

Seaside doctor remembered for ‘spirit of service’

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian



Providence Seaside Hospital
Dr. Ben Cockcroft

A longtime Seaside doctor was found dead after he was reported missing last Monday while snowboarding in Washington state.

Dr. Ben Cockcroft, 62, who practiced medicine at Providence Seaside Hospital for nearly 30 years, was located by a King County search and rescue team on Wednesday at Stevens Pass.

“He has cared for multiple generations — grandparents to babies — and is well-known and loved by all,” the hospital said in a statement. “He also loved his patients and community, saying in a profile article, ‘In a sense, I feel I have thousands of friends here.’ And indeed he does.”

“He also had a spirit of service, both in North Coast communities and also in taking time to share his medical expertise and bring much-needed supplies to Oaxaca, Mexico.”

“Dr. Cockcroft was a

loving father and husband. He and his wife, Lindy, have been at the heart of so much in the community. Many people here have watched their three children — April, Travis and Lucas — grow up, playing and learning in school, sports and activities. He and his family loved traveling, winter sports and being outdoors. Dr. Cockcroft also had a passion for surfing contests and loved playing and spending time with dogs.

“The Cockcroft family expresses deep gratitude to

Detective Ed Christian and the team at King County search and rescue for their heroic efforts, as well as the team of volunteers from surrounding counties. They endured severe weather during the search and always took time to listen to the family.”

Cockcroft is the past president of the Clatsop County Medical Society and a former chief of staff at Providence Seaside.

He attended the University of California, Santa Cruz before earning his medical degree from the University of California, Irvine. He completed an internship in Fresno, California, and a family practice residency at San Pedro Peninsula Hospital before moving to Seaside.

Dr. Dominique Greco, the medical director for primary care at Providence North Coast Clinic, said, “There are no words to express our deep sorrow. Only that he is loved and will be terribly missed.”

Colleagues, patients and

friends have shared memories and tributes online at Forever Missed, including Dr. Sharyl Magnuson Boyle, who joined the clinic in 2019.

“Practicing with Ben, I got to know his style, and grew to really respect his way of practice,” Magnuson Boyle said. “When he decided to go half time, I took on several of his patients. With these patients, my respect for Ben grew. He practiced at a level one rarely sees outside of an academic setting.”

“Diagnosing and managing complicated and rare conditions seemed to be no problem for Ben, just taken in stride. He was a gem. I don’t think that the practice really realized the quality of physician they had in Dr. Cockcroft because he was a pretty humble guy. Sharing patients with Ben, I do know his quality, and I regret not having had the opportunity to let him know how much I respected his talents and abilities.”

“We always think there

will be time to thank a colleague, to recognize him, to let him know how he is valued — and then there is no more time. I hope his family will know from me that he was an exceptional physician. He had rare skills and insights. His patients will really miss him. I will miss him.”

Janis Cerelli, a longtime patient of Cockcroft’s, said she affectionately called him “Dr. Bambino” since meeting him more than 20 years ago.

“My grandmother was in the hospital at Seaside and he walked in and he said ‘Hi’ to my grandmother and went to the bed next door and drew the curtain,” Cerelli said. “And I said in Italian to my grandmother, ‘Who is that?’ And she said in Italian, ‘He’s a doctor.’”

“... I said, in Italian, ‘But nana, he has a face like a baby.’ So then he opened up the curtain and delightedly said, ‘Hi, I’m Dr. Bambino.’”

“I mean, he’s just a sweetheart, and he was just a great guy,” Cerelli said. “I

have deep affection for him and I’m so sorry for him and his family.”

Dennis Smith, the owner of Seaside Surf Shop, said Cockcroft was a friend and his doctor for 25 years.

“You can’t be a surfer in this community and not know the Cockcrofts,” he said. “It’s going to be hard for a lot of people.”

“He lived right there,” Smith said, referring to Sunset Boulevard in the Cove, known as the hub of Seaside’s surf scene. “He was at the epicenter every day. He saw the comings and goings and everybody knew him.”

