



*Dedicated to Our Readers & the Residents of North Douglas & South Lane Counties*

# Spotlight on the Winchester Dam



*Photo Courtesy Adam Miller*

## History of Winchester Dam

The history of the Winchester Dam begins with the settlers traversing the Umpqua river way. It was the summer of 1850, the height of the California Gold Rush, when members of the chartered Umpqua Exploring Expedition sailed out of San Francisco Bay bound for the Oregon Territory. After being repelled from landing at the mouth of the Rogue River, by the local Tututni tribe, the expedition

sailed north. Eventually entering the mouth of the Umpqua River, they founded a settlement at site of present day Winchester Bay. The Expedition continued upriver to present day Scottsburg. At this point they had to proceed in small boats to arrive at Fort Umpqua, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post near the confluence of the Umpqua River and Elk Creek. The

*Continued on Page 6*

## A Highest Hazard Dam

July 31, 2023, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife closes all fishing on the North Umpqua until December 2023. It's the second 120-day fishing ban in three years. ODFW requires a prediction of a season total of 1,200 wild summer steelhead. In 2021, when only 450 were counted, the river was closed to fishing. There are so few fish in the North Umpqua this year, Greg Huchko, ODFW's Umpqua District Senior Biologist, won't even reveal the fish count total. "Really low," is all he'll say.

The cause, the Winchester Dam. The 450-foot-wide wood and steel dam is five miles north

of Roseburg, Oregon. The 133-year-old dam is privately owned by the Winchester Water Control District whose 99 members are wealthy residents of Douglas County. The reservoir behind the dam on the North Umpqua River is their private mile-and-a-half long water ski lake, at the exclusion of the public.

The Winchester Dam should have probably been removed when the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) condemned it back in 1976. OWRD gave Winchester Dam the highest danger rating, "high hazard," meaning: "the department

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## Christmas Tree Tradition is Big in the City of Drain

*Thanks to Ivy Bonnie Pyles*



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## Christmas Parade Nostalgia

Yay, the Christmas Parade is coming! It used to be a holiday favorite in every small and large town, but it seems less so today.

It's not quite the national tradition as Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade, but it was a good look at a towns overall Christmas spirit, because it takes a lot of dedicated people to pull it off. Not that there's anything lacking in that department these days but maybe times have turned a little.

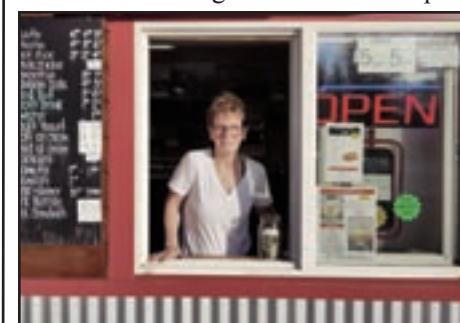
The Pandemic knocked the socks off of gathering for parades and social celebrations and spawned the light parades that we still see in some towns. Maybe they'll come back in a few years I don't know. Here is a list of communities with Parades planned if you want to catch one for Christmas sake

- Drain, Christmas Parade December 9th 10am*
- Reedsport Light Parade December 16th 6pm*
- Yoncalla, Light Parade December 16th 6pm*
- Sutherlin, Light Parade December 16th 7pm*



## This is What's Cookin in Drain

On the very eastern most side of the city of Drain Oregon on Hwy 38, you'll find the Country Cabin Coffee & Laundry. Country Cabin Coffee being a fabulous walk up or



drive through quick food bistro. Laundry being a.... Laundrymat. Not a "fast food", mass cooked conveyer-belt food, but individually prepared food that you can take with you.

From fresh breakfast burritos and sandwiches to the best homemade biscuits & gravy. And then there are the bakery items. Oh yea, Sandy Malchow is known far and wide for her cakes, pastries, pies and oh, the cookies. The selection of regular and special baked items that Sandy bakes every night is incredible. And of course there are coffees, teas, chai, chocolate milk or beverages & milkshakes for every thirst.

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*We have moved from our old location - Around the corner, down 1/2 Block*



## HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 10am - 1 ish

Closed Sunday Monday

**122 West "C" Ave, Drain Oregon**

December 1st, 2023

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The North Douglas Herald Newspaper is published once a month in Drain Oregon. The North Douglas Herald is owned and operated by Oregonians, published and printed in the State of Oregon. It is our mission to bring the news and information that our Readers will find pertinent, useful and with some insight to our common values and sensibilities.

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*Free Papers can be found, upon availability, in all of the following town's and these fine establishments*

### Drain

Rays Food Place, 308 N 1st St

Jacks Barber Shoppe Co, 122 W. "C" Ave

Country Cabin Coffee & Laundry, 438 W "B" Ave HWY 38

The Rose Bar, 413 Umpqua Hwy 38

Mildred Whipple Library, 205 W. "A" Ave

The Totem Bar, 237 W. "B" Ave unit 1

Drain Post Office, 228 W. "C" Ave

### Yoncalla

Eagle Valley Supply, 2570 Eagle Valley Rd

Food Center & Deli, 2580 Eagle Valley Rd

### Elkton

Arlene's Cafe & General Store 14858 State HWY 38

Elkton Station 14940 State HWY 38

Riverbanks Speedy Mart 32841 State HWY 38

### Reedsport

TRMF Smokes, 1898 Winchester Ave. US-101

Don's Main Street Family Restaurant, 2115 US-101

Recreation Station, 1575 Winchester Ave US-101 S

Creative Mercantile, 392 Fir Ave

### Cottage Grove

Old Mill Farm Store, 327 South River Rd

Kwik Pik Market #2, 925 E Gibbs Ave

Daves Corner Market, 633 N 9th St

Dari Mart, 1200 E Main St

Cottage Market, 603 OR HWY-99

Medication Station, 1041 N Pacific HWY-99

### Winchester Bay

Beck's Winchester Bay Market, 245 8th St

Pelican Market, 75298 Pacific Coast HWY US-101

### Oakland

Bart's Oakland Market, 204 SE 1st St

### Sutherlin

Kwik Pik Market & Deli, 551 W Central Ave

Smitty's Food Mart & Deli, 1367W Central Ave

Center Market, 1230 W Central Ave

S-Mart, 333 E Central Ave

Central Food Mart, 1021 E Central Ave

**North Douglas Herald**

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# Editorial



Ah, December. In the middle of the holiday season, now, and like every other year, it has snuck up on me again. It's funny how the Merry season of Joy affects us over the course of our lives. As a child you are wide eyed as the senses are bombarded with the wonder of food, presents, family gatherings, Church and social events and all the trappings that abound. A child's perception is highly impacted and the effects set the stage for a lifelong interpretation and the administration of their own holiday spirit.

As a young adult, we initiate our own branding on the establishment of newly formed traditions and expectations of ourselves and the world around us. When the kids come, it takes on a very new and personal inspiration and interpretation. The spirit usually grows 10 fold as the family dynamic ages and changes, fostering love and care of family and friends. We express these feelings with faith, good cheer, gratitude, giving, service and love.

But as the time wanes, we continue to evolve in our holiday personas and the intentions and attention we pay to ourselves and others. With the advent of age we double down with our own view of holiday priorities and how to navigate the inevitable changes of time and still negotiate the feelings and emotions of ourselves and those around us. It may be a mature reflection of the passing of time and the onset of a more "laid back" view of the maze of distractions that

sort of rounds out our tolerance and acceptance of "how things are and how they should be". It's a journey, they say and the journey leads us to the same deduction hopefully. Simply put, "Peace on Earth and Good Will towards Man". Merry Christmas to all, and please have a Happy New Year in 2024!

End of the year issue is now in the can as they say. Thanks for sticking with this little publication, your support is appreciated. Don't forget to support our Advertisers, they make this newspaper possible. We are looking for your input here at the Herald. Tell us about your issues, your pet peeves or your favorite things. Show off your kids school work and Sports. What is bugging you and what do you just love about the world?

We are following a few items here at the Herald, some things happening in your government and your neighborhoods and in your environment. Follow us as we delve into some of these topics and try to bring them to light and to your attention.

As the December issue is heading to the presses, I'm glad to say that the North Douglas continues to grow. Since the September issue, we have added nearly 500 new subscriptions and 20 new distributors across North Douglas and South Lane counties.

If you see news or interesting phenomenon, maybe have a bone to pick - drop me a line, I'll look into it. You can send letters, emails or call me anytime. I'm the editor@ndherald.com.

## Drain Mayor's Response

Members and friends of the Drain Civic & Cemetery Committees have voiced concerns that have been expressed towards to the "dissolving" of Committees as addressed in the ordinance proposed at 4 different City meetings. A letter in the last issue outlined inconsistencies a member has sited. To be clear, 100% of public opinion was against this ordinance. The Mayor made a statement at the November Council meeting and was given an opportunity to clear up any misunderstandings. Mayor Sparhawk responded with a copy of the speech she gave at the November Council meeting..Here is that statement.

Thank you all for coming tonight. Before we get started, I would like to clarify some of the inaccuracies that have been going around the rumor mill and printed in the local paper regarding the Civic Center and Cemetery Committees. Such things as: enough time hasn't been spent on this subject, that I lied about asking a chair to call the city administrator to schedule a work session, suggesting that council has other plans for the building that they aren't sharing, that the committees are being eliminated, cut out or have been disbanded, that council is removing citizen input, that no citizens spoke in favor of changing these committees, and the list goes on. One of our council members was even called disgusting after the October meeting, simply because she had a different opinion. Lies, rumors, finger-pointing, assigning blame, hateful words, all promote division and it needs to stop.

Council has been talking about these committees for 4 months, I indeed asked the chair to call and ask for a work session and they didn't, council has no other plans for this building and cannot make changes behind the scenes, council welcomes and encourages citizen input and requests. There have been numerous citizens that have spoken with some of the council members in favor of getting rid of these committees and see no reason they should be public officials. These people didn't speak publicly because they didn't want to start an argument with their friends and neighbors. And finally, these committees are NOT nor have they been eliminated, cut out or disbanded.

I brought the idea up in the June City Council meeting as a discussion item to talk about possibly changing these committees so the members would no longer be public officials. My intentions were to delegate more responsibilities to the committees by making them informal and not Public Officials in which all rules and regulations would no longer have to be followed. Light discussion was made, and it was then added to the July council meeting.

The word "dissolve" was an unintentional use, and it was never intended to make all the work of the committees disappear or be forgotten about. Advisory is what they are and will continue to be.

By making this change it would allow citizens serving more room to maneuver their routines as in "meetings, members, time-frames, etc. "...

To make sure everyone is clear, the cemetery committee is continuing as a city led committee, however, through this process, it too has changed. It has a new mission and direction that every member and council embrace. These members will continue to be public officials and must follow all public meeting laws. I personally do not agree that this committee needs to remain as public officials, but the council voted against my idea. I do not think they didn't listen me or my recommendations, they simply disagreed with me.

