

# Lyons: 'The legend of Stubby will continue'

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Seaside," City Councilor Dana Phillips said. "His relationship with his students as a teacher, coach and drivers ed instructor was one of being like a big dad who loved each and every one of them showing no favoritism."

Lyons led the Gulls state championship football team in 1994, the first championship team in Seaside since 1959.

Wally Hamer, a fellow coach, called Lyons a "difference maker" in the lives of student athletes.

"He was a great teacher, coach, friend, father, city councilman, a true leader in every sense," Hamer said.

"He could rally kids way beyond what you could expect of them," said Jim Auld, also a former Gulls coach and friend of Lyons. "He could do that not just on the arena of athletics. He did it in the classroom, he did it in the hallways and in the community. He had that unique ability to bring the best out of kids."

Part Sioux, Raphael Lyons Jr. was born Sept. 4, 1934, and raised on a reservation in North Dakota, one of 10 children of Anne and Ray Lyons.

The obvious question: Why the nickname "Stubby"?

"I was born at home, and after about three or four days they thought they should get me to the reservation hospital to get me checked out," Lyons recalled in an interview last year. "My dad said, 'Give me a suitcase and a couple of fluffy blan-



Jeff Ter Har

**Members and coaches of the state championship-winning 1994 Gulls football team, reunited at the Times Theatre. From left, John Chapman, Bruce Buzzell, Wally Hamer, Jim Auld, Adam Israel, Darien Neilson, Stubby Lyons, Randy Hunt, Scott White, Casey Jackson and Jason Wheatley.**

kets in there.' I was stubby enough to fit in it. And that's what he called me."

Lyons was a five-sport athlete at Coeur d'Alene High School in Idaho and entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953, serving for eight years, including time spent in the Korean War.

As a 20-year-old Marine, Lyons spent 14 months in Korea as a military officer in the demilitarized zone.

He attended Whitworth College and Northern Idaho State College. After eight years in the service, he returned home and pursued his education on the GI Bill, earning his bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington State College and his master's at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

His teaching and coaching career began at 35, first in Nevada, then Washington state.

But the Oregon Coast was his dream destination.

"I always wanted to live near the ocean," he said.

When a position became available in the Seaside School District, Lyons put his application in.

"The principal said, 'Can you be up here tomorrow for an interview?' I said, 'Yes, I guess I can.' I jumped in the car and the principal said, 'Would you take this job if we offered it to you?' I said yes. He called the next day, Saturday, and said, 'You start Monday.'"

Arriving in Seaside in 1980, he served as an assistant for Auld before taking the head football coach role.

The 1994 Gulls championship team was inspired by Lyons' enthusiasm on and off the field.

"I knew we were going to have a pretty good football team that year," he said. "So I thought I'd get a personal license plate: 'FIRE UP.' Those are the

same license plates I've got on my truck right now."

More than 3,000 Gulls fans traveled to Autzen Stadium at the University of Oregon in Eugene to watch the Gulls win the championship 27-14 over Brookings-Harbor, overcoming a 14-10 halftime deficit.

"One thing that stood out was during the 1994 state championship run how our whole coaching staff came together and really bonded," Hamer said. "I feel that was directly influenced by the environment that Stubby brought to the table."

After the game, the Seaside Signal reported that Lyons went to his knees.

"I made a promise I was going to say a little prayer along the sidelines right after the game if we won, and I did," Lyons told the newspaper.

Lyons taught nearly every subject at Seaside High School, including English, U.S. history, personal finance, a law class — 16 different classes over a 45-year career. He coached from 1980 to 1998 and returned briefly as the Gulls coach in 2010. He left teaching in 1999.

Lyons married his second wife, Sharee Opitz, a former teacher at Seaside High School, in 1998 after being introduced by sophomore students interested in playing matchmaker.

Lyons was a member of a number of associations and committees including the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association and the Seaside American Legion. He is a life member of the Seaside Elks, Veterans of For-

eign Wars and the Northern Oregon Coast Marine Corps League.

Along with his wife, Lyons is survived by his sister, Joni Lewis; son, Lance Lyons, and his wife, Karen; daughter, Lacy Pannebaker, and her husband, Luke, and their children, Lola and Layla. He is also survived by Vanessa Underhill, Lyons' ex-wife and mother of Lance Lyons and Pannebaker.

A service will be held later, Lance Lyons said.

In his later years, Lyons stayed close to home, enjoying his property in the Southeast Hills. He regularly met up with team alumni to share memories at Dundee's.

"What a tremendous loss to our community," Phillips said. "But the legend of Stubby will continue. Stubby, you will be missed but never forgotten."

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## OBITUARY

### Christine Ann Hurner

Warrenton  
Jan. 13, 1953 — Dec. 18, 2020

Christine "Chris" Ann Hurner was born in Portland on Jan. 13, 1953, to Richard and Virginia Berglund.

The second of three children, Chris joined her family on many moves all over the U.S. as her father served in the U.S. Air Force. This gave Chris many stories to tell her children later on about tarantulas, horned toads and much more.

Chris was a woman who wore many hats in her life. Working at the Funny Farm and Froggy's as a waitress, the Shilo Inn as a bartender, and then buying Harrison's Bakery with her husband and best friend, Tom.

He baked, while Chris beautifully decorated cakes and made deliveries in her

yellow Jeep, with "Dolly's Donuts" written on the back.

Lastly, Chris found her niche at White Rail Acres, or "the barn," as most came to call it, caring for her six horses and 14 others boarded there. Chris was superwoman, mucking stalls, cleaning and trimming feet, feeding, brushing and loving her horses, chickens, ducks, turkeys, dogs and cats.

