

North Douglas
HERALD

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

Ice-amegeddon Leaves a Trail of Destruction & Outages

Downed Trees, Utility Poles, Icy Conditions & Loss of Power Wreaks Havoc for Thousands Across the Region More on Pages 8 & 9



February 14th

Zolezzi Insurance Agency; A Legacy

Local Roots Run Deep for Craig Zolezzi

Story by Rusty Savage

Gordon Zolezzi started working for Travelers Insurance in Portland in 1966. Gordon and his wife Jean had 2 children including, Craig, his older sister Janice and a few years later a younger brother, Paul. At the age of 4, Craig found himself moving with his family to the small town of Drain Oregon when Gordon purchased the Jack Randall Insurance Agency. At that time, Randall Insurance was located a few doors down from the present Liquor store on 2nd St. It was 1968 and Zolezzi Insurance was established. From that location, Gordon Zolezzi began to build his customer base and business style.

After a few years the business moved across the street into a small brick building next to the old Bank. Still another move, a while later, found the Agency over next to the Post Office. Soon

afterwards Gordon was able to buy the lot next door and built the office building at 208 West C Ave, where it currently resides.

Gordon worked to build his local reputation and expand the business. He was committed to his clients, neighbors and the community that he lived and worked in. He was a volunteer fireman and whenever there was a call, he was diligent in getting out on the fires and often he found those suffering fire damage were clients and he was always service oriented towards their needs. Said Craig, "I can remember many times riding along in my Dad's station wagon to get to a fire call." Craig grew up in this local environment of small town Oregon and under the umbrella of his Dad's Insurance Agency. At the age of 9 Craig remembers a teacher assigned

the question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

"So, I drew a picture with crayons and wrote at the bottom that I wanted to be an Insurance Agent", says Craig. "My father framed it and gave it to me many years ago. I proudly display it in my Florence office!"

Although he grew up in the Insurance business and often worked part time and summers at the office as a kid, it was in 1988, at the age of 24, that Craig began his formal journey into the insurance business. Initially working for North Pacific Insurance, which later became Liberty Mutual, in Cedar Hills, Portland Oregon. His start at North Pacific was an 18 month training program and at the end of his tenure he returned to Drain and the

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February, 2024
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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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send email to editor@ndherald.com

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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
Country Cabin Coffee & Laundry, 438 W "B" Ave Hwy38
The Rose Bar, 413 Umpqua Hwy 38
Mildred Whipple Library, 205 W. "A" Ave
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

Scottsburg
Riverbanks Speedy Mart 32841 State HWY 38

Reedsport
Jacks Barber Shoppe, 1199 Highway Ave,
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
Lower Umpqua Library, 395 Winchester 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
Center Market #32, 206 E Central Ave
S-Mart, 333 E Central Ave
Central Food Mart, 1021 E Central Ave



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New Oregon Laws for 2024

Effective Jan 1st, from the Oregon Legislature

Story by Scooter Brown

Salem OR - 2023 for many Oregonians was a year of crisis. A worsening addiction crisis, an ongoing housing shortage, the inability to staff core services like public defense. To meet that crisis, lawmakers wanted immediate action. Many of the most prominent bills passed in the 2023 legislative session were enacted well before Jan. 1, the default date for new policies to take effect. Below find a few of the laws that took effect on January 1st, 2024.

Speed cameras throughout Oregon: Autonomous "photo radar" units have, until now, only been legal in 10 cities in Oregon. But with speeding and other unsafe driving increasing since COVID-19, the Legislature is now letting every city in the state get in on the action. House Bill 2095 eased limitations on when and where speed cameras can be installed, offering them as an option as long as cities foot the bill to run them.

Changes to DUII law: It's long been illegal to drive drunk or under the influence of illicit drugs, but that didn't necessarily encompass some substances that can impact driving ability, such as kratom, a herbal substance that can produce opioid- and stimulant-like effects. With House Bill 2316, lawmakers expanded the definition of "intoxicant" under state law to account for that blind spot. The bill also reduced fines and other penalties for people caught bicycling while under the influence, reasoning that they pose less of a danger to others than someone behind the wheel. Those carve-outs don't apply if a person has a blood alcohol content of at least 0.15% or is riding an e-bike.

