

OBITUARY

Dr. Ben Cockcroft

Seaside
Sept. 22, 1958 — Feb. 15, 2021



Dr. Ben Cockcroft, beloved husband, father, brother, physician and friend to many, died Feb. 15, 2021, while snowboarding in Washington state.

For nearly 32 years, Dr. Cockcroft has been a primary care provider in north Oregon coastal communities. He served thousands of people and multiple generations, from grandparents to babies.

He was a skilled diagnostician committed to whole person care, and dedicated his skills to serving those most marginalized. Many of Ben's patients speak of his non-judgmental nature, endearing honesty and caring heart as he went above and beyond to serve their health care needs. He loved his patients and community.

Ben and his wife, Lindy, have been at the heart of

activities in the North Coast communities. They have three adult children, April, Lucas and Travis (and his wife, Janet). Ben was also a proud "dog grandpa" to both Travis' and April's dogs.

Together, the Cockcroft family had many adventures traveling, surfing and being outdoors. More than anything, Ben loved surfing, studying with April and Travis and canoeing and playing chess with Lucas. Ben spent lots of time coaching his children to victory in soccer over the years, and also played keeper for many seasons in a local league.

Those who know Ben know of his deep love of surfing and of the local surf community. Ben placed first in many surfing competitions up and down the coast.

Of the memories being shared, so many speak of

Dr. Cockcroft's dedication to serving his community and sharing his spirit so generously. In his local community, he created a path at the Cove in Seaside, moving rocks to make the beach accessible to all.

Ben inspired energy and greatness from all those around him, often exclaiming "use it or lose it!" His quirky sense of humor always left people laughing (if they could figure out that he was joking).

Anyone who knew him would say he was truly an 18-year-old at heart, but with a work ethic that exceeded all others. At home, Ben could always be found at his computer, finishing the day's work while analyzing the surf. He passed this work ethic on to his children, of whom he was very proud.

Ben was the pillar of the

of Medicine and completed an internship in Fresno, California, before serving his residency in family medicine at San Pedro Peninsula Hospital in California.

He moved to Seaside 32 years ago, and has been serving his patients in Clatsop County ever since. He loved his patients and Providence team members, whom he deeply valued and enjoyed working with every day.

Additionally, he had the opportunity to serve the community of Oaxaca, Mexico, as a physician on multiple medical trips over the years. Dr. Cockcroft is the past president of the Clatsop County Medical Society and a former chief of staff at Providence Seaside Hospital.

The Cockcroft family is grateful to all who have extended care and concern,

with particular appreciation to Detective Ed Christian and the team at King County Search and Rescue for their heroic efforts, as well as the team of volunteers who endured severe weather during the search and always took time to listen to and engage with the family.

The family also wants to thank KSWB and John Chapman for broadcasting the memorial service, everyone who participated, and the community, for their support.

Online remembrances can be shared, and the service heard (under Gallery/Audio) at: forevermissed.com/ben-david-cockcroft/about

A future paddle-out in the spring or summer, once conditions allow, is being planned for a later date.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Feb. 19

9:10 p.m., Avenue K and U.S. Highway 101: A person is arrested on a warrant.

10:30 p.m., Sixth Avenue and N. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of a dog barking in the area. Officer did hear some barking at first and canvassed the area on foot but no barking was then heard.

Feb. 20

5:46 a.m., 900 block Avenue S: A disturbance is reported.

1:29 p.m., N. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.

6:27 p.m., Rite Aid: A driver is given a citation for making a dangerous left hand turn.

6:30 p.m., Broadway and Wahanna: A driver is cited for careless driving.

7:05 p.m., Avenue G and Lincoln: Officer on patrol recognizes a loose dog wandering in the neighborhood and returns the dog to its home.

9:40 p.m., N. Holladay: Police say a situation of a person creating a disturbance banging on a hotel door insisting they be let into a room is being handled by hotel staff. Staff is advised to call police if they need assistance.