The civic center committee was changed and is continuing as a citizen led group. We are looking forward to working with this group of citizens and hearing their ideas and suggestions. I would like to point out that history has shown that just because a committee or group isn't led by the city doesn't mean they aren't supported. In the past couple of years, council has made numerous donations of money and staff time to community groups that are not city led. These groups include Mildred Whipple Library, the Chamber of Commerce, ND Parks and Rec, ND School District to support the track team and the volleyball team and ND Fair Board.

We are all friends or neighbors, our kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews go to school together or we attend church together. I hope moving forward everyone will choose to be kind to one another and work in a way that promotes collaboration and not separation. We don't have to agree on everything but we need to treat each other with kindness and respect. The words we use leave long-lasting impressions.

*Thank you, Mayor Sparhawk*

## Letters to the Editor

Hello;

I appreciate your publication. It's more than I would have expected from a local newspaper.

If you live in town you may not of noticed the work on the county roads in the ND area. The county public works guys are clearing vegetation with a mastitator which I describe as a large stump grinder on an articulated boom. These things have been used to clear forest roads for years. I've never seen them used on county roads in front of peoples homes. The work is exceptionally ugly, with no clean-up.

I sent a letter of complaint to the county commissioners. I had some back and forth with one of them, a Mr. Cress I believe. My position is that they are using the wrong tool for the job. Frankly, I believe the decision is to give the road dept. crew a tool they understand and are willing to use, rather than to contract out the work to people who do it well. Namely, about any tree service company.

I'm hoping that you will consider this a news story worth developing. I'm attaching the original letter to the commissioners and a picture of the work at my mail box.

Brad Drees Smith River Rd.



**From;** Brad Drees  
1665 Upper Smith River Rd.  
Drain, OR. 97435  
**To;** Douglas County Commissioners

*I write to inform you of a public works issue. At the address above we have about a quarter of a mile of road frontage. We have been here for 17 years and have endeavored to make the grounds nicer with extensive plantings of native tree and shrub species and creek restoration work with the goal of improving salmon habitat. Much of this work was aided by*

*the Elk Creek Watershed Counsel. Our house is set back a couple of hundred feet from the road and while it's not closed in we have made the place more private over the years.*

*The county road dept. is working on our road and has completed what they intend to do in front of our home. Their current work is tree and brush removal which they are accomplishing with heavy equipment. The primary tool can be described as a large stump grinder on an articulated boom. It's a very rough tool and the operator freely admits that the work is ugly. In my view such tools are designed to maintain forest roads and their use in front of rural residences is wildly inappropriate.*

*In the conversation with the operator he mentioned their small crew size and asserted that the machine does the work of five men. My response was that I would not hire five men that do such lousy work. I suggest that there are many tree service companies that are capable of doing such work well, and that the county would be providing a much better service to the taxpayers by contracting one out to do this work properly in front of rural residences at the least.*

*I have noted 5 or 6 trees and shrubs that I planted that were killed or compromised by the monster stump grinder. While I don't recall the width of the easement I know the reach of that thing exceeds it. There is only one demise that really gets my goat, a large holly*

*stump in a blackberry patch that was pulled out of the yard and put out there with a neighbors tractor 15 years ago. It was set back from the road adequately and holly is slow growing. It was put out there to compete with the blackberry. I mention this less to complain, but more to point out that these tree service companies hire a different kind of worker than the road department. Many of those guys consider themselves arborists, and some of them are. They know a lot more about tree species and growth habits, fast growing or slow, desirable or no. Those kind of guys are much less likely to destroy something that will rile up a home owner.*

*I do recognize that most of the neighbors don't feel as severely impacted by this work as we do. If one were to ask them I don't believe anyone would think it a good job. I also realize that when it comes to paying taxes most of us are truly cheapskates. For my part I would rather pay more for a good job that does not cause me work. At a minimum I'll be repairing a couple of maple trees with the pole saw. If my wife's Germanic sensibilities have their way I'll be spending the better part of a week in the creek pulling out the debris so it doesn't clog the culvert and flood the field. Tree service companies chip up the debris, much nicer than throwing it at the creek. It also truly reduces the fuel load rather than just moving it down slope.*

*Loosen up those purse strings and pay for a decent job.*

*Truly, Brad Drees*

**DRAIN, OR**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Extravagana*

**Events:**  
 December 2nd- Tree Lighting  
 December 2nd & 3rd - Train Show at Civic Center  
 December 9th - Christmas Parade  
 December 10th - Live Nativity  
 December 16th - Free Gingerbread House  
 & Pics with Santa

*Events, Courtesy of the Drain Chamber of Commerce*

**Some pictures from the Drain Chamber of Commerce sponsored Oktoberfest**

*Story on Page 6*



# City Desk

## Drain vs ODOT

A raucous and lively night indeed. That was November 15th at the Civic Center in Drain. Dan Latham, a head honcho, over at ODOT, brought a couple of buddies and a spokesman to talk about a stop sign that ODOT wants to remove. In fact they did remove it for a few hours but after a town outcry they put it back and started this process of trying to appease the townsfolk while still trying to remove the stop sign.

The meeting was supposed to be a Q&A to explain why ODOT wants it and why its good for the town. The ODOT speaker said that they themselves let the ball drop because they hadn't had properly given public input previously and they were bending over backwards, now, to accomplish that.

Well that didn't go as planned. The Civic Center had well over 50 residents in attendance and they all gave a resounding "NO" to the idea of removing the sign. One of the biggest reactions was when the ODOT spokesman tried to explain why "Driver Expectation" was the driving force in the effort. Drain residents definitely bristled at the idea; that because the eastbound drivers are coming from a weekend at the coast, they are tired and ODOT can't seem to slow them down coming into town, so that they can stop. They said that

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## Drain Christmas Tree

*Continued from Front Page*



The City Christmas Tree has been a Drain tradition going back many years. There was a time when the City Christmas Tree was planted right in the middle of the intersection of West "C" Ave and 2nd St, across from where the old City Hall was. It's been behind the Civic Center in years past, but for the last number of years it's been on the corner by West "B" and North 1st St.

Over many years the trees have been donated by Bob Whipple, Bear Creek Timber, BLM, Rod Bender and more. The City crew generally brought the tree in each year. In recent years the trees have come from Donald Wooley and the David Cooper Sr family, delivered by Wooley or Dave Cooper Jr. and this year donated by Dorothy Cooper and delivered by Dave Cooper Jr. and Tony Forbes driving the truck.



Thanks to Ivy Bonnie Pyles, president of the Drain Chamber of Commerce, for the story and photos. Bonnie traipsed around the brush until the right tree was located. She stayed to see it cut and loaded and trucked on down, seen here with her brother Dave Cooper Jr as they brought the tree into Drain.

The tree will be set up on the main drag by the south Rays parking lot and decorated by donors and City crew.

The Drain Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an extravaganza of Christmas events, starting with the Tree Lighting on December 2nd.

## Ray's Food Place in Drain's Stuff the Truck - Food Drive

Stuff the Truck is an annual program that Ray's Food Place started many years ago. Ray's stores collect bags of groceries and work with local food banks to distribute the food. Stuff the Truck program started on the first of November and the last date to donate is Christmas Day. The goal for the 2023 Stuff the Truck food drive is 10,000 bags of groceries to fill a 53' semi-truck trailer. All of which will be distributed to families in need this holiday season, through over 140 local food banks.

Store customers in Drain can pick a bag and scan a counter coupon to donate the bag which costs \$25 but is an average of \$40 worth of groceries.

Ray's has 38 stores and all are working to Stuff the Truck. Inside each food bag are several items like tomato sauce, tomato, canned

tomatoes, crackers, cereal, gravy mixes, mac and cheese, tuna fish, just some of the staples that people use ordinarily every day. In the past few years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they didn't have as many donations.

The Stuff the Truck program ends on Christmas Day. Stuff the Truck is running until Dec. 25 at all participating Ray's Food Place locations. Displays are set up in each store with donation bags. Each bag costs \$25 in-store and will be given to local families in need with the help of local food banks.

Ray's Food Place also allows people to donate full, half, and 1/4 bags online. Prices vary from \$6.25 to \$25 depending on the option you choose. You can also donate through their website, [www.gorays.com](http://www.gorays.com).

## Reedsport Library News

from Lower Umpqua Library District



Lower Umpqua Library District offers a wide variety of materials in an ever-expanding collection. In addition to print books, eBooks, eAudiobooks, audiobooks, and magazines, we have over 3,000 DVDs available for checkout. Our Classics and Pacific Northwest collections of nearly 600 and 1,300 titles, respectively, are among the newer sections that we have been adding. We also have an electronics collection that presently includes mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and solar chargers. The hotspots are very popular so there is a long wait list.

Our library recently started offering an interlibrary loan service, so our patrons

can now borrow titles from over 10,000 library systems worldwide, but we charge a \$5.00 fee per item to cover postage. For patrons who would like to avoid getting wet, we now have umbrellas available for checkout.

In the coming months, we anticipate making additional item types available for borrowing, including laptop computers, Blu-ray drives, different style mice, keyboards, Wi-Fi repeaters, video games, and software. These materials cannot be borrowed yet, but they can be checked out starting sometime next year.

Alex Kuestner, Director/District Manager  
Lower Umpqua Library District  
395 Winchester Ave Reedsport, OR 97467  
(541) 271-3500 [www.luld.org](http://www.luld.org)

## Come enjoy the Christmas Spirit of Yoncalla.

The Yoncalla Beautification Project in cooperation with the Yoncalla local businesses is working to present a Christmas theme in Yoncalla. The Christmas theme consists mainly of green and red lights on the businesses.

At the time of this writing the local businesses participating in the project are: Jeremy McDaniel Auto Repair; Eagle Valley Supply (Hardware and Auto Parts); City Hall; Main Street Espresso; United States Post Office; Yoncalla Food Center; Cutting Edge Real Estate;

KD Performance Transmission; (Formally) Yoncalla Feed Store; The Yoncalla Library; Yoncalla High School; Yoncalla Elementary School; Yoncalla Deli; Why Not Tavern; Yoncalla Fire Station; Yoncalla Community Center; All Hands Interpreting Services; and the Church of Christ.

These local businesses and establishments have a lot to offer the people of our Small Community. Shopping close to home saves time, money, and gas. Please support these local business.

## Government

Know your local Representatives!