Tweaks to Measure 110: These days, much of the discussion over Oregon's pioneering drug decriminalization law centers around whether the state should reverse course as overdoses soar. But during this year's session, Democrats were focused more on what small changes Measure 110 might need. The result was House Bill 2315, which made a variety of changes that increased the Oregon Health Authority's role in getting state funding to addiction services around the state. Expect drug policy to continue to be a central issue in the 2024 legislative session.

New tax breaks for kids: Beginning this year, low-income families can pursue a new tax credit aimed at combating early childhood poverty. The Oregon Kids Credit, passed via House Bill 3235, grants credits of \$1,000 for every child

under 6 years old for families that make \$25,000 or less. Reduced credits are available if a family makes up to \$30,000 a year. Since the credits are refundable, they can be awarded even if a family pays no or little tax.

Laws targeting "paramilitary activity" and "domestic terrorism": With violent clashes on the streets of Portland in recent years and a spate of attacks on the Pacific Northwest's power grid, lawmakers were concerned about extremism in 2023. House Bill 2572 allows the attorney general to investigate organized paramilitary activity and to petition a judge to block planned paramilitary activities that aim to intimidate others or infringe on free speech. It also creates a right to sue for anyone injured by a paramilitary group. House Bill 2772 created a new class of felony crime for "domestic terrorism," activity that includes damaging "critical infrastructure" or dispersing toxic substances.

Cracking down on shoplifting: Changes to laws against organized retail theft included in Senate Bill 340 make it easier for prosecutors to charge repeat shoplifters and to seek higher penalties. The bill was one of several to emerge from a sprawling task force that took up the problem of organized shoplifting, where thieves work in concert and sell their goods online. Both Nike and Target shuttered stores in Portland in 2023, citing shoplifting as a central concern.

Streamlining housing conversions: As Gov. Tina Kotek sets lofty goals for ratcheting up housing production and development in Oregon, lawmakers have been looking for ways to help. House Bill 2984 is one idea. It requires local governments to greenlight the conversion of commercial buildings into housing without throwing up the normal bureaucratic hurdles. The law applies only to cities of at least 10,000 people and such developments can't cut into land zoned for heavy industry.

Insurance immunity for wildfire maps: The state saw intense backlash in 2022 when it released a map showing areas that were most prone to wildfire risk. A concern among many critics: that the map could be used to ramp up premiums on their homeowners insurance, or even to end their policies. Senate Bill 82 is an attempt to address this. It prohibits insurance companies from using wildfire risk maps to make such policy decisions.

Senate Republicans can not run for office again after walkout -Oregon Supreme Court

Story by Milo Banks

Salem OR - Oregon Senate Republicans who participated in a historic 2023 walkout will not be allowed to run for office again, the Oregon Supreme Court announced Thursday morning.

In 2023, nine Oregon Senate Republicans walked off the job for 42 days in protest of a bill that protected abortion rights and gender-affirming health care. Oregon Supreme Court announced Thursday morning that those senators who walked out will, not be allowed to run for office again. Following the walkout, the Oregon Secretary of State ruled participating senators would be unable to run for office immediately after the current term due to Measure 113. Voter-approved Measure 113 mandates that "any state legislator who accrues 10 or more unexcused absences during a legislative session shall be disqualified from holding legislative office" immediately following the current term.

The nine Senators petitioned against the Secretary of State's upholding of the measure following the walkout.

The Republicans argued that Measure 113's wording was ambiguous when voted upon by voters, and they didn't support the Secretary's interpretation and enforcement of the rule after the walkout.