11:20 p.m., 500 block Avenue G: Guests creating a disturbance at a hotel agree to leave the premises prior to police arrival.

Feb. 21

12:42 p.m., 1500 block Lea Way: A person is arrested for being in violation of a release agreement.

12:56 p.m., Police headquarters: A found wallet is turned in for safekeeping.

4:40 p.m., Avenue G bridge: A person is cited for unlawful lodging.

4:48 p.m., 1400 block S. Roosevelt: A person is charged with trespass.

4:57 p.m., Outlet Mall: A person reported banging on the door of the CMH pharmacy and yelling agrees to move along.

7:41 p.m., Seltzer Park restroom area: Public Works is notified of graffiti for removal.

Feb. 22

10:45 a.m., Beach in front of Maggie's: Police responded to a request for a welfare check on a woman in the surf with her dog. On arrival the woman was out of the water and didn't want assistance, medical or otherwise.

6:17 p.m., 500 block Avenue A: A disturbance is reported.

9:32 p.m., 400 block Avenue U: An assault is reported.



Feb. 11

2:34 a.m., U.S. Highway 26: Emergency medical response.

7:00 a.m., 11th and Lincoln: Police and fire on scene for a report of an arcing power pole.

11:51 a.m., 1100 block North Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

11:58 a.m., 2100 block Lewis and Clark: Emergency medical response.

11:52 a.m., S. Lincoln: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 12

8:00 p.m., 300 block Second Avenue: Emergency medical response.

9:14 p.m., 800 block S. King Street: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 13

11:42 a.m., 1300 block 10th Avenue: Police assist another agency with an emergency medical response.

Feb. 14

8:03 a.m., 1700 block Spruce Drive: Emergency medical response. Police assist another agency.

Feb. 15

11:14 a.m., 800 block Avenue I: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 18

9:42 p.m., Shilo Inn and the beach: Emergency medical response.



Driver hits elk

An elk that ran out in front of a driver Feb. 10 at 9:02 a.m. on U.S. Highway 101 traveling south near milepost 17 caused extensive damage to the vehicle, but no injuries to the driver or passenger. The fate of the elk is unknown.

Three die in three-vehicle crash

Three people died Feb. 10 in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26. Police say a Mercedes station wagon was heading westbound at around 10 a.m. about 2 miles east of the state Highway 53 junction when the driver lost control and slid sideways into the eastbound lanes, colliding with a Toyota Tacoma driven by a Seaside woman. Walter Smith, 21, of Pendleton, who was driving the Mercedes, died. His passengers, Erick Fadness, 20, of Decorah, Iowa, and a 16-year-old female from Portland also died. The Seaside woman who was driving the Toyota Tacoma was flown to a Portland hospital. The highway was temporarily closed while law enforcement investigated and reconstructed the crash.

Drunk driver

Brian Paul McCarthy, 43, was arrested on scene Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 and Sunset Beach Lane charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants — Alcohol after police responded to a report of an intoxicated driver who rear-ended the car traveling in front of him. McCarthy was transported to the Clatsop County jail where he provided a breath sample showing a blood alcohol content of 0.24%. He was issued additional citations for driving without a license, driving uninsured. A charge of reckless endangering has been referred to the district attorney's office. His car was towed from the scene by Classic Towing. The sheriff's office and ODOT assisted at the scene.

Admiring the scenery

On Feb. 24 at 5:13 p.m., an Arch Cape man traveling south on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 23 briefly took his eyes off the road to admire scenery; when

he turned his gaze back to the road he saw another car stopped in the southbound lane, waiting to make a left turn. He tried to swerve but rear-ended the other car, occupied by two people from Seaside. The force of the impact pushed that car into the northbound lane. Seaside Fire, two Seaside police officers and ODOT arrived on scene to assist Oregon State police. The Arch Cape man, 27, and the male passenger, 59, inside the struck car were transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital. The driver of the struck car, a 60-year-old woman, was life flighted to OHSU.