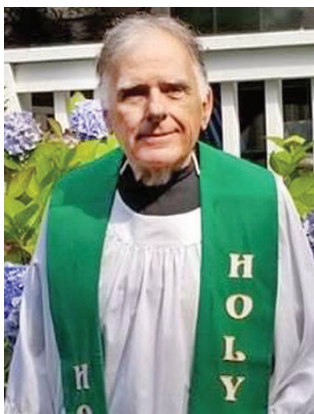
He said Cockcroft helped clear rocks and sand out of a little trail that goes down to the beach after big winter storms to make it more accessible for older surfers and others who had difficulty getting over the rocks. Smith said it is a big job every year.

“It goes back to his deep love for the beach and this little pocket of the community,” he said.

OBITUARIES

Rev. David Munro Barnet

Seaside
Aug. 30, 1941 — Feb. 17, 2021



Rev. David Barnet

Rev. David Munro Barnet was born on Aug. 30, 1941, in Moline, Illinois.

David attended schools in Eldridge and Davenport, Iowa, and graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, in 1964. He married Linda Diane Flachs in Davenport on April 18, 1964. He attended seminary at Lutheran School of Theology Chicago, and was ordained in 1968.

David served as parish pastor in Dresser and Sand Lake, Wisconsin; as a retirement home chaplain and administrator with the Good Samaritan Society from 1970 to 1977; and held other administrative roles in Ottawa, Illinois, Thousand Oaks, California, Denver, Colorado, and Salem and Keizer.

He returned to parish ministry in 1989 at Zion Lutheran Church in Redmond. In 1999, he accepted a call at Our Saviour’s

Lutheran Church in Seaside. He retired in 2004. After retirement, he served as interim pastor in Chinook, Washington.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; son, Daniel Barnet; daughter, Laura Kaim (Frank Kaim); four grandchildren, Trevin Barnet, Melanie Yelliott (Justin Yelliott), Nick Kaim (Breanne Kaim) and Anna Kaim; four great-grandchildren; siblings, Thomas Barnet,

Barbara Box, Anton Barnet, Becky DeMartelaere and Michael Barnet; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Alice Ludwig, Mary Fletcher and Karen Tarchinski.

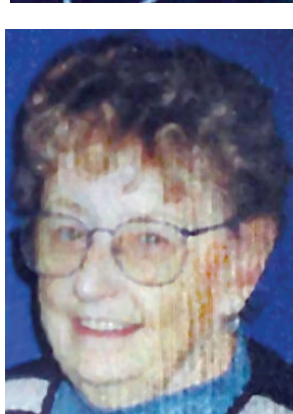
A memorial service will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Seaside. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, space is limited, and the family requests that you follow the service via live feed.

A livestream link can be found at the top of the church’s homepage at oslc-seaside.org. Anyone who wishes to attend in person must reserve a seat by calling the church at 503-738-6791.

Memorials may be made to the Food for Kids Program, in care of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 320 First Ave., Seaside, OR., 97138.

‘Pat’ Mina McEwan

Gearhart
July 8, 1927 — Nov. 29, 2020



‘Pat’ Mina McEwan

“Pat” Mina McEwan, during a slow period many years ago at a horse show in Vancouver, British Columbia, handed her young son a bill from her pocket and told him to go have fun. He took off, looking at the rides that cost \$1 each. Then he took a look at the bill in his hand, and was shocked. It was a \$20.

Pat McEwan, who passed away peacefully on Nov. 29, 2020, at the age of 93, lived life by a set of no-nonsense rules. But as her family would keep learning, just like that day at the horse show, she gave generously. For a lifetime.

She was born in The Dalles on July 8, 1927, to Raymond and Susan (Prindle) Dukek. She graduated as valedictorian of Condon High School in 1945 and went on to become a beautician at Meier & Frank in Portland.

It was after moving to the coast that Pat met her husband, Robert McEwan, at the Wave Crest lunch counter in Cannon Beach. The two married in

Carson City, Nevada, on Oct. 17, 1950, and chose to settle down in the town of Gearhart. They founded Bob McEwan Construction in May 1956, eventually selling it to their son, Mike, and his wife.

