

On The Record

OBITUARIES

MCKNIGHT—Phyllis Catherine Schwarz McKnight, 89, of Florence, passed on May 21, 2020.

Phyllis was born July 27, 1930, in Fargo, ND. She attended Washington State University, where she met the love of her life, Robert “Bob” McKnight (who passed Dec. 24, 2013.)

They married on April 5, 1952, and moved to Florence, Ore., in 1954 and opened Bob’s veterinarian practice.

Phyllis was the right-hand assistant and chief employee to their growing veterinarian practice, as well as homemaker to their family.

Together, they are survived by their children: Jon McKnight (Karen), Brett McKnight (Jan), Mary Kay McKnight Rude (Nate), Kent McKnight (Tonya), nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Phyllis was active in the Florence community and with her family. She volunteered as Room Mother, Cub Scout leader, Job’s Daughter, Brownie lead-

er, Florence Booster Club member, Delta Gamma Sorority member, at the community soup kitchen and numerous other volunteer activities.

She loved chocolate; she loved her family; she loved life.

Phyllis was always there to support the ones she loved in the best ways she knew how.

During the past year, Phyllis experienced declining health yet always kept a positive outlook on life.

On May 21, Phyllis passed in the loving care of the Hubbard Retreat, located at 5253 Heceta Beach Rd. in Florence.

A private service was conducted at Burns’s Riverside Chapel and Funeral Home on May 22.

Phyllis and Bob were longtime members of the Lutheran Church and attended the New Life Lutheran Church at 2100 Spruce St. in Florence.

Person’s wishing to contribute on behalf of Phyllis McKnight can send donations to the New Life Lutheran Church on Spruce Street, or to the Hubbard Retreat on Heceta Beach Rd.

Phyllis blessed those around her with love, amazing cooking and her infectious laugh.

We were blessed and she will be missed.

WILLS—Duane C. Wills, born Nov. 27, 1946, passed away June 2, 2020.

It is very difficult to put into words just how extraordinary this man was.

He never met anyone who he couldn’t strike up an immediate conversation with, leaving someone — usually his wife — wondering what the hell was taking him so long in the store.

Duane had an enormous love of adventure. We’re pretty sure if there was an unknown path

anywhere in the country, he found it — and we were almost always fortunate to be on that journey with him.

His adventures took us to every state and several countries. He was particularly fond of Alaska. His job took him there pretty often.

We are convinced that many of his meetings could have taken place via video or phone, but

he would say “Nope, gotta be there in person.”

That 10 minute meeting would usually take him a week and he would come back with hundreds of photos; he loved taking photos of absolutely everything and everyone.

Duane created countless memories for us to cherish forever. He took a picture of a particular rock in Denali while on an adventure in Alaska with his grandson, Dylan, and told him he wanted some of his ashes spread there.

It looks like we will be planning a trip in the spring to find this rock, in a 6-million-acre park, risking life and limb in the presence of who knows what type of lurking wildlife.

Duane loved his family so very much. There was nothing he wouldn’t do for us.

Need something? Pop was there in no time.

He truly was amazing and we can’t wait for the day that he meets us, wherever that is.

Duane is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Janet; his daughter April Wills Harris; son-in-law Casey Harris; grandsons Dylan Wills

and Casey Jr.; granddaughter Cheyenne Harris; brothers Monte Wills and Dean Wills; sister-in-law Mary Henry; many nieces, including Janette Henry, Rhonda Killmer and Angela Holden, who he loved dearly; many nephews and countless friends, including Caren and Don Rogers.

We know that Pop is looking for his new adventure.

Whatcha doing up

there Pop? In his words, “Livin’ the dream.”

Burns’s Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

KRUEGER—Raymond Krueger, of Florence, passed away June 5, 2020.

Private Cremation was held through Burns’s Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home.



Phyllis McKnight



Duane Wills

State Fire Marshal asks Oregonians to keep fireworks legal, safe

The Office of State Fire Marshal, Oregon fire service, natural resource agencies, Oregon licensed fireworks wholesalers, and health and safety experts want to encourage Oregonians to “keep it legal and keep it safe” when using legal fireworks.

The 2020 Oregon fireworks retail sales season opens June 23 and runs through July 6.

“Oregonians can help each other and especially our first responders by keeping all fireworks use safe and legal, especially now with greater risks of wildfire this fire season and the stresses that COVID-19 is putting on our systems,” said Mark Johnston, assistant chief deputy fire marshal. “Our office’s fireworks safety and education materials reinforce these important messages to help prevent unwanted fires, wildfires, and calls to responders or visits to our medical facilities.”

The OSFM is providing downloadable items that

help Oregonians understand the fireworks that are legal to use in Oregon without a permit, where they are permitted to be used, and the important safety steps to take when using fireworks. The OSFM is asking Oregonians to share this information with their friends, families and neighbors.

The OSFM encourages everyone to use the four Bs of safe fireworks use:

- Be prepared before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- Be aware: use only legal fireworks and use them only in legal places.

In Oregon, officials may seize illegal fireworks and charge offenders with a

class B misdemeanor, which could result in a fine of up to \$2,500 per violation and a civil penalty of up to \$500. Those who misuse fireworks or allow fireworks to cause damage are liable and may be required to pay fire suppression costs or other damage. Parents are also liable for fireworks damage caused by their children.

Despite their regulated sale and use, fireworks in Oregon continue to cause public safety and health threats every year. In 2020, the Oregon fire service faces additional burdens of protecting their personnel from exposure to COVID-19 and serving the public with the disease in circulation.

For the last reported five years through 2019, there were 1,173 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon, resulting in more than \$4.9 million in property loss and contents damage. During that same period, fires resulting from fireworks resulted one death and 37 injuries.

For more information on fireworks in Oregon, visit the OSFM website.

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