### Drain

Mayor: **Erin Sparhawk**  
Council Position #1: **Grant Vaughan**  
Council Position #2: **Kevin VanPelt**  
Council Position #3: **Katie Decker**  
Council Position #4: **Aaron Lymath**  
City Administrator: **Jeni Stevens**  
City Council Meeting: 12/11/23 6pm

### Yoncalla

Mayor: **Kathleen Wertz**  
Councilors: **Dan Wagoner**  
**Gene Vroman**  
**Harold Gilpin**  
**Bryce Wertz**  
City Administrator: **Jennifer Bragg**  
Council Meeting: 12/11/23, 6pm

### Elkton

Mayor: **Daniel Burke**  
Council President: **Joan Smith**  
Council Members:  
**Kim Moore**  
**Dan Shepherd**  
**Sandra Galli**  
Public Works Supervisor: **Gary Trout**  
Council Meeting: 12/14/23, 8:30am

### Oakland

Mayor: **Bette Keehley**  
Counselor: **Jan Wier**  
Counselor: **Kent Rochester**  
Counselor: **Sky Ironplow**  
Counselor: **Betty Tamm**  
Council Meeting: 12/12/23 7pm

### Reedsport

Mayor: **Linda McCollum**  
Council Position #1: **Rob Wright**  
Council Position #2: **DeeDee Murphy**  
Council Position #3: **Chuck Miller**  
Council Position #4: **Allen Teitzel**  
Council Position #5: **Rich Patten**  
Council Position #6: **Debby Turner**  
Council Meeting: 12/04/23 7:15pm

### Cottage Grove

Mayor: **Candace Solesbee**  
Councilor Ward 1: **Chalice Savage**  
Councilor Ward 2: **Jon Stinnett**  
Councilor Ward 3: **Dana Merryday**  
Councilor Ward 4: **Greg Ervin**  
Councilor: **Mike Fleck**  
Councilor: **Alex Dreher**  
Council Meeting: 12/11/23 - 7:00pm

### County State & Federal

Douglas County Commissioners:  
**Tom Kress**(Chair) **Tim Freeman**  
**Chris Boice** **Jennifer Miller**  
Lane County Commissioners:  
Dist 1: **Ray Ceniga** Dist 2: **David Lovall**  
Dist 3: **Laurie Trieger** Dist 4: **Pat Farr**  
Dist 5: **Heather Buch**  
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District 02: **Virgle Osborne**  
Oregon State Senator:  
District 1: **David Brock Smith**  
**U.S. Senate Oregon:**

**Jeff Merkley**  
**Ron Wyden**

U.S House of Representatives:  
District 4: **Val Hoyle**  
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Attorney General: **Ellen Rosenblum**  
Governor: **Tina Kotek**  
Vice-President: **Kamala Harris**  
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*It is important to know your representation in your State, Districts and Municipalities. REMEMBER it is vital to your freedoms to vote. If you would like to have your own towns municipal officers listed please send title & names only to [citydesk@ndherald.com](mailto:citydesk@ndherald.com)*



## Community Pages

### 2023 Oktoberfest a North Douglas Favorite



The 2023 Oktoberfest attracts people from all over the region. Festival participants enjoyed awesome live music, free hay rides, shopping at excellent food and other vendors, there were free pumpkins for all children, kids games, and cider.

Hay rides were provided by Ratman, Charles Ferrill, Music by Myndee and Charles Ferrill along with Alder Street. Jim and Ame Beard provided the Cyder press, so that you could watch while he made the cider and there was also canned cider ready to buy. Vagos motorcycle club provided 100 free pumpkins for the event. There were free ghost photos available, done by Moe's Moments photography and Jack's Barber Shoppe Co,

free kids games were provided by Exclusively Bridal and Church Of Christ women. Beer garden was also provided by Jack's Barber Shoppe Co. There was a somewhat popular reptile petting zoo by Chantel Calvneau.

Many vendors with items to sell were there like, food vendor, Blakes Wicked Wieners. Reese, the Clown, hilariously, interacted with kids, teaching them the fun art of being a clown. A big draw was the Trebuchet pumpkin hurling by Benjamin Sanders, man those things will fly! The costume contest and pumpkin carving contest with prizes donated by the vendors made for another fantastic year of Drains version of Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Drain Chamber of Commerce

## ODOT

*Continued from Page 5*

makes it a good idea to remove it. ODOT seemed to be saying that if they fly through town there won't be as much traffic backup. Whoa!

A lot of the suggestions were for a signal or traffic light and many asked why, the ODOT boys said there was no "warrant" that would allow for a light there. It ended after nearly an hour and a half with no one convinced and a lot of folks expressed doubts and distrust of the speakers and the process. ODOT passed out comment cards and pleaded for residents to return them by the 29th of November.

The stop sign was first removed after some recent ODOT road work at that intersection. The residents all claim to have been unaware of the removal plans that was supposed to have been presented to the City prior to construction and a process may have been available to add a signal had it been contested when the plans were submitted. There is some reports that the ODOT premise that a signal is not available, isn't correct.

According to Charles Ferrill, "<https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2r3/part4.pdf> - If anyone is interested this shows the number of cars needed for a light to be installed, note that it is 70% for a town less than 10,000 as noted in the charts, page 440. And for the record as I suspected Oregon does not have to follow federal standard MUTCD they can adopt their own supplement to fit local needs/conditions, as Oregon has already done, but it does have to be approved by the federal highway administration. But they can and absolutely already have deviated from the national MUTCD".

Although it seems to be an issue that is not going to be left as is, the underlying sentiment is that ODOT is going to do whatever it wants, as it always does. The ODOT spokesman and Dan Latham expressed their sincerity that it wasn't a done deal and they really wanted to hear from residents to help find an appropriate remedy.

## Yoncalla Public Library Notes

*by Fawn Sybrandt*

With the cold weather arriving and the holidays around the corner, here are some updates from the Yoncalla Public Library. Thanks to our volunteers we are now able to open on Mondays. Our hours are **Monday 12-4, Wednesday 10-4, Thursday 4-7, and Saturday 10-2**. Feel free to drop by our cozy space at 194 Birch St in Yoncalla.

Every second Saturday of the month from 10-12 we have Coffee Club. This is a space to drop-in for a cup of coffee, get help with any technology needs, or just meet up for conversation.

We're excited about our upcoming Festive Family Fun Day in December. On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-4, join us for crafts, stories, and holiday treats. We always have a great turn-out and would love to see everyone again.

Follow us on Facebook for more information and to see what we're up to every week. See you at the library!

*Continued from Page 1*

## History of Winchester Dam

townsite they laid out, surveyed then named Elkton.

Some members continued up the Umpqua to where a local boatman operated a ferry. Another townsite was surveyed and named for Herman or John Winchester, both members of the boating party.

The expeditionaires sailed back to San Francisco and returned with about 100 settlers, that was in the autumn of 1850. At that time Winchester, Oregon, was the most populous settlement in the Umpqua Valley and served as the county seat until it was moved to Roseburg, five miles to the south, in 1854. By the 1880s, the town of Winchester was practically abandoned.

In the spring of 1890 Henry Dumbleton bought the empty town of Winchester. Convincing manufacturers and businesses to relocate and establish an industrial based city there, on the assumption that a dam on the river would supply sufficient power. In June of 1890, Dumbleton awarded the mill dam construction to Charles A. Briggs, a contractor and sawmill operator from nearby Coles Valley, Oregon.

There are historical references to an earlier "weir" dam at the same location where Briggs built the Winchester Dam. The four-foot-high dam was built of log cribbing made from the old growth pine trees that grew along the river. By August of 1890, Briggs had excavated and constructed the pier and the seat for the gigantic turbine. Completed in October of 1890, the dam was a "massive structure, timbers consist of huge pine trees not less than four feet in diameter, flooring laid with planks about a half inch apart to prevent swelling, to be filled with sand and natural debris..." as reported in the Roseburg Review. Designed with a seven-foot head, the Winchester Dam's 104-inch diameter Leffel turbine weighed 16,000 pounds, possibly the largest such turbine brought to the Pacific Coast at that time. At the southernmost end of the dam face, stood the dam powerhouse, capable of generating 2,000 horsepower.

Then the Financial Panic of 1893 bankrupted Dumbleton and as a result, the township of Winchester remained mostly abandoned for the next ten years. In 1903, an inlet downstream from the powerhouse at the south end of the dam became the city of Roseburg's primary source of drinking water. The following year, Fred J. Blakely, Lewis G. Dumbleton and Louis Bargee founded the Winchester Townsite Company, trying their hand at turning Winchester into an industrial center.

By 1904 the company was supplying Roseburg with both light and water. Three large turbines of about 250 horsepower each supply the power for the great plant with a 250-horsepower boiler and engine in reserve for emergency power. Within three years the Winchester Dam's powerhouse on the southern bank of the North Umpqua River was rebuilt and the dam's height was raised to 17-feet, and the log crib dam was partially encased in concrete.

Later, in 1907, the Winchester Dam and the sawmill were sold to J.L. and S.A. Kendall, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who owned vast timber holdings in the North Umpqua Watershed. The May 1, 1911, Roseburg

Review reported on a fire that destroyed the Winchester Dam powerhouse and interrupted water and electrical service to the City of Roseburg, the damage was estimated at \$38,000. J.L. and S.A. Kendall, the owners of the Winchester Dam and sawmill were also investors in the Douglas County Water and Light System, the company that rebuilt the powerhouse. In 1912, the powerhouse was complete and made practically impossible for another fire to damage it seriously.

In 1923, the Winchester Dam and the holdings of the Douglas County Light and Water Company, were purchased by the California Oregon Power Company (COPCO) of Medford, Oregon. COPCO President, Paul B. McKee ordered a thorough review of the condition and construction of the Winchester Dam. Although the Douglas County Light and Water Company had planned to make further improvements, COPCO was not interested in the further enlargement of the Winchester plant on account of the small capacity and the high cost per kilowatt.

At some point in the early 1920s a deep "V" notch was cut into the dam face through which the water would flow and fish could leap through the notch and access spawning grounds upstream. On one occasion, commercial fishermen netted fish leaping through the notch and over 100,000 lbs. of fish were caught there and shipped to restaurants in Albany, Salem, in Portland.



During high winter high flows huge trees and roots balls are carried down river and collide with the wood and concrete Winchester Dam, punching holes in its face. Every six or seven years they'd drain the water behind the dam and repair the leaks. The notch in the Dam was replaced with a concrete fish ladder in 1945. The 78-year-old fish ladder is now so old, the concrete is worn down to the rusting rebar.

As the population of Roseburg grew and the demand for electricity increased exponentially, the low capacity of the Winchester Dam power plant proved to be inadequate. Soon COPCO was dependent on electricity generated outside of Douglas County.

In 1948, the Toketee Powerhouse, the first of the eight dams in the new North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project – was erected sixty miles upstream from the Winchester Dam. Although COPCO continued to operate the Winchester Dam, it was obsolete by the 1950s. In

*Continued on page 8*

## Lane County SO patrol vehicles equipped with AEDs

LANE COUNTY - Beginning November 2023, patrol vehicles in the Lane County Sheriff's Office fleet have been equipped with Automated External Defibrillators, or AEDs. Lt. Tom Speldrich of LCSO says, "For us to have another tool to hopefully save a life for somebody who might be in cardiac arrest is just a win, it's going to save lives. These medical devices are very expensive, they're very expensive. It's something that a normal law enforcement budget wouldn't be able to cover."