The Supreme Court states that it is upholding the Secretary's interpretation and that the Republicans who participated in the walkout will be unable to run for office again. The Court says "that the ballot measure history uniformly supported the Secretary's interpretation," and that "the ballot title and the voters' pamphlet expressly and repeatedly informed voters that the disqualification would occur immediately following the legislator's current term."

The Court concluded that voters would have understood the disqualification to apply to the term of office immediately following the term in which a legislator accrued 10 or more unexcused absences. A total of nine Republicans and one Independent senator who staged the record-long six-week legislative walkout in 2023 cannot file for re-election in 2024 or 2026.

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: 02/12/24 6pm

Yoncalla

Mayor: **Kathleen Wertz**
Councilors: **Dan Wagoner**
Gene Vroman
Harold Gilpin
Bryce Wertz
City Administrator: **Jennifer Bragg**
Council Meeting: 02/13/24, 6pm

Elkton

Mayor: **Daniel Burke**
Council President: **Joan Smith**
Council Members:
Kim Moore
Dan Shepherd
Sandra Galli
Public Works Supervisor: **Gary Trout**
Council Meeting: 02/08/24, 8:30am

Oakland

Mayor: **Bette Keehley**
Counselor: **Jan Wier**
Counselor: **Kent Rochester**
Counselor: **Sky Ironplow**
Counselor: **Betty Tamm**
Council Meeting: 02/13/24 7pm

Sutherlin

Mayor: **Michelle Sumner**
Council President **Debbie Hamilton**
Councilor **Lisa Woods**
Councilor **Joe Grossman**
Councilor **Larry Whitaker**
Councilor **Shawn Smalley**
Councilor **Gary Dagal**
City Manager **Jerry Gillham**
Council Meeting: 02/12/24 7:15pm

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: **Deby Turner**
Council Meeting: 02/12/24 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: 02/12/24 - 7:00pm
02/26/24 - 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 Trierger** Dist 4: **Pat Farr**
Dist 5: **Heather Buch**
Oregon House Representative:
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**
Secretary of State:
LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Attorney General: **Ellen Rosenblum**
Governor: **Tina Kotek**
Vice-President: **Kamala Harris**
President: **Joe Biden**

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



Editorial



By Rusty Savage

And here I am finally getting this February issue out to all of our readers. Ice-amegeddon 2024, that's what they are calling it, and good reason too. Oregon was hit pretty hard this last January and not everyone saw it coming. I sure didn't. And it wouldn't quit! Here in Drain, we missed most of the icy badness but the power outages were simply a pain in the butt.

Maybe some of you are like the Savages, here, and have wood heat so at least we didn't freeze. Can't say the same for Cottage Grove, Springfield, Eugene and the outlying areas. They lost power and it seemed to take forever to get it all back on. In fact there are still a few remote areas, at this writing, that have not been restored.

And travel was at an all time standstill like I haven't seen a very long time around here. I-5 from Eugene to Roseburg was a standstill for 4 or 5 days. Man those truckers tried pretty hard but there's no skating across the ice for those behemoths.

Although we did not have a prolonged outage here, the on and off and on again power fluctuations killed one of our computers here at the office. Another reason we delayed the February issue by a few days. Between business closures and some of our vendors delaying services, on top of our office malfunction, we persevered and here it is.

The North Douglas Herald is excited to announce another milestone after only 6 months we are increasing production to 4500 newspapers beginning in March. Last year, in September, we distributed about 2100 newspapers and by December we maxed out our 3500 print run and have spread from Winston to Eugene and from Oakland to Reedsport. With this months last 3500 run, we will only be able to stock out, over 30, pick up locations once. Usually we have been stocking them twice a month. Next month we will be able to stock twice a month again.

It's thanks to our readers that we can continue to grow. I believe the print media is still the best method of bringing news and information to the public. I think you like to read a newspaper, as long as it can inform and entertain and that is our goal here at the Herald. My only caveat is that I want to hear from all of you good people. I want to bring you the news that we are scouring the region for, but I want a personal interaction too. Tell us about your kids school and sports efforts and achievements, your community shortcomings and triumphs. Got a fight with City Hall or great idea for city improvement, tell us about it. Is there something that may be going on in your area that you can share with us? It's your newspaper, what do you want to see in it?

