

Paula Mary Gaston Simmons

Seaside
Nov. 29, 1945 — Feb. 15, 2022



Paula Simmons

Paula Mary Gaston Simmons, 76, passed away at her home on Feb. 15. She was born in Durango, Colorado, to Emmitt and Ethel Gaston. She was the youngest of six children. Paula's sons are William and Dennis Simmons, and they each have two daughters. Bill's daughters are Davis and Emma Simmons, and Dennis's are Evelyn and Eliza Simmons. Dennis is married to Abigail Blastos. Paula is also survived by her stepson, Philip Simmons, and his family. She has had countless grand-dogs and great-grand-dogs.

Paula grew up in in Rainier, and attended Rainier High School. Following that, she went to beauty school. She married Terry Simmons, the father of her boys, and later married Randy Belt.

She was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She'd often be found with a grandbaby in her arms as she was cooking dinner for the entire family. She was

always refusing help because she had it all covered! Paula had unrivaled strength and independence in all areas of her life!

She was an amazing hair stylist, working at various salons through the years and eventually running and managing her own salon, Just Hair, for over the last two decades.

Her talents were limitless, including painting, gardening, baking elaborate cakes, cooking and storytelling.

She loved current events and music, and was an amazing movie buff. She was forever watching all genres of movies, and enjoyed them all. Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley were two of her favorites! She could be often heard saying, "It was to die for!"

Paula had a gift of seeing and representing the world through her artistic nature! There was always her current painting to talk about, and when she wasn't painting, she was working in her lovely garden.

Prior to COVID, she could also be found volunteering to do hair for the Seaside High School theater productions, and loved connecting with the teenagers while giving a bit back to the community.

Another gift she had was teaching herself how to do anything she was interested in. From the arts to pasta-making, she would find someone who knew a little bit about the subject.

Then, after talking to them, she would figure out how to do it herself, and everything always turned out marvelously.

Aside from making lovely cakes for anyone who'd want one, she will forever be remembered for her chicken noodle soup and her cinnamon rolls. We never saw her use a recipe, and the grandchildren would be by her side giggling, trying to learn all her secrets!

Hearing stories from Paula was always wonderful! It could be a past experience, something from work, or current events that she shared. She always had a unique outlook, and if it was a humorous one, her priceless laugh would echo into the next topic!

We miss her greatly, and love all the amazing memories we will forever cherish with Paula.

We are celebrating her life from 12 to 4 p.m. Aug. 6 at her house at 940 First Ave. in Seaside.

Michael Dennis Packer

Dufur
1951 — 2022



Michael Packer

Michael Dennis Packer was born in Pocatello, Idaho, to Wayne Hyrum Packer and Gladys Lord Packer in 1951.

He grew up in Clarkston, Washington, and graduated from Clarkston High School in 1969.

He died April 1, at age 71, of lymphoma/leukemia cancer in his home in Dufur, surrounded by his children, sister, family and close friends.

He had three siblings, Richard Packer, who died March 2, 1967, Robert Packer, who died May 7, 2019, and his sister, Patricia Peters, who resides in Blaine, Washington, and is the last surviving sibling.

He leaves behind his ex-wife of 32 years, Debra Packer; three grown children, Jeremy Packer (Kristi), of Goldendale, Washington, Jessica Packer Mead (Ben), of The Dalles, and Joshua Robert Packer of Dufur; and five grandkids, Riley Mead (10) and Lily Mead (5) of The Dalles and Avery Packer (8), Kaleb Packer (11/2) and Skyler Packer, born June 21, 2022, all of Goldendale.

He also left behind a niece, Mindy Virgen (Oscar) of Blaine, and great-nephews Jacob and Isaac Virgen; nephew Tyler Peters (Mattie) of Bellingham; niece, Shelby, and great-nephew, Torny, of Omak, Washington; niece, Kayla Nunn (Doug) of Cashmere, Washington, and great-nephew Neo; and niece, Sarah Packer.

He started in the camera department at Wasem's Drug Store in Clarkson when in high school. He loved photography, and had his own camera shop, Michael's Camera Center, in Lewiston, Idaho.

Besides photography, Michael was involved in

the culinary field as an executive chef at several restaurants in Lynnwood, Washington (Snoqualmie Pass), and Parkdale, Cannon Beach, Seaside, Gearhart and The Dalles.

He was also involved with The JayCees and city council in Clarkston, and fundraisers for Seaside school sports and band programs, as well as to get new equipment for the schools. He was in the PTA at Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School, and assisted with several school functions for his kids that included family nights, carnivals and karaoke events.

A celebration of life is being held from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Columbia Portage Grill, Shilo Inns The Dalles, 3223 Bret Clodfelter Way in The Dalles.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the celebration of life event, The Dalles Little League Association, the Goldendale Little League Association and culinary arts programs in Seaside and The Dalles.

Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you, until we meet again.

"I love you ... all the days."

Fire: At least five propane explosions occurred

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According to Jon Rahl, Seaside public information officer, the two-alarm blaze engulfed the neighboring home at 951 4th Avenue and at least five propane explosions occurred, causing some damage to the home across the street at 960 Fourth Ave. Firefighters extinguished the fire and no injuries were reported.

Seaside, Cannon Beach, Hamlet, Gearhart, Lewis and Clark and Warrenton responded with mutual aid. The Nehalem Fire Department covered Cannon Beach.

During the course of responding to the fire, a male and a female were taken into custody on outstanding warrants by the Seaside Police Department.



R.J. Marx

Firefighters closing out a two-home blaze early Monday.

NEWS NOTES

Gearhart fire truck struck by hit-and-run driver

Gearhart firefighters are reaching out to the public for information regarding a hit-and-run crash early Saturday morning.

At about 1:51 a.m., Oregon State Police received a report of a two-vehicle hit-and-run crash on U.S. Highway 101 after a reckless driver crossed two lanes.

The fire truck and a third vehicle were heading northbound when a southbound driver crossed lanes, Division Chief of Training and Operations James Hutchinson said.

The driver collided with the command vehicle and then fled eastbound on Hillila, where the vehicle disappeared. The third vehicle behind the fire truck, which witnessed the incident, was not hit or impacted.

"They did slow down to ask the firefighter if they were OK, and then continued," Hutchinson said.

There were no injuries as a result of the collision.

Damage has been estimated at over \$4,000.

The third vehicle was not hit or impacted.

"We would like to note that response to the original medical call was still addressed with no interruption due to this accident," Hutchinson said.

Gearhart Fire is asking if anyone has any information regarding the incident to contact the Oregon State Police, Astoria Area Command.



Truck damaged by a hit-and-run driver on U.S. Highway 101 early Saturday morning.

Seaside man sentenced to prison after attack

A Seaside man who attacked a woman in March at a condominium was sentenced in Circuit Court to three years in prison on July 20.

Thomas Squier Whiteford, 60, was convicted of strangulation, second-degree assault and menacing, with the last two counts constituting domestic violence.

He entered an Alford plea on each count, meaning that he maintained his innocence but knew a jury would likely find him guilty at trial. He was intoxicated when the incident occurred.

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MEMORIAL

Michael Owen Covey

July 17, 2022

COVEY, Michael Owen — Celebration of life from 1 to 4 p.m., Broadway Park, 1300 Broadway in Seaside. Covey, 59, of Seaside, died July 17, 2022, in Seaside.

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