Arming patrol vehicles with the defibrillators was a no-brainer for the Sheriff's Office, but it was not something they could do on their own. A group of community members, including PeaceHealth, King Estate and Sierra Pacific came together to foot the bill. "Knowing now that we have equipped the Lane County Sheriff's Office with

AEDs, and their patrol vehicles means that they're going to be more rural coverage for people who are further away from medical services. It's a difference of saving lives," said PeaceHealth Riverbend RN, Megan.

The biggest impact of this addition for LCSO, are the ways it will change medical responses in the rural areas across Lane County. Patrol cars in the more remote areas of the county often arrive before paramedics get to the scene.

"Our city's Creswell and Venita, our contract groups and even the dune patrol vehicle is going to have an AED," said Speldrich. With every patrol vehicle now equipped with this life-saving tool, Speldrich and the Sheriff's Office believe they are better set to serve Lane County than ever before.



## Arson Suspect Arrested in Sutherlin's Tim's Tree House Fire

SUTHERLIN, Ore. On Sunday October 29, 2023, at 7:06am, Sutherlin Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a possible structure fire in the area of W. Central Ave and Grant Street. While SFD apparatus were enroute, Fire Dispatch advised of multiple 911 callers reporting a working structure fire. A Sutherlin Fire Department Fire Engine and Ladder Truck arrived in the area approximately 2 minutes later to find heavy fire coming from the rear warehouse at Tim's Tree House. Immediately the fire was upgraded to a second alarm.

On scene firefighters were advised of a possible victim inside the warehouse and immediately switched into rescue mode, however, fire crews were significantly slowed due to heavy fire involvement. A short time later it was discovered that the report of a victim inside was inaccurate, and firefighters switched to a defensive strategy due to structural collapse risk. A third alarm was called to bring in additional firefighters and an additional ladder truck for aerial water stream operations. Sutherlin Firefighters were on scene for approximately 12 hours as extensive overhaul operations were necessary.

Sutherlin Fire Department responded with two fire engines, one ladder truck, two brush rigs and three chief/command officers for a total of 22 Sutherlin Firefighters. Fair Oaks Fire District, Douglas County Fire District 2, Oakland Fire District, Kellogg Fire District and Roseburg Fire Department provided Mutual Aid at the incident rounding

the incident up to approximately 40 firefighters. Additionally, Sutherlin Public Works, Sutherlin Police Department, Avista Gas, and Pacific Power assisted on scene. No firefighters or civilians were injured during the incident.

After an extensive investigation, 20-year-old Airian Jacob Navin, a Sutherlin resident, was suspected of intentionally lighting the fire. On Sunday, November 5th, 2023 Navin was arrested and charged with Arson in the First Degree and 3 counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. Navin was lodged at the Douglas County Jail. If anyone has any other information regarding this incident, please call the Sutherlin Police Department at (541) 459-2211.

The structure was a floral shop, called Tim's Tree House Floral. The owner, Tim Saunders has lived in Sutherlin for 24 years and started his business with just \$1,500 to his name. He says he's put everything into his community and floral shop, so the damage has been difficult to process. But he also says that the community support has been helpful.

Saunders said, "as I've been here over the years, I've just tried to do whatever I could. I've always tried to just stay neutral and help whoever I can, as much as I can. I just can't believe that all of this has turned into such great support."

The floral shop is still up and running. An account with Banner Bank in Sutherlin is accepting donations to help the floral shop.

## S Lane & N Douglas Traffic Fatalities

On Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 2:59 p.m., the Oregon State Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Interstate 5, near milepost 189, in Lane County. The preliminary investigation indicated a northbound Kenworth commercial motor vehicle and trailer, operated by Shawn L Brown (49) of Eugene, slowed down for traffic congestion due to a motor vehicle crash farther up the interstate. A northbound Ford cargo van, operated by Edward Norman Guidry (70) of Cottage Grove, approached the slowed traffic at highway speeds and rear-ended the semi-trailer. The operator of the Ford van (Guidry) was declared deceased at the scene. The operator of the Kenworth (Brown) suffered minor injuries. The highway was impacted for approximately 3 hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by the Lane County Sheriff's Office, South Lane Fire/EMS, and ODOT.

On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 5:06 p.m., the Oregon State Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Hwy 58, near milepost 44,

in Lane County. The preliminary investigation indicated a gray Ford Explorer, operated by Justin Kazutaka Fabrick (33) of Eugene, was traveling westbound when an eastbound black Toyota Camry, operated by Isabel Macy Walth (20) of Castro Valley (CA), attempted to pass in the "no passing" zone and struck the Ford head-on. The Toyota was traveling in the on-coming (westbound) lane at the time of the collision. A passenger in the Toyota, Kent Derek Walth (59) of Castro Valley (CA), was declared deceased while being transported to an area hospital. The operator of the Toyota (Isabel Walth) and passenger, Rozetta Kei Fan-Walth (62) of Castro Valley (CA), were seriously injured and transported to an area hospital. The operator of the Ford (Fabrick) was seriously injured and transported to an area hospital. The highway was impacted for approximately 5 hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by Oakridge Fire, Eugene Fire, Springfield Fire, and ODOT.

## North Douglas Fire and EMS Acquires Rice Hill Property

North Douglas Fire and EMS has purchased approximately two acres of property along with buildings located in Rice Hill, the property was a restaurant at one time.

Chief Brian Burke said State Senator David Brock Smith was able to help acquire

funding for the purchase. The property, where one of the district's leased stations is located, will secure the longevity of service provided to the community. The following Press Release is from ND Fire Chief Brian Burke Jr.



531 S. Cedar St./PO Box 277  
Drain, Oregon 97435  
Phone 541-836-2282  
Fax 541-836-2292

### PRESS RELEASE

November 21, 2023

Subject: Property acquisition

Location: 531 John Long Road

Thanks to the hard work and dedication to our community, Senator David Brock Smith, was able to acquire funding through SB 5506 allowing North Douglas County Fire & EMS to purchase approximately 2 acres of property along with buildings located at 531 John Long Road. As a result of the purchase of the property, North Douglas County Fire & EMS was able to secure the property where one of our leased fire stations is located, securing the longevity of service provided to our community. We are also currently working with other agencies to assist with developing a multi-agency training center on the two acres property strategically located along Interstate 5.

With the successful funding available NDCFEMS will be able to begin construction of housing for 8 volunteers in need. Designing the project has already been started and safety testing is in process. Once results of the testing is completed and abatement will begin if needed. We expect to utilize the current building for several months for training firefighters prior to remodeling begins.

I would personally like to thank Senator David Brock Smith and his staff for your passion and determination to help our community, Representative Virgle Osborne and Commissioner's Tim Freeman, Chris Boice and Tom Kress for your insight and guidance as we walked through the process from starting at Umpqua Community College to the halls of our State Capital in Salem.

North Douglas County Fire & EMS

Fire Chief

Brian P. Burke Sr.

brianburke@ndcfems.us

# Winchester Dam is the Most Dangerous Dam in Oregon

*Continued from Front Page*

expects loss of human life to occur if the dam fails." OWRD requires "high hazard" dams to be inspected annually. OWRD told Winchester Water Control District (WWCD) that "consideration must be given to a permanent dam, the existing wooden dam being considered as temporary in nature and either reconstruction or removal of the dam would be necessary." WWCD was instructed to "inspect the dam on a semiannual basis, once a year with the water drawn down."

That was nearly 50 years ago, WWCD president Ryan Beckley and its board of directors have skirted OWRD's requirement by hiring contractors to examine the dam without lowering the water spilling over its top, it's impossible to inspect a dam until the water level is lowered to expose its leaking structure. Despite these legal requirements, Winchester Dam was only drained and its leaking structure inspected by the OWRD three times in 47 years, in 1976, 1987, and 2013. Each inspector reported serious deficiencies and a need for annual inspections. But the dam hadn't had a comprehensive structural inspection since 1987, when it was determined that 10% of the dam wall was leaking.

After the 2013 inspection, OWRD found the dam's up slope, crest and down slope were described as "urgent dam safety issues - action now." It went on to say that "The dam's condition rating has been downgraded to poor and may be downgraded further to unsatisfactory if the dam safety issues are not addressed in the very near future." The OWRD nor WWCD has taken any action to protect the downstream residents and the general public in 10 years.

In 2019, ODFW ranked Winchester Dam and its fish ladder the 26th worst out of 590 migratory fish passage barriers in Oregon in accordance with a state law (ORS 509.585(3)). This statute requires ODFW to update the ranking of barriers to migratory fish passage in Oregon's streams and rivers every five years. Winchester Dam and its fish ladder will move up into the top 10 barriers to migratory fish passage when the new list is released in 2024. The Winchester Dam's wooden lip and its height of 17-feet effectively prevent fish from jumping over. Consequently, Winchester Dam is now the ODFW second highest priority for fish passage improvement among all privately owned dams in the state. But in direct contradiction of ODFW's Fish Passage Task Force findings, their Senior Biologist Greg Huchko, ODFW's top official in the Umpqua District, is repeatedly quoted by local media stating that in his opinion, the dam is merely "delaying fish migration." Consequently, Huchko's opinions are repeatedly quoted by WWCD in their permit applications to repair the Winchester Dam. This is at odds with the ODFW, who has repeatedly stated that Winchester Dam impedes access to 160 miles of high-quality cold-water habitat for salmon, trout, and lampreys upstream.

In 2018, those state agencies slapped WWCD's previous contractor, Basco Logging, Inc., owned by WWCD board member Juan Yraguen, with a \$58,378 fine for pouring pollutants and cement into the river that entered the public drinking water system and killed a lot of lampreys, steelhead, and salmon.

On January 27, 2020, Yraguen was informed that DEQ issued a penalty, because his activities resulted in the discharge of sediment and wet (or "green") concrete to the river, degrading aquatic habitat and killing numerous threatened Coho and other sensitive species and fish. These incidents also negatively affected the quality of the primary drinking water source for two community water systems. City of Roseburg and Umpqua Basin Water Association, serving approximately 37,700 people (28,800 and 8,900, respectively). Yraguen appealed the fine and inexplicably, DEQ lowered it from \$58,378 to \$19,517.

Back in 1994 the OWRD determined that WWCD was illegally storing 91-acre-feet of river water in excess of their 1910 allotted water rights of 300-acre feet. 30 years later in November 2022, a coalition of 17 organizations, including WaterWatch of Oregon, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources, and Steamboaters formally requested OWRD conduct a bathymetric survey to confirm WWCD's illegal water storage. OWRD instead agreed to amend WWCD's 1910 water storage rights from 300-acre feet to 391-acre feet, thereby accommodating the extra 91-acre-feet of water WWCD had illegally stored for decades. This increases the volume of water, and by extension, the

enormous pressure, behind the dilapidated, long-ago condemned dam face which, according to OWRD, can only be "considered as temporary in nature." Keep in mind OWRD's condemnation of Winchester Dam half a century ago and rating it a "high hazard", meaning "the department expects loss of human life if the dam fails." The WWCD and the state agencies failed to remove the condemned Winchester Dam, as was deemed prudent, appropriate, and wise, nearly half a century ago.