Not many free newspapers out there that I can see. The Eugene Weekly has been a free news paper up in Eugene area for over 30 years and last month they stopped production, laid off the staff and shuttered the doors. According to Eugene Weekly's editor, Camilla Mortensen, and EPD public information officer, Melinda McLaughlin, the paper was a victim of fraud and theft by a former trusted employee. Reportedly nearly \$100,000 was embezzled over a short period of time and was only discovered after vendors weren't paid and paychecks were at risk of bouncing. I spoke with Camilla and I can tell that the passion over there is a strong factor in their efforts to continue. Ms Mortensen plans to be printing a new issue by the end of this week. Kudos to them.

I also read the New York Times is in dire straights and cutting back on their production and coverage areas. The print newspaper business is a tough one. If you appreciate your free copy of the North Douglas Herald, you can thank our advertisers. Thank them by supporting them, spend some money over there, so that they continue to support us.

2 Teenage Shooters Arrested

Lane County Sheriff Serves Warrants

Eugene OR - According to the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) two young males opened fire with handguns at a passing vehicle on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., a passerby in a vehicle asked the two males to clear the roadway in the area of Nantucket Avenue and N. Park Avenue, and were greeted with gunfire. LCSO tells us that the vehicle was struck multiple times, and the driver was nearly struck as well. LCSO reports that nearly 20 rounds were fired, with the victim nearly being struck, and at least one round entered a child's bedroom window nearby, striking an interior wall.

One suspect was identified and surveillance was established at a nearby residence in the 1300 block of Keller Street while applying for a search warrant. Once the search warrant was granted, the LCSO Special Response Team served

the warrant. Evidence was located that quickly led to the arrest of one suspect, and identification of the second suspect. The first suspect arrested was a juvenile, who was transported to the Lane County Youth Services detention facility on charges of:

Attempted Assault 1
Unlawful Use of a Weapon

On January 29, 2024, LCSO detectives arrested the second shooter without incident, identified as Ty Houston Pflieger, 18, of Eugene. He was lodged at the Lane County Jail on charges of:

Attempted Assault 1
Unlawful Use of a Weapon

The Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Oregon State Police and Eugene Police Department for their assistance, and especially the many residents who reached out with information to help quickly solve this case.

Woman Indicted for Online Social Media Threats

Eugene OR - A federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging Elizabeth Ballesteros West, a 56-year-old woman from Cottage Grove, with one count of transmitting an interstate threat. This announcement was made by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon.

The investigation began in late September 2023 when the FBI received an anonymous tip regarding West's alleged threats against coworkers on Facebook. In November 2023, it was discovered that West also had an account on X (formerly known as Twitter), where she was reportedly posting and reposting memes, videos, and statements containing violent messages which targeted Black and Jewish people, as well as immigrants.

West's online posts included self-produced photos of firearms, including handguns, a shotgun, and an AR-style assault rifle. On January 3, 2023, West admitted to posting and reposting messages on X containing hateful and violent rhetoric. She also confessed to

possessing multiple shotguns and AR-15 assault rifles at her Cottage Grove residence.

FBI then, on January 9, 2023, executed federal search warrants on West's person, vehicle, and residence. Seized were 12 handguns, 16 rifles, thousands of rounds of ammunition, firearm accessories, and a journal containing writings and drawings featuring additional hateful and violent statements. As a result, on January 12, 2023, FBI agents arrested West without incident at her workplace in Eugene.

West made her first appearance in federal court on Thursday, January 18th before a U.S. Magistrate Judge and was ordered detained pending further court proceedings. This investigation involved collaboration between the FBI, Cottage Grove Police Department, Eugene Police Department, and Lane County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Adam E. Delph, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

DCSO Arrests Transient on 13 Charges

Yoncalla OR - The Douglas County Sheriff's Office jailed a transient who had 13 warrants for this arrest on Friday, January 26th. A DCSO report said at 5:20 p.m. a deputy contacted 20-year old Taylor Pennington in the 5000 block of Elkhead Road in Yoncalla.

