

OBITUARIES

Marlene Mestrich

Astoria
Oct. 16, 1932 — June 28, 2020



For anyone who knew Marlene Mestrich, an Astorian for 60 years, they would know her as a very passionate, active and energetic community volunteer, homemaker, mother of three, and much, much more.

Her love for most all things Astoria did not seem to have many if any boundaries. Those who knew her well were very much aware of her fortitude in accomplishing her goals, which often included her periodically ignoring the boundaries around her.

Marlene Ardys Ballew was born on Oct. 16, 1932, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, to Don and Blanche (Abelson) Ballew. The first formative years of her life were spent in the beauty of the Black Hills, where she grew up in Hill City during the 1930s as the middle of three Ballew daughters. They were constantly seeking a better life than the depths of the Great Depression had thrown at them.

After World War II broke out, the family moved, and moved and moved ... and continued to move. Her father became a flight instructor for Navy and Army Air Corps schools.

She often shared the story of moving 13 different times in a single elementary school year. The family traveled across the western U.S., from Puyallup to Yakima to Prescott, Arizona to Idaho to Utah and various places in California and back to Washington.

Following her father's World War II service, the family made it to Puyallup, and a year later they jogged the short distance to Tacoma. That move marked the end of Marlene's constantly revolving schools, and it was there that she set down even more roots, attending Jason Lee Junior High School and graduating from Stadium High School in the Class of 1951.

Marlene was proud of her high school, one of the most stunningly beautiful schools in the entire U.S. It was originally built as an over-the-top hotel in the 1890s, and completed as a high school in the 1900s — a role it continues to fulfill to this day. She was not only a popular student, but a member of the "Tigeranna" marching team and the cheerleading squad.

After high school, Marlene rose quickly through the secretarial pool to assist the Army leadership at Fort Lewis, and it was there that she met the love of her life: Christopher Paul Mestrich. When he asked Marlene for her hand in marriage, and to join him in their life's journey — she happily accepted.

They married at Saint Patrick's church in Tacoma

on April 11, 1953, then made their home in Astoria, where Chris worked with his brother and father at Chris' News. Marlene became the secretary at the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, which was conveniently located in the very same building as Chris' at 14th and Commercial streets.

As the 1950s came into full blossom, and the 1960s began, Marlene focused on raising her family. After having their three children, and getting them off to school, she turned her sights on becoming actively involved in the community. In fact, for Marlene the term actively may just be an understatement!

Marlene's love for promoting all things Astoria led to an active role with the Astoria Chamber of Commerce as a volunteer ambassador, as well as becoming a recipient of their highest honor in 1989: the George Award.

She was thoroughly involved with the Astoria Anchor Club, a women's fraternal organization that supported the Astoria Regatta, by hosting luncheons, the Regatta Queen Coronation, the Anchor Tea, participating in the Regatta Parade and much more. By the 1980s she had held their highest office of skipper and others, had been the court chaperone and then some.

As organizations became more and more co-ed, it was a natural leap for her to join the Astoria Regatta Association Board, and eventually lead that organization. And lead it, she did! Forging strong ties with the Royal Rosarians, ships up river to the Portland Rose Festival, the Northwest Festival Association and others, helping the festival to bloom.

But her greatest love of the Astoria Regatta was bringing in the Navy and Coast Guard ships for the August event. This was a skill; she was very good (and persistent) at. There's a great Daily Astorian story about a ship canceling its 2003 Regatta visit due to being called into security operations off the coast of California.

Marlene promptly hit the phones until she got the results she wanted. To the astonishment of the USS Ford commander, the head of the entire Third Fleet contacted him personally, redirecting the vessel to go ahead

with its Regatta visit because ... "some lady had been on the phone and ..."

If she wasn't working on something regarding the community, you could always find her sharing her love of Astoria with everyone she met while working at Chris' News. Her hard work and community involvement culminated with being honored by the American Association of University Women for Astoria's Bicentennial as one of 100 Women Who Helped Make Astoria Unique.