In 2021, WWCD members voted to approve a \$3 million bond levy to "finance the repair of Winchester Dam" and to "pay fines, penalties, judgements, legal fees and other costs related to the Winchester Dam" and to "refinance existing indebtedness." The bond was passed in their own private district.

In August 2023, WWCD president Ryan Beckley said that he personally designed this dam repair project as a "permanent solution, a fix for 100 years to come". But the repairs endangered the native fish on the downstream side of the Winchester Dam, so that on August 9, 2023, about 50 to 60 representatives of state agencies rushed to the dam to rescue stranded and dying fish.

"[WWCD] has been trying to run this dam, cheap, for years and years..." wrote Jim McCarthy of WaterWatch of Oregon, a nonprofit organization that protects and restores Oregon rivers. "These people can't be trusted to own a dam." According to McCarthy, Ryan Beckley has "never repaired a dam before in his life." If Beckley really did design the dam repair project, as he claims, this may be a violation of state statutes regarding the practice of engineering intended to protect public safety. Jim McCarthy explained: According to his candidate form filed with the county when he ran for the Winchester Water Control District Board, Mr. Beckley does not have an engineering degree. According to the form, he left high school at the 11th grade and did not receive a diploma.

The dam repair plan was, in fact, designed by engineers at Dickinson, Oswald, Walch, and Lee (DOWL). They told regulators repairs would be much more limited than what Beckley claims. In an April 4, 2023, DOWL technical memo to state dam safety officials the repairs would be "to the minimum extent necessary to eliminate known and reasonably anticipated dam safety deficiencies at the dam."

WWCD president Ryan Beckley awarded the contract for repairs to TerraFirma Foundation Systems, a company he owns. TerraFirma's trucking division, headquartered in Roseburg, Oregon, has racked up over forty trucking violations, including disciplinary action by Oregon Construction Contractors Board, cited and fined by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and several "serious" OSHA safety violation citations and fines in 2018 and 2019.

The Winchester Dam presents an increasing danger to downstream residents. According to WaterWatch of Oregon "there are many holes through the dam's face and under its foundation" including "eroded concrete" and "exposed rebar." During previous repairs to the Winchester Dam, WWCD contractors installed hundreds of pressure-treated 2 x 12" boards 50-feet upstream of the drinking water supply for 37,700 residents, the use of which is prohibited in contact with public drinking water. They also installed creosote-treated wooden railroad ties, a "probable human carcinogen" prohibited "for use in contact with food, feed, or drinking water." The pressure-treated wooden planks installed during the 2013 repairs to the Winchester Dam immediately

began leaking toxins into the downstream drinking water supply.

Due to the likelihood of life-threatening disaster if the dam failed, the OWRD ordered WWCD to update their Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Oregon statute OAR 690-020-0400(4) requires EAPs to be updated annually, but the WWCD hadn't updated their EAP since 1987. Under pressure from the OWRD and dozens of local organizations, after 34 years of stonewalling, WWCD finally updated their EAP. But there are no safety rope buoys or signs warning boaters and swimmers upstream to stay away from the imminent danger presented by the Winchester Dam. Last year, two women were paddle boarding upstream of the dam. Due to the higher-than-normal water levels, they found themselves clinging to the rim of the dam with their bare hands until they no longer had the strength to fight the current and were swept over the dam's precipice. Both women were injured in the subsequent 17-foot fall, and one was hospitalized.

The defunct Winchester Dam hasn't produced hydroelectricity for many years. It offers no flood control or irrigation. Its sole purpose is to provide a private water ski lake for the exclusive "recreational" use of the 99 property owners in the WWCD, at the exclusion of the public. So, the WWCD itself is, an illegal organization according to Oregon law. Oregon Revised Statute 553.020 specifically requires all water control districts in the State of Oregon to provide a public purpose such as hydroelectricity, irrigation, or flood control. The same statute makes it perfectly clear that "recreation" is not a public purpose. Meanwhile, Douglas County real estate brokers continue to advertise multi-million-dollar WWCD properties as having their own private water ski lake.

The WWCD hedges the permitting process for dam repair by deliberately taking no action for years until the problem becomes "an emergency." Emergency repairs do not require permits. Haphazard and careless repairs were made by contractors with no qualifications or previous experience in dam repair. It is now documented that WWCD failed to disclose to regulators that during previous emergency repairs WWCD knowingly released sediment stored behind the dam into endangered salmon habitat and into public drinking water supplies. WWCD's ongoing pattern of non-compliance of state and federal laws, and ongoing mismanagement of the Winchester Dam, has served to galvanize a bipartisan coalition of neighbors, fishermen, conservationists, and whitewater groups, who now call for the permanent removal of the dam.



On August 7, 2023, Ryan Beckley drained the private lake behind the Winchester Dam to begin three weeks of repairs as originally ordered by the ODFW in 2019. The permit specified that the water level would be lowered at a rate of no more than two inches per hour to minimize disturbance to the aquatic habitat. Witnesses report that it was drained

at midnight at two feet per hour, exponentially faster than permitted, devastating downstream fish habitat, impeding fish migration, and making the dam an even more insurmountable barrier for fish. This resulted in the killing of what Shaun Clements, acting director of the ODFW called "hundreds of thousands" of lampreys in what is now recognized as the largest fish kill on an Oregon river in 2023.

Also in violation of his permit, Beckley built a roadbed for his heavy equipment, made out of used car tires, right through the riverbed. Tires contain a chemical called 6PPD, an antioxidant and antiozonant that helps prevent the degradation rubber compound which is instantaneously lethal to Coho [salmon].

The highly toxic pressure-treated and the creosote-treated wood used in previous repairs to Winchester Dam was exposed during the August 2023 repairs, but not removed. Taxpayers picked up the tab for a specially designed \$50,000 lamprey fish ramp installed at the Winchester Dam in 2013. During the August 2023 dam repairs, along with the fish ladder, this ramp was shut down so fish passage was blocked for over four weeks when the private water ski lake above the dam was drained. When the dams were removed on the Rogue River in neighboring Curry County, the same Curt Melcher, Director of the ODFW refused to allow the fish ladders to be shut down or fish passage blocked for even one minute. During wildfire season in the hottest summer on record, WWCD's private water ski lake was drained. The permit required WWCD to implement a comprehensive strategy to salvage fish stranded or isolated fish both upstream, and downstream of the dewatered dam. But according to Jeffrey Dose, a retired fish biologist with 31 years of experience in the Umpqua River Basin, this did not occur. "Tens of thousands of juvenile Pacific lamprey were also dewatered," said Dose, "and suffered extensive mortality. The WWCD, failed miserably." He called Ryan Beckley's and WWCD's conduct "reprehensible and predictable." On August 9, 2023, 48 hours after the draining of the private water ski lake, dozens of state, federal, and tribal entities attempted to rescue juvenile Pacific lamprey that were trapped behind the drained dam wall, even though Beckley's permit specifically stated that this was WWCD's responsibility. The 109° temperature of August 14, 2023, sealed the fate of any remaining trapped fish.

Throughout the repair process, Ryan Beckley has made modifications to the dam repair plan that were not approved in his permit. ODFW inspectors are stamping their approval to each noncompliant phase of Beckley's construction. Things that should have been included in the ODFW's permit approval but were not. "I am extremely disappointed in the current situation at Winchester Dam," said Kirk Blaine, president of Steamboaters and Southern Oregon and southern Oregon coordinator for the Native Fish Society. "ODFW knew this would happen and they said yes for the convenience of the landowners who want to maintain their private water ski lake at the lowest cost possible."

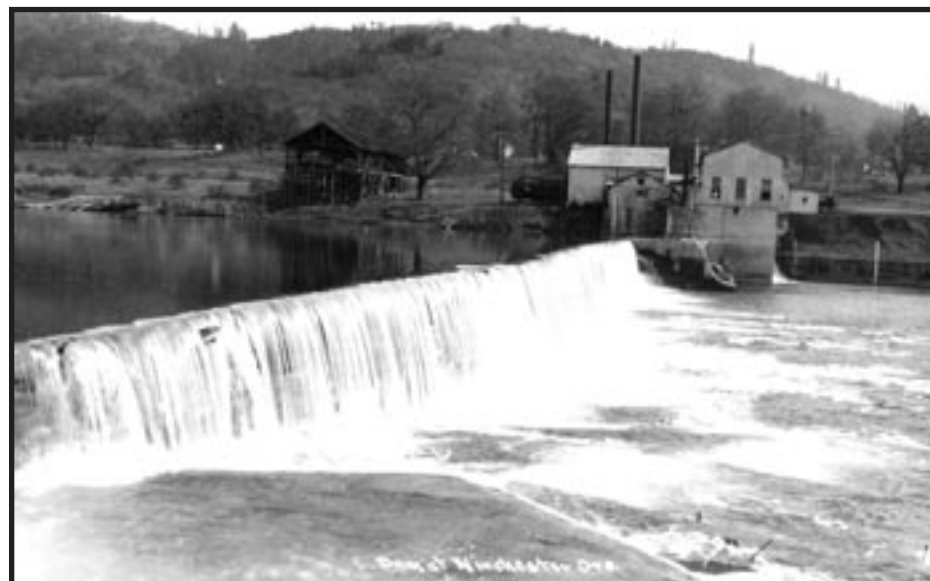
It is hard to believe that this has gone so long and the why it still persists is food for another look at some of the rfolks who are facilitating it.

## Dam History

*Continued from Page 6*

the summer of 1961, the Pacific Power & Light Company acquired COPCO and the outdated Winchester Dam. In December 1964, floods caused \$500 million in damages statewide and many bridges and dams were damaged. The powerhouse at Winchester Dam was flooded. By this time it was so out-of-date, in 1965 Pacific Power & Light abandoned it rather than rebuild and update the facility.

In 1969, for the sale price of one-dollar, Pacific Power & Light Company transferred ownership of the Winchester Dam and the surrounding property to its present owner, the Winchester Water Control District (WWCD). WWCD was formed by the property owners who lived close to the Winchester Dam site, solely for recreational purposes.







Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year  
in 2024

From North Douglas Herald

# Rural Report

## Pet RSV

or “atypical canine infectious respiratory disease”

**SALEM -** Since last summer, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has taken more than 200 reports of what is being called an ‘atypical canine infectious respiratory disease.’ The disease is causes pneumonia- and bronchitis-like symptoms, leading to illness and, in severe cases, can cause death.