According to a resident, Pennington was among those staying at the residence. After further investigation, the deputy learned about the warrants. The sheriff's deputy went up to the house and attempted to contact the suspect.

Pennington barricaded himself inside a room and refused to come out. It was learned that the individual accompanying Pennington was the

victim of a kidnapping case in Medford. She is 17 years old.

After speaking with Pennington for a lengthy amount of time, he eventually cooperated and came out. He was placed into custody and secured in a patrol vehicle. Pennington told the deputy that he had ingested 2 grams of fentanyl. Shortly after surrendering, the man became nonresponsive. The deputy then administered two doses (4 milligrams) of Narcan. Pennington came to and was transported to a hospital where he was evaluated and cleared to be lodged in jail.

Pennington was charged with the long list of warrants. Bail was set at \$132,500.

Man's Body Discovered in Coiner Park

CGPD Says No Foul Play

Cottage Grove OR - On Saturday, January 27th, the Cottage Grove Police Department discovered a body at Coiner Park. Two park patrons called 911 at 2:00 pm on Saturday. Officers responded to 1319 E. Main Street to find the 24-year-old Cottage Grove man unresponsive. Drug paraphalia was found at the scene. Officer Ryan Blalack administered one dose of Narcan (Naloxone) and performed CPR.

According to Cottage Grove Chief of Police Cory Chase, "There was no foul play involved. The first officer on-scene observed the male, later identified as Thomas Lynn Voigt, lying on the table. The officer saw a glass pipe in one hand and a lighter in the other hand.

We can't confirm without a toxicology report, but it appears to be drug related at this point."

The officer performed CPR until medics with South Lane Fire and Rescue arrived and continued efforts to resuscitate Mr. Voigt and he was declared deceased at the scene. The Chief added, "It's not being investigated as a suspicious death at this point."

The State Medical Examiner's Office has requested a toxicology screening. The drug paraphernalia at the scene was seized as evidence.

According to information officer, Captain Marsh, there are no further details available at this time.

Former DCSO Deputy Arrested

Roseburg OR - The Roseburg Police Department conducted an investigation, at the request of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, of a former Douglas County Sheriff Corrections Deputy Peter Collins had embezzled money while serving as the union treasurer. During the investigation, Collins, a 44-year-old Roseburg resident, admitted to embezzling more than \$100,000 from the Douglas County Law Enforcement Association between 2016 and 2023. Collins was arrested on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 and lodged at Douglas County Corrections. Collins is charged with 1) five counts of Aggravated Theft in the First Degree. 2) five counts of Computer Crime. 3) five counts of Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card. 4) Falsifying Business Records. 5) Forgery 1. 6) Official Misconduct. The Roseburg Police Department says the investigation is ongoing.

Fatal Car Crash on HWY 58

Lane County - On the morning of January 21st, Deputies with the Lane County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a single vehicle crash into a muddy field along Edenvale Road near Highway 58, Pleasant Hill. Deputies located the driver deceased underneath the vehicle, a 2014 Nissan Altima. The driver is believed to have been the only occupant, and was likely not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, resulting in her ejection from the vehicle. The crash reportedly occurred sometime the night before, but was not discovered by area residents until morning. The driver's identity is being withheld at this time.

I-5 Stop yields 100 lb Meth

Douglas County - An Oregon State Police team with a K9 pulled the vehicle over around 12:15 p.m. on January 4, authorities said. The K9 sniffed outside the vehicle and alerted the troopers about the drugs.

When the vehicle was searched, officials said, they found 100 pounds of crystal meth in large bags in the trunk. Two people from San Bernadino were arrested: Edgar Rene Revolorio, 28, and 35-year-old Surely Nalley Molina Escalante. Authorities said the investigation continues.