Marlene will always be remembered for being a "Cheerleader for her community — an amazing woman who got things done!"

Marlene's husband of 58 years, Chris, passed in 2012; and in 2013, she left Astoria to be close to her children and care in southwest Washington.

On June 28, 2020, Marlene passed peacefully in her sleep. After 32,033 days of life with us, she is now joyfully reunited with her husband, Chris, her mother, father and sister, Bubs.

Surviving Marlene are her loving children, Paul, Carol (Jerry) and Monica (Michael); her grandchildren, Sebastian, Harrison and Nathaniel; and her sister, De.

A heartfelt thank you from the family to all the wonderful caregivers who touched Marlene's life; especially to everyone at Fairgate Estate — we will forever be grateful to you for blessing her with so much love and compassion.

If you would like to remember Marlene with a donation, the family would greatly appreciate directing it towards a local cause she very much embraced: The Clatsop County Historical Society. Please mail the donation to the Clatsop County Historical Society, P.O. Box 88, Astoria, OR., 97103, or make a donation over the phone by calling 503-325-2203.

There is no celebration of life planned. Instead, once the COVID-19 pandemic has stabilized and is manageable, there is the hope and desire that reunions of the extended families can occur.

Most importantly, if you love or loved Astoria, you would have loved Marlene, and the legacy she left. It would be her wish that you follow a similar pathway wherever you are at: Live your life to the fullest — and, like Marlene, don't always take no for an answer!

Kevin Kelly Smith

Seaside
Oct. 3, 1954 — July 27, 2020



Kevin Kelly Smith, 65, passed away on July 27, 2020, in Seaside, Oregon.

Kevin was born in Seattle, Washington, on Oct. 3, 1954, to Sid and Dionne Smith. Kevin was raised in a large family in Eastgate, Washington, and then moved to Seaside where he spent most of his adult life. Kevin worked at the Covenham Lumber Mill before he retired.

Kevin is preceded in death by his father, Sid Smith; sister, Debbie Hoge; brothers, Carey Smith and Terry Smith; and father-in-law, David Langlo.

Kevin is survived by his wife of 31 years, Nancy Smith, of Seaside; brother, Michael Smith, of Bellevue, Washington; brother, Mark Smith, of Kirkland, Washington; son, Corey Smith, of Everett, Washington; daughter, Jennifer Smith, of Bullhead City, Arizona;

stepsons, Michael McCaulley and Bradley McCaulley, of Seaside; mother, Dionne Hanson Cross; mother-in-law, Darlene Langlo; brother-in-law, Toney (Debbie) Newton, of Gearhart, Oregon; and sister-in-law, Brenda Langlo of Tigard, Oregon. Kevin also leaves numerous nieces and nephews, along with many grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We are sending a dove to heaven with a parcel on its wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses wrapped up in a million hugs. To say how much we miss you, and to send you all our love. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



July 24

12:47 a.m., Avenue A: Police responding to a disturbance request emergency medical help.

9:39 a.m., Avenue I and U.S. Highway 101: A person is reported throwing burning material on to the highway.

9:46 p.m., Cove parking: Fireworks are reported.

July 25

6:44 a.m., 4200 block U.S. Highway 101: Emergency medical response; police assist another agency.

8:07 a.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: A deceased person is reported.

10:19 a.m., Nicolai Mountain: Seaside police assist another agency.

7:50 p.m., 300 block Broadway: A disturbance is reported.

July 26

7:56 p.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: A report of harassment is later amended by the caller to be a misunderstanding.

11:12 p.m., N. Prom: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

July 27

11:25 a.m., 800 block 12th Avenue: Caller reports hearing chickens and possibly a goat in his neighbor's yard. Police are unable to make contact with the residents.

11:37 p.m., 900 block Avenue S: Unnecessary noise is reported.

July 28

10:04 a.m., Cove: Following up on a complaint about an unleashed dog, police say the dog was under the owner's voice control.