Failed to negotiate turn

Oregon State Police went to the scene of a single car crash Feb. 26 at 4:26 p.m., on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 5; on arrival they saw a gray Toyota Corolla in a ditch that failed to negotiate a turn exiting the highway. The car struck the L&C Tree Farm barricade but did not damage any property. The driver, 68, and his passenger, also 68, were uninjured. The owner of the car arranged to have the vehicle towed from the scene by Seaside Towing.

No charges filed for shooting bear

A 23-year-old male hiker shot a black bear in self-defense Feb. 27 at 3:14 p.m., in Clatsop County near the Northrup Horse Camp. He said the bear emerged from a hollow log as the hiker past by; he said he shot it with a pistol as it approached him and was about ten feet away. No charges were filed and the bear was given to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for research.

Eluded police

A gray four door BMW 4-door traveling at a high rate of speed on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 12 eluded police efforts to stop the car Feb. 27 at 5:47 p.m. Troopers said it was clear the driver was attempting to elude police when it made unsafe passes. Police decided to stop the pursuit and the BMW continued on its way.

Criminal harassment

State police went to the beach between Del Ray and Sunset access Feb. 28 at 3:36 p.m. for a report of an assault. Aaron James Hire, 31 from Salem, was charged with criminal harassment of a 48-year-old Warrenton man. No date was given for his return to court.

Traveling females attacked

Two young women, one from Warwick, Rhode Island, were sleeping in a parked minivan at the Sunset Rest Area on U.S. Highway 26 March 2 at 4:33 a.m. when they were awakened by loud noise and the back window of their van shattering. Two vehicles were seen leaving the scene seconds after. One was described as a silver or white car. No injuries were reported.



Feb. 4

5:37 p.m., oil or other combustible liquid spill, U.S. Highway 101.

6:28 p.m., motor vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. Highway 101 and East Pine Lane.

Feb. 5

10:40 a.m., good intent call,

U.S. Highway 101.

9:32 p.m., motor vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton.

Feb. 7

7:36 p.m., emergency medical service, U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton.

Feb. 9

4:09 a.m., attempted burning, illegal action, Salminen.

2:33 p.m., emergency medical service, U.S. Highway 101.

4:08 p.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, U.S. Highway 101.

10:42 p.m., emergency medical service, Fifer Heights.

Feb. 10

10:27 a.m., cover assignment, standby, moveup, U.S. Highway 101 and Highway 26, Seaside.

3:40 p.m., emergency medical service, Ridge, Gearhart.

4:18 p.m., emergency medical service, Manion, Surf Pines.

8:15 p.m., emergency medical

service, Spruce.

Feb. 11

7:31 p.m., unintentional transmission of alarm, Ocean.

Feb. 12

8:38 a.m., emergency medical service, Manion, Surf Pines.

9:35 a.m., emergency medical service, B Street.

Feb. 13

12:03 a.m., building fire, Larch, Cannon Beach.

9:58 a.m., water and ice-related rescue, Pinehurst and beach ocean shore, Warrenton.

11:53 a.m., emergency medical service, Sandy Ridge.

6:09 p.m., emergency medical service, Chinook.

Feb. 14

10:01 p.m., smoke detector activation, unintentional, no fire, Neacoxie.

Feb. 16

12:11 p.m., motor vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. Highway 101 and Highlands

Road, Warrenton.

Feb. 18

9:53 a.m., emergency medical service, Old Bog, Warrenton.

Feb. 19

9 a.m., cover assignment, standby, moveup, Lincoln, Seaside.

10:30 a.m., animal rescue 17th and River, Seaside.

10:57 a.m., smoke detector activation, unintentional, no fire, High Ridge.

1:40 p.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, Roosevelt, Seaside.

2:29 p.m., emergency medical service, Beach, Seaside.

Feb. 23

7:12 a.m., motor vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. Highway 101 and Gronmark, Warrenton.

Feb. 24

7:40 a.m., motor vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. Highway 101 and Lenore Lane.

1:50 p.m., emergency medical service, Ridge.

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