“Nobody really knows where it’s coming from. Nobody knows the etiology of it, in other words, what’s causing it, and nobody knows what kind of dogs are getting it,” said Dr. Teri Sue Wright

While it is unknown from where the origin of this virus, it’s clear that certain activities may increase the likelihood of your pet might come to be in contact with another dog who may be carrying the pathogen.

“Shared spaces and breathing on each other and salivating on each other and coughing at each other’s faces.”

According to Dr. Wright, finding a way to balance limiting your dog’s exposure to the virus and keeping them active is important.

What Dr. Wright says you should not do is completely restrict your pet’s activity. “I love dogs that are outside and coming together and playing and running and breathing. Fresh air and lots of play and healthy fun is great for dogs.”

Talk to your vet about ways to ensure you lower your pet’s risk. Make sure that your dog’s not going to get sick. Talk about their diet and talk about other compounding factors. Are they sick in other ways? Do they have dental disease? Are they overweight? Or are they susceptible to it as far as a breed?”

As information continues to come in about this virus, state-level research into the origin and treatment options will come closer to reality. In the meantime, you may want to get creative about how you keep your pet active and healthy.

## Feds support Native American burn practices in Oregon

A project incorporating traditional Native American management practices for oak habitat restoration in Oregon has been awarded \$9.23 million. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service awarded the money, which will go to the Oregon Agricultural Trust and its partners.

Traditional Native management practices include setting fire to the landscape in order to rejuvenate certain plants, eradicate pests, and reduce slash and debris, commonly known as “cultural burns.”

Ka-Voka Jackson is a program manager for the EcoStudies Institute, one of the partners. She’s done controlled fire operations based on how Indigenous people did theirs for ages, blending ancient practice with modern methods.

“Use of cultural fire, traditional fire, on the landscape, which usually entails people who are trained or have the wildfire qualifications,” explained Jackson. “That usually entails fire trucks or water resources, the use of drip torches, other hand tools.”

The project also seeks to permanently protect designated oak savannas and woodlands, and give Native Americans access to them for cultural use and environmental stewardship.

Jackson — who is of Hualapi, Wabanaki, and Oglala Lakota heritage — told KLCC that she’s excited for the funding and looks forward to working with regional tribes going forward.

## Douglas County receives grant for Whistlers Bend County Park rehabilitation project

ROSEBURG, Ore. November 2023, — Douglas County Commissioners announced an award of \$490,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) through its Local Government Grant Program for the Phase I rehabilitation of Whistler’s Bend County Park, located 15 miles east of Roseburg at 2828 Whistlers Park Road.

“We have invested a considerable amount of money in the parks on the coast, primarily because they’re so busy and provide a return that helps support the entire parks system, which continues to provide matching dollars for state and federal grant funding for improvement projects like this one,” stated Commissioner Chris Boice. “Parks Director Mark Wall has done an outstanding job successfully applying for grant dollars allowing us to continue investing in our parks. The amount of work our Parks Department gets done, with such a small team of people, is amazing.”

The grant funds will be matched by Douglas County and utilized to begin a two-phase renovation. Phase I of the rehabilitation project will cost \$980,000. Phase I includes improvements to the day use area and portions of the upper campground; replacement of single vault restrooms with ADA accessible restrooms; installation of a pavilion for public use and special events next to the Whistler’s Bend Disc Golf Course parking lot; resurfacing of the lower parking lot and access roads to improve river access; and paving of the upper campground access road and group sites.

The engineering and design work for Phase I is being provided by the local engineering firm, IE Engineering, Inc. The pavilion and restrooms planned for the park will be purchased from and installed by locally owned public utility building manufacturer, Romtec, Inc.

Request for Proposals are expected to go out for bid in January 2024 with work to begin in

Story by Milo Van Elder

the spring, pending contractor availability. The construction timeline for Phase I improvements is estimated to be about three months.

Phase II will focus on paving the upper campground, adding more full hookup sites to the upper campground, and replacing three single vault toilets in the lower campground with ADA accessible ones. Phase II improvements will also enhance the Whistlers Bend Disc Golf Course with the addition of a small pavilion and a new restroom in the middle of the course, and also furnishing the course with additional benches and garbage receptacles throughout. Phase II will be dependent upon receiving additional grant funding the Parks Department is currently pursuing.

Since its dedication to the County in 1957, Whistler’s Bend County Park is one of the most popular day use and overnight parks in Douglas County. Located on an oxbow peninsula on the North Umpqua River, the park boasts direct river access, a boat ramp, 13 full-hookup campsites, 42 non-hookup campsites, restroom, and shower facilities, 5 rustic yurts (3 of which are on the riverfront), playground, and picnic sites. Whistler’s Bend County Park also boasts a nationally-ranked, highly-rated 27-hole disc golf course.

“Our current Board of Commissioners have been very judicious with their decisions to continue to invest in the Parks Department over the past several years,” remarked Parks Director Mark Wall. “The ongoing partnership with OPRD has been the key to executing the Board’s vision for Douglas County Parks and we have some very exciting projects coming to our inland parks over the next couple of years.”

For more information about Douglas County Parks or to visit Whistler’s Bend County Park, visit: [douglascountyor.gov/802/Parks](http://douglascountyor.gov/802/Parks).

541 852-6647 *Salt & Light Co* 305 N. 1st St, Drain OR

*Located directly across from Ray’s in Drain is a wonderful little boutique providing a variety of items! Quality gifts, many local and Oregon Made, plants, decor, Clothes, teas, knives, Myra products. Soon to arrive are bakery items & iced coffees - teas - kambuchos*



## Veterans Corner

The Filipinos who fought for the U.S. in WWII never saw their promised benefits and a new bill seeks to remedy that. The U.S. recruited tens of thousands of Filipino servicemen to fight with it us during World War II and then broke that promise of benefits and citizenship after the war ended.

A group of bipartisan lawmakers announced in October, that they are introducing a bill that would help fulfill the U.S. promise to Filipino veterans who fought alongside American troops during World War II.

The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act aims to grant benefits to the remaining veterans and the families of the hundreds of thousands of Filipino servicemen. Filipino’s who were recruited by the U.S. in the early 1940s, in part by promising full access to veterans’ benefits and citizenship. The promise, however, was rescinded by Congress in 1946 and has only partially fulfilled in recent decades.

“During World War II, over 250,000 Filipino troops bravely fought under U.S. command, saving countless lives during their service. It’s

## Filipino Veterans Fairness Act to restore US Promises of WWII

unacceptable that these veterans were stripped of the benefits they were entitled to,” Rep. Kevin Mullin, D-Calif., who sponsored the bill, said in a press release. “I cannot imagine the pain Filipino veterans and their families felt and the irreparable harm caused by this unjustified disparate treatment.”

The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Ed Case, D-Hawaii and Rep. James Moylan, the Republican delegate from Guam, would offer a need-based death pension to the remaining survivors. It would also expand the kinds of military documentation accepted for benefits’ eligibility.

Kevin Nadal, president of the Filipino American National Historical Society, said that the Filipino veterans’ fight to secure their benefits has dragged on for decades. In the meantime, the number of Filipino WWII veterans has dwindled to less than 2,000, making the restoration of their benefits all the more urgent.

The Philippine island archipelago was a U.S. colony until 1934, when the U.S. promised

to grant it independence within the next 10 years. But before doing so the Pentagon recruited both Filipino Americans and Filipino nationals to fight under U.S. command due to a substantial part of the war being fought in the Philippines, which Japan had invaded. It’s estimated that up to 1 million Filipinos died in the war.

The U.S. changed its tune with the conclusion of the war. Congress passed the Rescission Act in 1946, stripping many Filipino veterans and their families of benefits due to budget concerns and prompting the ongoing efforts to restore them.

In 1990 President George H.W. Bush enacted a law granting citizenship to Filipino nationals who fought in the war. Later, in 2009, Barack Obama signed a law granting a lump sum of \$15,000 to surviving Filipino veterans who are American citizens and \$9,000 to noncitizens. But claiming these benefits has been nearly impossible and many have been denied access to them, Nadal said, due to the lack of proper documentation.

“Some people, there just were not any proper records that they served in the military. And part of that is because of the war itself and the destruction of many buildings and places that would have had those records,” Nadal said. He went on to say that while legislation looking to ease access to the promised benefits to Filipino veterans has previously been proposed, getting to pass the bill has been an uphill battle. Lawmakers in the past have been hesitant to green-light the idea of funding for Filipino nationals, arguing that the Filipino government should provide benefits to veterans.

“Racial biases may or will influence people’s perceptions of whether or not they deserve those benefits or those rights,” Nadal said.

“Many lawmakers just never viewed [Filipinos] as being equals to the Americans,” he continued. “They never viewed them as being citizens. They never viewed them as taking the same amount of risk and sacrifice as U.S. born soldiers”.

## Business Matters | Cottage Grove Recall Fails to get enough signatures for Ballot

A petition to recall a Cottage Grove city council member fell short of the required number of valid signatures to make it on the ballot. Mike Borke, the chief petitioner, hoped to recall three Cottage Grove city council members: Chalice Savage, Jon Stinnett and Mike Fleck. Fleck's petition did make it to the signature verification stage. The Lane County elections office was only able to verify that 463 signatures were from eligible registered voters. Petitioners needed at least 654, or 15% of the total number of city votes cast in the

last election.

Borke said he plans to use the lessons he's learned to put initiatives on the ballot instead. He said specifically, he disagreed with how the city council's approached homelessness. He said their current approach has led to many people experiencing homelessness trespassing onto private property.

He said the initiatives would ban open drug use, camping during the daytime, and require city council members to run in wards, instead of city-wide.

## Business Improvement Grant Reedsport Main Street Program

**Round Four Deadline: December 31, 2023**

Through the Reedsport Main Street Program, the City of Reedsport created the Business Improvement Grant to assist with building renovation projects. This program offers matching grants up to \$2,500 for the structural or cosmetic improvement of businesses in Reedsport.

Grants to businesses within the Urban Renewal District are funded by the Urban Renewal Agency. The amount of grants available to businesses outside the URD are dependent on funds raised through donations.

The first grant cycle launched April 15, 2015. The grant amount requested cannot total more than 50% of the total project cost. In-kind contributions such as labor can count towards the match. Projects that are complete under budget will receive the amount needed to cover the actual costs, with the remaining funds cycling back into the grant program in order to benefit more businesses throughout Reedsport.

All projects must be completed six months from the time that the grant is awarded. Extensions may be given under certain circumstances.

*Interested in Applying for a Grant?*

1. Think about what visual improvements can be made to your business. Previous grant recipients have made new signs,

installed planters, applied new paint, created murals, replaced windows, and more.

2. Be realistic about what you can complete in six months. The more complicated your project, the greater the chance that you will run into unexpected challenges. Take into account the season and weather when planning projects. Any projects that you fail to complete may hurt your chances of receiving a grant in the future.