11:44 a.m., 400 block S. Columbia: A person complained about a dog or other animal.

3:23 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

7:41 p.m., 16th Avenue and the beach: A dog complaint was reported.

7:46 p.m., 13th and beach: Tents are reported on the beach.

10:30 p.m., The Cove: Fireworks are reported. Police are unable to locate.

10:43 p.m., 14th and Beach: A person is given a summons for fireworks.

July 29

1:19 a.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: A deceased person is reported.

7:20 a.m., Second Avenue and Necanicum: A found purse is turned in to police for safekeeping.

11:20 a.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: A man is arrested on a warrant.

11:43 a.m., Shilo Inn and the Prom: A woman selling face

masks is advised she needs to wait for her business license.

2:32 p.m., Avenue G and the Prom: Caller reports seeing a boy with an injured face; police search the area looking for him without results.

July 30

5:18 p.m., 2000 block Forest Drive: Transients reported behind someone's house say they are looking for agates. They are advised of the complaint.

5:22 p.m., 500 block Necanicum: A citation is given to the owner of a motor home reported parked in the area for four days.

9:03 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and Avenue S: Caller reports subject jumping into traffic. Police speak with the person who says he will stop.



July 24

4:24 p.m., 200 block S. Holladay: Fire investigation.

July 25

2:27 p.m., First and Edgewood: Fire investigation.

3:28 p.m., 2600 block U.S. Highway 101: Fire investigation.

5:06 p.m., Seventh and Downing: Fire investigation.

July 26

12:15 a.m., 200 block N. Holladay: Fire alarm.

2:44 a.m., First Avenue: Fire alarm.

12:21 p.m., 300 block Ninth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

12:38 p.m., First and Roosevelt: Car fire.

5:55 p.m., Semaphore 19 and Leech Lane: Water rescue.

July 27

12:42 a.m., Turnaround: Emergency medical response.

1:14 p.m., Semaphore 3-6: Emergency medical response.

5:50 p.m., 1700 block James Street: Structure fire.

July 28

8:36 a.m., 1100 block Broadway: Fire alarm.

11:59 p.m., 1100 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

July 29

10:18 am., 700 block Ocean Way: Fire alarm.

9:47 p.m., 25th and the Estuary: Subjects are warned their

fire is too close to dune grass.

July 30

2:12 p.m., Avenue A Bridge: Emergency medical response.

3:32 p.m., Turnaround: Emergency medical response.

6:43 p.m., 900 block Avenue S: Emergency medical response.

7:25 p.m., 300 block 18th Avenue: Emergency medical response.

8:51 p.m., 400 block N. Wahanna: Fire investigation.



Seaside woman arrested

Samantha Ann Manz, 28, from Seaside, was arrested July 21 at 11:21 a.m. on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 24 after a search turned up methamphetamine, heroin and a glass pipe. Manz fled the scene and after a foot search, troopers found her hiding under a bush. She was transported to Clatsop County Jail and lodged on the warrants.

Rear-end crash

On July 21 at 4:50 p.m., a Seattle man and a Beaverton woman were in a car accident by Beerman Creek Lane and Rippet Lane on U.S. Highway 101 during stop-and-go traffic. The Ford Explorer was traveling northbound when it struck the back of the Lexus. No injuries were reported. Classic Towing towed the Ford.

Spray-painted

Vandalism was reported at the southern entrance to Cannon Beach on July 27 at 15:50 p.m. A man spray-painted on barriers and a wall in the area. Mentioned in the report is a green Subaru. Police are investigating.

Highway crash

On July 29 at 3:36 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101 at milepost 25 a car parked along the side of the road facing north pulled out into the travel lane, not noticing another car traveling northbound. A crash occurred. No injuries were reported. Both cars were towed. The driver who pulled out was cited for failure to yield.

Litter at Falcon Cove

A caller reported offensive litter left, she said, by surfers, at Falcon Cove Aug. 3. She originally complained about intoxicated people playing on the beach and was advised it is legal to have open containers on the beach.

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