, of Florence died peacefully Friday, April 22, 2016, surrounded by love.

Lizzi is free in the stars with God and those who have been waiting for her. She’s laughing, walking, riding her horse, driv-

ing her Jeep and perhaps even dancing.

She was born Aug. 19, 1953, in Newport, Ore., but grew up in Florence.

Lizzi was a pistol from the beginning — dimpled, spunky, loving, joyful, strong-willed and adventuresome. She grew into an

incredible woman of courage, passion, generosity, loyalty, intellectual brilliance and unparalleled work ethic. Courage especially epitomized her life, no matter the circumstances or what she faced.

Lizzi was determined to use her life to do the most possible good for others, privately and professionally. A passionate advocate for people experiencing disabilities, Lizzi worked as a research educator, grant writer, program developer and director, author and champion on others’ behalf.

Collaborating with her co-researchers and their teams, Lizzi developed “Healing Pathways,” a peer support empowerment program for women experiencing disabilities. Healing Pathways grew to being implemented very successfully in rural and urban Oregon communities.

In addition, Lizzi founded DART (Disability Awareness Resource Team), a group of advocate volunteers with disabilities who join together to provide advocacy and support to people with disabilities experiencing life challenges, trauma and/or abuse.

Lizzi’s education and early career were lively and accomplished. A graduate of Newport High School (despite a few Ds),

Lizzi worked as a script typist for the film “Sometimes a Great Notion,” managed a dentist’s office and completed community college.

After experiencing a spinal cord injury at 28, she kept going, gaining her bachelor’s degree, double masters degrees and doctoral candidate status.

Earlier in her career, Lizzi was a sexuality educator, advocating for sexual health and prevention of teen pregnancy. From there, she transitioned to research and program development in disabilities issues and self-empowerment.

Lizzi intensely loved family, friends, colleagues and life’s adventures.

Incredibly strong in every way, she had no time for whiners, excuse-makers or persons who chose to stay stuck. Like Grandma Moses, Lizzi believed life is what you make it.

A celebration of Lizzi’s life and joyous spirit will be held Sunday, July 10, from noon to 5 p.m., at Wildwood Recreation Site east of Portland on Highway 26 near Welches, Ore.

Family and friends are invited to bring themselves, a potluck dish, a camp chair, stories and memories to share; Wildwood was one of Lizzi’s favorite places.

To honor Lizzi and the passion she had for her work, any donations can be made to further the work of DART and Healing Pathways to: HASL Center for Independent Living, 305 NE “E” St., Grants Pass, Ore., 97528,

Attn: Patricia Alvarez.

GREEN — Gerald Leroy (Jerry) Green, 82, born in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 21, 1934, passed away at home in Florence on May 21, 2016, after a long, courageous battle with cancer.



Gerald Green

After graduating from high school in Rockaway Beach, Ore., Jerry proudly served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to ’57, spending three years in England, where he met his first wife, Jean.

Upon his discharge, he attended Western Washington University and subsequently moved to California, where he worked for San Mateo County’s Public Works Department for 32 years as a civil engineer. After Jerry and Jean divorced, he married Carla Mueller with whom he had four children.

Jerry married Lynda Green in 1991. The two were married for nearly 25 years, the last 15 spent in Florence on Jerry’s beloved Oregon coast.

Jerry had a passion for golf and fishing, and was a fervent fan of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. He enjoyed sunny days when he could put the top down on his green ’92 Mustang GT and cruise down the coast listening to Louis Armstrong sing, “What a Wonderful World.”

Jerry’s greatest love was his four children, six stepchildren,

and 19 grandchildren. He loved family and friend time: fishing, golfing, baseball games and, at the end of a day of fun, barbecuing his famous ribs.

He will be remembered for his zest for life, his strength and smile — and above all, his Irish humor.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Lynda (DeMoss) Green of Florence; his sister, Shirley (John) Gray of Shelton, Wash.; children Monica Green of Bluffton, S.C., Grady (Courtney) Green of Fort Worth Texas, Melani (Ted) Borger of Pflugerville, Texas, and Donovan (Rachel) Green of Chicago, Ill.; stepchildren Eric (Chris) Weitz of San Jose, Calif., Warren (Stacy) Weitz of San Jose, Calif., Carl (Kat) Weitz of Denver, Colo., Lara Hernandez of Daly City, Calif., Damon (Shaina) Weitz of Round Rock, Texas, Dustin Hempstead of Seattle, Wash.; and 19 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Viva Green; and his brother, Sonny.

Private cremation services were performed by Burns’s Riverside Chapel.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. In memory of Jerry, tip a glass of the Irish, play a round of golf, or wet a line.

Donations can be made in his memory to Deschutes River Conservancy, Peace Harbor Home Health and Hospice, or the Siuslaw Public Library.

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Community Coalition features park ranger

Florence Area Community Coalition (FACC) will hold its annual meeting and election of the board members on Wednesday,

June 1, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library. The public is invited and refresh-

ments will be served.

Featured speaker for this month is Ranger Paul Reilly, who will speak about Honeyman State Park and the Friends of Honeyman.

Reilly conducts educational and interpretive programs that have included field trips for hundreds of local school children who study animal habitats, plant identification and classification, native and non-native species, fisheries and more.

The Friends of Honeyman is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the educational and interpretive activities at Honeyman.

New FACC board candidates are Lynn Anderson and Bob DuBose.

FACC meets monthly at the library. Additional activities include special events that build community, encourage volunteerism and address the needs of citizens.

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Northwest author to read at Little Log Church today

YACHATS — Bellingham writer Kristin Noreen will read portions from her book “On Silver Wings: A Life Reconstructed” at the Little Log Church, at the corner of West Third and Pontiac streets in the heart of Yachats, on Saturday, May 28, at 4 p.m. The event is free.

For more information, contact the events coordinator at 541-547-4547.

Noreen has written since she was a child; however, her first venture into published

writing came after she experienced a major accident while riding her bicycle. Her inspirational story narrates her experience of traumatic injury and recovery following the accident of life and re-birth.

Noreen is also the 2016 judge of the annual Isabella Dog Biscuits Short Story Contest, which began five years ago. It has now expanded to a 1,000-word maximum story. This year, the winning entry also included 15 dogs in the story.

WORD ON THE STREET

This Monday, May 30, Americans will take time to recognize veterans who sacrificed their lives for our country. So we asked...

What does Memorial Day mean to you?



“It’s a day that people reflect on the sacrifice others have given for us in the name of their country. As a veteran, it has special meaning for me.”

— DR. STEVE KERNER
FLORENCE



“It’s a day to reflect on the sacrifice others have made. It’s easy to take that for granted. I’m glad we have a day to think about that.”

— BETH KERNER
FLORENCE



“It’s a time to honor our soldiers, especially those who have come before.”

— JAN LANDRUM
FLORENCE

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