3. Create a budget for your project. Be careful not to underestimate your costs. If you complete your project over budget, the Business Improvement Grant will not award additional funds to cover the extra amount.

4. Prepare photos of the existing area and drawings or plans for the proposed changes that you would like to make. Show the visual impact.

5. If you do not own your business's property, make sure the property owner agrees to your project and grant application.

6. Provide proof of liability insurance on the property.

You can find more online at: <http://www.reedsportmainstreet.com/> or at Reedsport Main Street Program, City of Reedsport, 451 Winchester Ave, Reedsport, OR 97467, [mainstreet@cityofreedsport.org](mailto:mainstreet@cityofreedsport.org), 541-271-3603 ext. 1008.

## Sandy's Country Cabin Coffee

*Continued from front Page*

What a great idea to have this place, convenient with a laundry-mat. A clean and comfy spot for doing laundry, definitely a town convenience. Ernie and Sandy have hit on a solid business plan that seems to be really working in the year and half since opening.

I said that Sandy's cooking has a reputation and that is due to her work before this at the La Pinata restaurant also here in Drain.

Her story here began in 1974 when she moved to Drain. Having worked in food industry for some time, in 2001 she started working La Pinata and it was there she met Ernie Malchow, who was to become her husband. For a time they ran the Tin Lizzy

Pizza which was popular and Sandy was building a reputation and popularity for her wares. By coincidence they had a small laundrymat as well. The laundrymat was rundown and old and they were glad to leave it and buy into the La Pinata in 2015.

Now for the next 6 or 7 years they built a following for her spectacular cooking and they built a solid restaurant business known for miles. Then came the pandemic. Which as it turned out "didn't hurt as much as we thought it would," said Ernie. The restaurant had already built up a "call in for to go meals" business previously, and that meant they could pivot to all pickup meals easily and with virtually no staff. The actual "closed" time they used to do some remodeling and improvements.

No, it wasn't the pandemic that dealt them in, but afterwards it was a different story.

"After the pandemic," said Sandy, "we just could not get any help. Nobody wants to work, it's just crazy." It was then that Sandy and Ernie started looking for a new and better way to do their business. They were able to sell La Pinata and start the new enterprise and once they started working on the new building, Sandy realized it was just to big to do what she wanted. Having owned a laundrymat and remembering how well it served the community, they were only considering it since having so much trouble keeping up the previous building and equipment. Thinking the cost was going to be to high, Ernie stumbled onto an equipment deal that, "I just couldnt pass up." Nice newer equipment with reasonable maintenance was now in a comfortable and clean, well lit, quiet atmosphere. "It's a perfect setting and people love it," Sandy exclaims. "They like it and even clean up after themselves, I have actually seen customers pick up the mop and start cleaning. People appreciate a clean place. My husband designed it & just I love it."

When you talk to Sandy she gets pretty excited about the variety in her menu and she is always keen to add items whenever she can. She went on to say her, "favorite thing is when people are so happy to get their coffee and appreciative that we are here." When asked what the future hold's for her, "maybe someday retiring and traveling with my Hubby". I asked her if she had any last thoughts and she smiled and said "If you have a Dream - go for it!"

Country Coffee & Laundry, 438 "B" Ave HWY 38, Drain Oregon. Its a quick stop that's well worth it.



*Ernie & Sandy Malchow*

# Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions Approves Pipeline

*In Spite of Opposition from Top Officials in 2 States and Environmentalists*

*Story by Rusty Savage*

Federal regulators on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, approved the expansion of a natural gas pipeline owned by TC Energy in the Pacific Northwest over the protest of environmental groups and top West Coast officials. The pipeline project, known as GTN Xpress, belongs to TC Energy of Calgary, Canada. This is the same company behind the now-abandoned Keystone XL crude oil pipeline and who owns the Columbia Gas Transmission pipeline which exploded in Strasburg, Virginia, in July and its existing Keystone pipeline spilled nearly 600,000 gallons of bitumen oil in Kansas last December.

The GTN Xpress project, aims to expand the capacity of the Gas Transmission Northwest pipeline, which runs through Idaho, Washington and Oregon, by about 150 million cubic feet (4.2 million cubic meters) of natural gas per day. The company said the project is necessary to meet consumer demand and welcomed the decision in an emailed statement. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the project in a vote on October 19, 2023.

TC Energy plans to modify three compressor stations along the pipeline running through Kootenai County, Idaho, Walla Walla County, Washington; and Sherman County, Oregon. Compressor stations help maintain the pressure and flow of gas over long distances in a pipeline. This

modification is to increase the flow of gas, increasing the capacity.

The 1,377-mile (2,216-kilometer) pipeline runs from the Canadian border through a corner of Idaho and into Washington state and Oregon, connecting with a pipeline going into California. Idaho's Republican governor and Congress members have supported the project and said that imposing other states' climate policies would be "misguided." Oregon, along with Washington and California, have passed laws requiring utilities to transition to 100% clean electricity sources by 2040 and 2045, respectively.

After the FERC vote, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon spoke harshly against the federal government's decision to expand the natural gas pipeline in the Northwest. Merkley says the expansion will be "like adding 644 thousand gas powered cars to the road every year". Washington Governor Jay Inslee also opposed the move, saying the decision to allow more natural gas to be burned reduces the impacts of climate change reduction efforts. Governor Inslee and California's Attorney General condemned the decision, Inslee saying "the fight is not over". U.S. Senators from Washington and Oregon described the project as "incompatible with our climate laws" in a letter to the energy agency.

"GTN Xpress represents a significant

expansion of methane gas infrastructure at a time when California, Oregon, and Washington are moving away from fossil fuels," the senators said.. The attorneys general of all three states, cited the energy agency's draft environmental impact statement for the project and that it would result in more than 3.47 million metric tons of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions per year for at least the next three decades."

The agency's final environmental assessment issued last November revised that number down to about half, in calculations contested by environmental groups. This is partly because some of the project's gas would be delivered to a Canadian natural gas producer, Tourmaline. The assessment said it wasn't clear what the end use of the gas delivered to Tourmaline would be, leading it to conclude that the company's downstream emissions, stemming from consumers, weren't "reasonably foreseeable." The energy agency's chairman, Willie Phillips, reiterated its stance after Thursday's vote.

"There was no evidence presented that this project would significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions," he told reporters. "The commission determined that this project was needed and therefore we support its approval."

In its final assessment, the FERC also said the compressor stations were in non-forested areas with low to moderate fire

hazard and concluded the project "would result in limited adverse impacts on the environment." "Most adverse environmental impacts would be temporary or short-term," the federal agency said. The agency did recommend specific steps, such as requiring the training its personnel and contractors on environmental mitigation measures before any construction begins.

Opposing Environmentalists and officials, unfazed, are rejecting the companies premise and have also expressed concern about TC Energy's overall safety record. In a statement, Audrey Leonard, staff attorney for environmental nonprofit Columbia Riverkeeper, said it represented a "rubber stamp of unnecessary fracked gas in the Northwest" and accused the energy agency of failing to listen to U.S. senators, governors, state attorneys general, tribes and members of the public.

Leonard said potential spills and explosions on the pipeline, which was built in the 1960s, would not only harm the environment but also present a heightened wildfire risk in the arid regions it passes through.

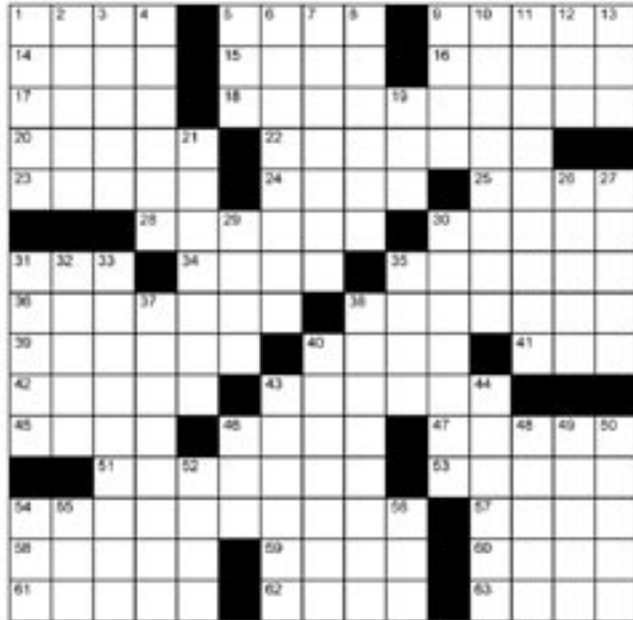
"An explosion of that level in eastern Washington or eastern Oregon would be catastrophic," she said.

Leonard said Columbia Riverkeeper will appeal the federal regulators' decision and submit a petition for a rehearing.

# December Crossword Puzzle Sponsored by Studio Tattoo

**Across**

- 1. Snide remark
- 5. Waikiki wiggle
- 9. Small sample
- 14. Burn soother
- 15. Part of CPU
- 16. Rack up, as debt
- 17. Fireplace fodder
- 18. Unwritten reminder
- 20. Vile smile
- 22. NAREB member
- 23. See eye to eye
- 24. Staircase part
- 25. School session
- 28. Disparage
- 30. Chocolate source
- 31. Dog-scolding word
- 34. Pickup shtick
- 35. Eye site
- 36. Putting up with
- 38. Abandons
- 39. Cease and \_\_\_\_
- 40. Cheesy sandwich
- 41. Turn red, maybe
- 42. Full range
- 43. Phony sort
- 45. Mideast bigwig
- 46. Tropical tuber
- 47. In the \_\_\_\_ of (amongst)
- 51. More than a few
- 53. Geologic period
- 54. Haitian, for one
- 57. Folklore fiend
- 58. "Not \_\_\_\_!"
- 59. Knowing about



- 60. Feudal estate
  - 61. Gabbana's partner
  - 62. Must-have
  - 63. Pedal pushers
- Down**
- 1. Modeler's wood
  - 2. Word with tag or string
  - 3. Daltrey of The Who
  - 4. Be suitable for, old-style
  - 5. Droning sound
  - 6. Precise
  - 7. Family history
  - 8. Reach, as a goal
  - 9. Pinball error
  - 10. Mark up
  - 11. Golfer's tally
  - 12. Egyptian boy king
  - 13. Before, to a sonneteer
  - 19. "Is that \_\_\_\_?"
  - 21. Pragmatic one
  - 26. Threadbare
  - 27. Bullwinkle, e.g.
  - 29. Fabric fuzz
  - 30. Halloween wear
  - 31. Policeman's shield
  - 32. At right angles to ship's keel
  - 33. Oyster
  - 35. Brazilian soccer legend
  - 37. Water pill
  - 38. Barren
  - 40. Glacial deposit
  - 43. Presidential grant
  - 44. Sucker deal
  - 46. Gymnast's goal
  - 48. Stray calf
  - 49. Rock fragments
  - 50. Shrinkage, to a retailer
  - 52. Wall climber
  - 54. Bunch of bills
  - 55. It may be inflated
  - 56. Sign of approval