Fatal Pedestrian Crash on 101

Florence OR - A pedestrian is dead following a vehicle-pedestrian crash on HWY 101 near Honeyman Park. According to Oregon State Police, at 4:15 a.m. on January 22, 2024, officers responded to a vehicle-pedestrian crash on Hwy. 101 near milepost 193, just south of Florence. The preliminary investigation indicates that a southbound Toyota Tacoma, driven by 70-year-old Timothy Shane Sweet, struck 36-year-old Justin Robert Warmuth of Florence, who was wearing dark clothing while standing in the middle of the southbound lane. Warmuth was declared dead at the scene, Sweet was not injured and Officials stated that Sweet cooperated with investigators.

Hwy. 101, near Honeyman Park, was impacted for approximately 4.5 hours while officers conducted the on-scene investigation, as Western Lane Ambulance and Fire and the Oregon Department of Transportation assisted OSP at the scene.

ND Park/Rec Manager Charged

Drain OR - North Douglas Park & Recreation district manager Judith Charlene Burnett, 38, of Drain, was arrested Jan. 4 on nine charges related to theft and fraud from North Douglas Parks & Recreation.

Burnett faces charges of first-degree aggravated theft, four counts of fraudulent use of a credit card and four counts of computer crime. It is alleged that Burnett stole more than \$50,000 from North Douglas Parks & Recreation between Aug. 1, 2023, and Dec. 1, 2023. An additional \$1,000 was alleged to have been used on a credit card belonging to the district during the months of August, September, October and November 2023. She is charged with using a computer systems or network "for the purpose of committing theft of money and/or currency." Burnett was also the cross country and track and field coach for North Douglas High School since 2019.

The parks and recreation district is funded through taxes and grants from local foundations. Board members with North Douglas Parks & Recreation did not make any comment at this time.

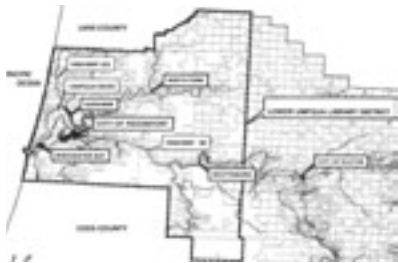
She was conditionally released from Douglas County Jail on Jan. 12 and is restricted to having no contact with the parks and recreation district.

Lower Umpqua Library District Updates



Lower Umpqua Library District is placing neighborhood library modules in outlying rural locations within our service area. These are basically roofed bookcases, which can contain approximately 130 books

and DVDs. The public can borrow and return these items on an honor system basis. The library district received an American Rescue Plan Act grant that funded the materials to build seven of these. So far, two neighborhood library modules have been built by volunteers and are located in Winchester Bay and Ash Valley,



respectively. Two more are currently under construction and one of those will be placed at Smith River Store. We are currently looking for four additional locations to place neighborhood library modules and for volunteers to build three of them. If you would like to volunteer the use of your land for a neighborhood library

module or your time to build one, or if you have questions or suggestions about this project please contact the library.

The photo shows the neighborhood library module in Ash Valley and the map shows the boundaries of Lower Umpqua Library District (the area within the black border). We can potentially erect neighborhood library modules anywhere within the borders of Lower Umpqua Library District, provided that we have permission from the land owner and someone to build them. Ideal placement locations would be areas where the neighborhood library modules will likely be seen and used by many people, where they can be accessed safely, where there is space for people to congregate, and that are in a distinct area that is not too close to either the library or another module. Completed neighborhood library modules are monitored and restocked by staff and/or volunteers.