Pat was an accomplished seamstress who sewed wedding and prom dresses, even upholstering car seats. She was a skilled baker and heavily involved in her church. She was a fan of Coca-Cola, Glenn Miller, wrist watches and hair curlers.

She was painstakingly organized. She was known to speak her mind. But most of all, she was a dedicated mother and grandmother who spent many weekends on the road at horse shows.

Pat was preceded in death by her brother, Raymond. She is survived by her husband, Robert; their two children, Mike McEwan and Mary Jean Wilson; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America or to Camp Kiwanilong Summer Youth Program, P.O. Box 128, Warrenton, OR., 97146.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Feb. 9
11:33 p.m., Beach Drive and Ocean Vista: A disturbance is reported.

Feb. 10
1:56 a.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: A disturbance is reported.

3:22 p.m., Wahanna and Lea Way: A person is arrested on a warrant.

6:33 p.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

Feb. 11
5:08 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 by A Mighty Thai: A person is arrested on a warrant.

9:16 p.m., 1300 block N. Marion Avenue, Gearhart: Police assist another agency at the scene of a disturbance.

11:17 p.m., Pine Cove and N. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.

Feb. 12
12:14 a.m., 900 block N. Holladay: Subjects accused of causing a disturbance are advised of the complaint and warned of disorderly conduct.

1:29 p.m., Eleventh Avenue: A woman reported lurking around a home in the area is warned to stay away or be trespassed.

Feb. 13
3:35 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: A disturbance is reported.

Feb. 14
1:03 a.m., Wahanna and Lea Way: A person is arrested on a warrant.

1:13 p.m., 1400 block S. Roosevelt: A woman calls to report her son who’s been trespassed is back on the property again. On police arrival, he agrees to move along.

2:13 p.m., N. Wahanna Road:

An elderly woman is reported missing from the care facility where she lives. Staff located her and returned her safely without incident.

6:57 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: A disturbance is reported.

Feb. 15
7:39 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Harassment is reported.

5:33 p.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: Officers assist another agency at the scene of an assault.

11:32 p.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: Police speak to two people engaged in a disturbance. They say their argument was verbal only and agree to calm down and stay away from each other for the rest of the night.

Feb. 16
12:05 a.m., 800 block N. Wahanna: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

1:07 p.m., Avenue S and beach: Tents are reported on the beach.

1:36 p.m., Chamber restrooms: A transient reported sitting by the restrooms drinking beer is told to pour the beer out.

4:36 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

Feb. 17
3:39 a.m., Carousel Mall: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

12:10 p.m., Ocean Way/South Downing: Multiple carts are reported inside the public restrooms; public works will remove them if they aren’t gone by day’s end.

3:35 p.m., 300 block Avenue A: Caller reports woman behaving erratically. Police speak to her after watching her pick up rocks and garbage.

3:45 p.m., Avenue A: Emergency medical response;

police assist another agency on scene.

4:57 p.m., 900 block N. Roosevelt: An assault is reported.

Feb. 18
8:04 a.m., 10th Avenue: A woman wearing a red checked bathrobe is reported leaving a parking lot with a red bike. The calling party said the woman was yelling and pointing her finger at something. Police are unable to locate.

11:42 a.m., 1800 block Pacific Way: Police assist another agency with a disturbance.

5:28 p.m., 800 block S. Holladay: Police respond to a disturbance; caller says she argued with her ex but it was verbal only. A report was made for another agency.

6:45 p.m., 1000 block N. Prom: A woman reported riding her bicycle through private properties is unable to be located.



Feb. 5
6:14 p.m., N. Downing: Emergency medical response.

6:28 p.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: Emergency medical response. Another agency is assisted.

10:00 p.m., 1100 block Avenue F: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 6
3:43 a.m., First Avenue: Fire alarm.

9:30 a.m., 600 block Village Terrace: Emergency medical response.

Feb. 7
2:18 a.m., 2300 block Beach Drive: Emergency medical response.

1:29 p.m., 1800 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

COMING IN MAY

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M A G A Z I N E

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