## November Crossword Solution



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# December 2023 Weather Forecast Sponsored by Travis Williams

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
51° 35°	51° 41°	47° 39°	46° 36°	45° 35°	45° 40°	46° 40°
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
49° 41°	50° 40°	50° 35°	46° 32°	51° 31°	50° 31°	49° 32°
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
49° 39°	46° 39°	43° 37°	45° 33°	50° 31°	47° 30°	48° 30°
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
43° 31°	42° 30°	42° 29°	43° 29°	44° 38°	43° 29°	44° 35°
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
46° 37°	47° 35°	46° 30°	43° 31°	43° 35°	46° 38°	48° 37°
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
47° 37°	45° 38°	47° 37°	46° 36°	46° 31°	45° 30°	44° 31°

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*Live Music*

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**THE PIZZA**

**\$13**

237 West "B" Ave, Drain Oregon

# School News

Send your School & Sports news to [schoolnews@ndherald.com](mailto:schoolnews@ndherald.com)

## Lowell Red Devils win 2a Championship First time to State Finals



Story by Scooter Brown

Photo Courtesy OSAA

LOWELL, Ore. Lowell High School has won the 2023 2A State Championship. After last weeks 32-18 win over the Oakland Oakers, the Red Devils found themselves playing in their first Championship game on Saturday 25 November. JaMar Thurman rushed for 266 yards and scored five touchdowns on 29 carries and catching three passes for 30 yards and one score. For the season, Thurman rushed for a state-leading 2,958 yards and 44 touchdowns.

The Devils toppled Weston-McEwen/Griswold 74-42. Led by junior tailback JaMar Thurman, Lowell steamrolled 618 total yards. "We just had that fire in us. We really wanted to beat them," Thurman said. The first championship for the Devils was the icing on the cake. Lowell has been known as a wrestling school, winning 14 team state championships from 1971 to 2013.

Lowell took a 15-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Weston-McEwen was close at 22-21 in the second quarter, then 29-28 in the third, but Lowell kept up the pressure to 51-28 on three consecutive touchdowns, a 31-yard pass from Carter Harris to Rowan Files and runs

of 63 and 46 yards by Thurman.

Files had three catches for 73 yards and two touchdowns and senior Justus Thurman, JaMar's brother, had four catches for 146 yards and one score.

Carter Harris had been out with a neck injury, but returned to action and completed 11 of 17 passes for 270 yards and four touchdowns without an interception. He also rushed for 83 yards and one score on eight carries

It is the first title for Coach Ray Yarbrough, who moved from assistant Coach to take over when Pat Todd resigned after 12 seasons as coach. Yarbrough had previous head-coaching positions at Illinois Valley (2008-14), Churchill (2015) and Oakridge (2019).

Last week, after the Oakland game, Yarbrough said, "We've been a wrestling school here for a long time and it's awesome that we have all those state championship banners," Yarbrough continued. "I'd love to hang a football one right next to them."

Congratulations to the Red Devils and to Coach Yarbrough and to that hard earned and well deserved Championship banner.

## North Douglas Elementary & Middle Schools Students of the Month

Kimber Colley, 2nd Grade

Lucy Traylor, 6th Grade



Kimber shows appreciation to those around her. She is very well mannered and is a great friend and classmate to all. -Miss Jo



Lucy is an enthusiastic student. She is very concerned about doing her best work, is good to her friends, and her teachers. -Mrs. Shipley



Congratulations to Wyatt Humphrey who finished in 4th place and qualified for the state meet! And congratulations to Natalie and Marley who ran against a field of 1A, 2A, and 3A runners finishing 17th and 56th respectively. Natalie finished with the top 1A time!

## Highlights from 2023 OSAA 1A State Championship North Douglas 2nd Round at Adrian High School

Photos by Becky Gerrard



Wyatt Humphrey while competing in the state XC meet held at LCC a couple of weeks ago.

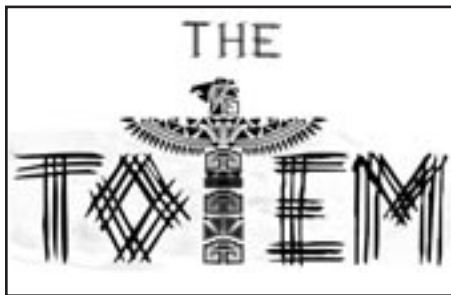
Photo by Becky Gerrard



# Travel/Entertainment



December 8 L/B & Company 8pm  
December 16 Timberwolf 8pm  
413 Umpqua HWY (38), Drain



December 23 Karaoke 8pm  
237 West B Ave, Drain

**DC TOY RUN 2023**

**ADMISSION: \$20 PER PERSON -OR- NEW UNWRAPPED TOY FOR KIDS AGES 1 TO 16 YEARS OLD**

**FOOD RAFFLE PRIZES 50/50 DRAWING**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th, 2023**

**REGISTRATION 9-11AM AT PIZZA PALACE IN MYRTLE CREEK**

**RIDE LEAVES AT 11AM FOR A SCENIC RUN THROUGH SOUTH COUNTY AND ENDS AT THE MYRTLE CREEK FIRE HALL ON 601 EAST RIVERSIDE DRIVE IN MYRTLE CREEK**

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# December 2023 Calender of Events

- 1,2 • Reedsport Holiday Arts Festival cityofreedsport.org
- 1-3 • Christmas Craft Fair Douglas County Fairgrounds 541-957-7010
- 2 • Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade Riverbend Park, Winston wdlassociation.org
- 2 • Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling with Santa Downtown Oakland, OR
- 2 • Sutherlin Tree Lighting - Central Park www.visitsutherlin.com
- 2 • Grand Illumination Christmas Tree Lighting Myrtle Creek facebook.com/97457NWE
- 2-16 • Winter Festival - Drain facebook/DrainChamberofCommerce
- 3 • Christmas Tree Lighting in Drain facebook/DrainChamberofCommerce
- 9 • Winston Christmas Ball facebook/DrainChamberofCommerce
- 9 • DR Johnson Memorial Timber Truckers Parade Riddle to Myrtle Creek 6-8pm facebook.com/97457NWE
- 16 • Holiday Celebration Tea Historic Washington School, Oakland
- 16 • Sutherlin Timber Town Toyland Electric Light Parade Central Avenue, Sutherlin www.visitsutherlin.com

**Douglas County Fairgrounds**

**Christmas Craft Fair**

**Great Entertainment All Weekend Long**

Friday	Saturday
11:00am Accordion Club of Roseburg	10:00am Accordion Club of Roseburg
12:30am Old Time Fiddlers	2:30pm The Singing Flames
4:00pm Taylor Bennett Violin Society	4:00pm Taylor Bennett Violin Society
4:00pm Sunny Sky Boys	

**Come Visit Santa** in the Exhibit Building Parents bring your camera and snap a photo of your little one's morning hello to Santa!

Friday: 2pm - 4pm  
Saturday: 11am - 2pm & 4pm - 7pm  
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

**Presented By:** CASCADE COMMUNITY

[www.douglasfairgrounds.com](http://www.douglasfairgrounds.com)

# Church Directory



**DRAIN**

Assembly of God Church  
975 Drain Section Rd  
541 836-2369  
Sunday Service 10:30am

Gateway Family Fellowship  
Church of the Nazarene  
337 C Avenue  
Sunday Sch 9:30am Worship 10:45am

Drain Church of Christ  
2nd and D street  
541-836-2315  
SS 9:30am/Svc 10:30am/W&T 6pm

**YONCALLA**

Assembly of God  
1008 Hayhurst Rd  
541 849-2800  
Sunday 10:30am Wednesday. 5:30pm

Church of Christ  
225 Birch St  
Sunday School 9:55am  
Sunday Worship 10:45am

**ELKTON**

Elkton Bible Baptist Church  
(541) 584-2808  
420 2nd St  
Sunday Worship 10am

Elkton Christian Church  
344 3rd St.  
elktonchristian@gmail.com  
Bible study 9:45 Worship 10:45

*If you would like to see your Church listed in the directory, please send email to: churchdirectory@ndherald.com. Or send US Mail to: ChurchDirectory North Douglas Herald PO Box 581 Drain OR 97435 Include: Name, address, phone & worship hours - 4 lines only.*

# Vital Statistics

In memory of Ray Bitney IV who passed away suddenly on October 31st. No cause of death was given.

Ray was born May 6th 1997 and was 26 years old. He is a graduate at Junction City HS and currently was living in Springfield. He leaves behind friends, family and co-workers who will miss him deeply. Ray loved being a firefighter and he valued his work friends and the camaraderie. Ray also enjoyed the outdoors and nature. He was interested in Norse mythology and loved his music.

He is survived by his mom Estella Bitney, sister Abby and father Ray III. Ray will be missed by his many friends, family, work friends and church family from Eastside Baptist Church. Services have not been announced at this time.

# Obituary

*In Memoriam*

**Ray Bitney IV**



**FACT**

# Veterans

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# North Douglas

# Classifieds

# South Lane

### Real Estate:

### For Rent:

### General For Sale:

1991 Ford f350  
7.3 turbo diesel, 2wd, 362000 miles.  
reliable \$7000.00 obo Drain Or  
**Call David at 541-836 2168**

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liquidations, custom apparel,  
tumblers and laser engraved gifts!  
407 S. Front Street Unit C Creswell  
**Open to the public Wed-Fri 11-6**

### Country Moving Sale Yoncalla Area

Lumber, Plywood, Steel, Pipe'  
Building Supplies, welding Supplies  
541 849-3487  
Call 7am-8pm for directions

### Help Wanted:

#### One Open Position

Internship (college students only)  
10-20 hours per week for Intern  
Lower Umpqua Library District  
395 Winchester Ave Reedsport OR

#### One Open Position

Substitute Library Assistant  
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Contact Nathan at (541) 510-2074

### Notices:

#### Family Relief Nursery Enrolling 0-5 years old!

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541 600-5312 for more information  
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**Special Story-Songs-Games**

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Get your message out to 5000 sets of eyes for FREE. Currently we mail over 260 newspapers in home to Drain, Yoncalla and Elkton and more. Free to residents of Lane & Douglas counties. Go to [www.ndherald/classifieds.html](http://www.ndherald/classifieds.html)

## Business Card Directory



### Elkton Outfitters

Darrell Moore  
Salmon, Steelhead, Bass,  
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P.O. Box 491  
Elkton, Or. 97436  
541-817-7656  
[elktonlive@me.com](mailto:elktonlive@me.com)

The LOOSE CABOOSE 

Gifts, Souvenirs & Collectibles  
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Grace Almaas 525 N. 1st  
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Drain OR  
541 221-3283

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