Alex Kuestner
Library Director/District Manager
Lower Umpqua Library District
395 Winchester Ave
Reedsport, Oregon 97467
(541) 271-3500 www.luld.org
Current Neighborhood Library Modules
Winchester Bay Neighborhood Library
Near the corner of Broadway Ave & South 6th Street
Ash Valley Neighborhood Library
Near the corner of Elk Ridge Forest Road & Loon Lake Road

Yoncalla Public Library Notes



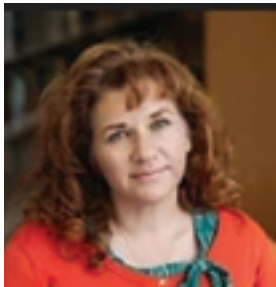
We're looking forward to February at the Yoncalla Public Library. On **Monday the 12th** and **Wednesday the 14th** we'll have all the supplies for anyone to drop-in for crafty Valentines Day card-making. Stop by during open hours to participate. On **Saturday the 24th** from 12-2 join us for our Celebration of Literacy. This is an all-ages event with lunch, a cursive writing competition, and entertainment for the whole family.

Also join us on the second Saturday of every month from 10-12 when 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.

Our hours are **M 1-5, W 10-4, Th 4-7, and Sat 10-2**. Follow us on Facebook for more information and to see what we're up to every week. See you at the library!

Letters from the Librarian

"The beauty of winter is that it makes you appreciate spring." - Lucy Maud Montgomery



Weather! We are channeling our inner Anne of Green Gables again with this winter weather and accompanying closures, outages, and chilly challenges. The

library is a place to find warmth, internet, and a place to hang out. Oh, and books, which are a favorite pastime for getting cozy. In a somewhat related note, we have a cuddly collection of hats, scarves, socks, and gloves courtesy of the Yarn Club (see this very column, paragraph three, to join) and our Friends of the Library.

Seed library and garden club! The Mildred Whipple Library is excited to announce its new seed library. "Borrow" all you want and need of herb, flower, and vegetable seeds -- and of course they are free. An updated list of what's available is on our website at ndld.org under the "program" tab. Or browse the collection in person during open hours. We are pleased to also launch a garden club on the second Saturday of each month, where members can borrow seeds, trade information, check out garden and home-stead books, and hear from master gardeners from time to time. Drop in from 12 to 2 p.m. to join the garden club fun. Do remember, though, that the seeds are available anytime we are open. We are also accepting seed donations from your stash or leftovers. We'll take care of the sorting and labeling so you can feel good about passing along seeds that might help someone else.

Yarn along! Do you knit, crochet, cross stitch or embroider? Or do you want to learn? Our fiber arts group meets Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for all kinds of fun with yarn. It's an encouraging and kind group with room for you. We have some free supplies to get you started too.

Library kids! We are grateful for a community full of library kids, who are always welcome in the library. Kids under the age of 12 do need an adult or responsible teen accompanying them on their visit. Some of our kid-friendly programming includes:

Story time. Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. is dedicated to stories and crafts for preschoolers and toddlers (and all siblings and grownups who'd enjoy a story and a craft);

Teen advisory. Wednesdays at 3:45 p.m. is our teen advisory group for ages 12-18. The teens in this group have snacks, help choose books for the young adult and tween collections, decorate the teen room for the seasons, and plan fun events.

Matinee movie. Also on Wednesdays, starting at 4 p.m., is our family-friendly matinee movie. We serve hot popcorn and snacks.

Game club. Legos and chess and board games, oh my! Fridays from 1 to 2 p.m., join us for Legos and board games on a rotating schedule. Call the library at 541-836-2648 for details. This was a very popular program that we're glad to reintroduce. School gets out early on Fridays, so the learning and fun continue at the library.

Friends! The vibrant Friends of the Library group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. Join them to plan author talks, parties, fundraisers, and to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Read along! The YonDr book club travels between Yoncalla and Drain on the second Thursday of each month. In February, the club will read "No Ghosts in the Graveyard" by local author Bob Crites and meet in Drain at 7 p.m. Pick up a copy at either library and join the discussion.

Miriam Sisson
Director
Mildred Whipple Library, North Douglas Library District
ndld.org
541-836-2648

Conversation with Craig Zolezzi

Continued from Page 1



Zolezzi Insurance Agency to work for his Dad. As the business thrived, the Zolezzi's were growing and in 1992 the building was expanded and updated to it's present state.