Also, as if all that wasn't enough, Chris decided to take on another adventure, and managed to do it beautifully, making it look simple as she did: the fodder system, a hydroponic feed system to improve the lives of her horses even more.

Chris had a heart full



Christine Hurner

of love. If she knew you, or had just met you, Chris loved with all she had. Chris had a compassion, generosity and kindness that was unbelievable.

Sadly, though, after beating breast cancer in 2010, Chris was diagnosed Nov. 30, 2020, with lung cancer. And, she tragically suc-

cumbed on Dec. 18, 2020, surrounded by her husband, Tom, her children and her un-officially adopted girls.

Chris is survived by her husband; her son, Martin (Katie); her daughter, Angela; her daughter, Jessica (Andrew); her daughter, Amanda (Jordan); her grandchildren, Tateum, Kaydence, Breezy, Koko, Ezekiel and Kasey; her brother, Rick; and nieces and nephews, in-laws and friends who meant the world to her.

Chris was the epitome of love; she loved with her whole heart, and was loved by so many who will never forget her. She would tell us all, "don't cry, just have a party!"

## PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

**SEASIDE POLICE DEPT.**  
PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

**Dec. 19**  
**8:50 p.m.**, 400 block S. Roosevelt: Property crimes are reported.  
**Dec. 20**  
**7:31 a.m.**, 400 block S. Roosevelt: A subject is criminally trespassed.  
**7:43 a.m.**, 700 block Third Avenue: A case is made for criminal mischief.  
**9:16 a.m.**, Beach near Moe's: A man is reported kicking his dog. Officers contact man and advise him of the complaint. The dog appears fine.  
**11:40 a.m.**, Outlet Mall: Caller reports a driver in the lot swerving towards him and his kids.  
**11:46 a.m.**, Seventh Avenue: Caller reports subject lying in sand under a tarp. Police check on the person who says they are fine and do not need assistance.  
**2:30 a.m.**, Ocean Way restrooms: Transients are reported fighting.  
**8:10 p.m.**, 900 block 24th Avenue: Caller reports couple sitting on the porch of the closed pet clinic. Police speak to the couple who said they were just in a verbal disagreement.  
**Dec. 21**  
**1:40 a.m.**, Avenue G: Transients reported going through gar-

bage and causing a disturbance at the entrance to a lodging are trespassed from the premises.  
**1:58 a.m.**, Seaside Civic and Convention Center: Transients hanging out near the convention center are advised to move on.  
**11:16 a.m.**, Police headquarters: A person comes in to register as a sex offender.  
**Dec. 22**  
**1:19 a.m.**, Avenue U and Grove: Subjects reported behaving suspiciously are advised by police of the complaint.  
**9:41 p.m.**, 2500 block N. Roosevelt: Police responding to a report of a noise disturbance determine the noise is coming from a loud movie. Viewers agree to turn down the volume.  
**Dec. 23**  
**10:36 a.m.**, Broadway: Transients sleeping in an alleyway are advised to move along.  
**4:04 p.m.**, 12th and Necanicum: A subject reported swinging a baseball bat in a menacing manner is cited for disorderly conduct.  
**5:52 p.m.**, First Avenue: The owner of a business reported hearing people on the roof; police found a family of raccoons.  
**Dec. 24**  
**10:25 a.m.**, 300 block S. Prom: A person is arrested on a warrant.  
**10:22 p.m.**, Police Headquarters: A found wallet is turned in for safekeeping.

**SEASIDE FIRE & RESCUE**  
PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

**Dec. 19**  
**1:09 a.m.**, 800 block 12th Avenue: Emergency medical response.  
**1:28 a.m.**, 300 block N. Prom: Emergency medical response.  
**2:59 a.m.**, 1800 block S. Franklin: Emergency medical response.  
**9:34 a.m.**, 1200 block S. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.  
**12:15 p.m.**, Indian Beach: Water rescue.  
**8:17 p.m.**, 300 block Fourth Avenue: Emergency medical response.  
**Dec. 21**  
**5:37 a.m.**, 800 block Necanicum: Emergency medical response.  
**12:04 p.m.**, 900 block N. Franklin: Emergency medical response.  
**12:19 p.m.**, 400 block Avenue G: An odor of gas is reported. Firefighters are on scene.  
**6:48 p.m.**, 1100 block Avenue D: Fire investigation.  
**8:29 p.m.**, Forest Drive: Emergency medical response.  
**Dec. 22**  
**12:26 p.m.**, 600 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response. Police assist another agency.

**2:19 p.m.**, 300 block S. Roosevelt: Police assist first responders at the scene of a car accident.  
**8:16 p.m.**, 2100 block S. Franklin: Emergency medical response.  
**Dec. 23**  
**8:57 a.m.**, 900 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.  
**3:57 p.m.**, U.S. Highway 101 and Highlands Lane: Motor vehicle accident with injuries.  
**Dec. 24**  
**1:23 p.m.**, 1600 block Cooper Drive: Fire alarm.  
**1:58 p.m.**, Avenue S and Ocean: Water rescue.

**OREGON STATE POLICE**  
PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

**Lost control**  
A 19-year-old woman from Hillsboro driving too fast on a curve lost control of the wheel and crashed on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 1 Dec. 21 at 12:55 a.m., taking down an ODOT highway sign. Police say the area is equipped with flashing warning signs to alert drivers of the curve ahead. No injuries were reported. Her Ford Focus was towed by Gary's Towing.  
**U-turn crash**  
Police went to U.S. Highway 101 and Rippet Lane Dec. 23 at 12:38 p.m., for a report of a two-car crash.