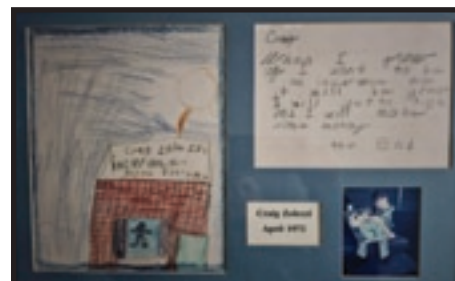
In 1999, after 31 years at the helm, Gordon suddenly passed away. At the age of 35, Craig found himself taking over the company. According to Craig, "We had some long time employees and strong connections with the community and everyone was very supportive. I kind of cut my teeth there and Ray Heaton was there for me, he was a long time employee, sort of leading me the way. Then in 2002 I bought what was the Scallon

Insurance Agency in Sutherlin Oregon, establishing a second location at 112 Eagle Court there. I ran both Agencies there for many years and most recently purchased an Agency in Florence, that was formerly called Coast Insurance. We closed the deal on January 1st 2022 so we have been there a year now."

When you speak to Craig, it is obvious that he is, both, a driven insurance professional that enjoys working with and helping people, as well as a down to earth, guy next door, sure to give a smile and handshake and look you in the eye while talking to you. Gregarious and friendly, Craig is quick to tell a good story and just as quick to let you know he's listening and hears your point of view.

"So I spend a lot of my time on the road, between the valley and the coast", he explains. "Our territory is state wide, in fact it's multi state. My roots do run deep in Drain, in North Douglas county. I graduated from Elkton High School and I have a lot of local customers and a lot of multi generational customers."

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City Desk

Officer of the Year Sutherlin PD honors Ashley Higgins



Story by Rusty Savage

Officer Ashley Higgins has been honored as Sutherlin's Officer of the Year Award at the 48th Annual Roseburg Optimist Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet.

In a statement from Police Chief Troy A. Mills, "I want to call attention to one officer that has stood out this last year not for a single isolated event, but a collective series of events that we believe make her our honoree and officer of the year."

Ashley has been an officer in Sutherlin since 2016. With an Associate Science Degree Umpqua Community College and an Intermediate Certificate in Law Enforcement. She is currently a Field Training Officer and Tasor instructor and has completed over 1340 hours of field related training.

Chief Mills called officer Higgins, "A very well rounded officer who continues to learn and excel."

Yoncalla Beautification



The Yoncalla Beautification Project is winding down from the Christmas holiday and working to take down the lights from the Christmas holiday. The Christmas lighting project was a tremendous success in Yoncalla which brought out the holiday spirit in the community. The Yoncalla Beautification Project would like to thank all the businesses and the residents of Yoncalla for this great cooperation and success during the 2023 Christmas holiday. What a tremendous holiday spirit Yoncalla has for its community. The lights were put up between Jim Thorpe Lumber Products Inc. and Easy Pick Micro Shavings, located at the north and south entrances to the city of Yoncalla.

The Beautification Project is now working to put together the annual flower baskets around Yoncalla which are beautiful and which adds a wonderful and personal touch to the city of Yoncalla. It takes a lot of work to put the flower baskets together, which also comes with an expense to

establish the baskets and maintain them throughout the summer months. The flower baskets require watering normally on a daily basis to maintain their beauty. The Beautification Project is always looking for donations to help offset the cost of the flowers, and to maintain them. The large 16 inch pots cost about \$80.00 and the smaller 12 inch pots cost about \$25.00 to put together. Individuals wishing to make donations can do so in increments of any amount regardless of how large or small the donations are. The individuals making donations can specify which size pot they are contributing to and they will be listed as a sponsor of that size pot. All donations are greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in sponsoring a basket or making donations to the Beautiful Project can do so by mailing donations to: the Yoncalla Beautification Project, P. O. Box 936, Yoncalla, Oregon. 97499. The point of contact for these donations is: Doris Bartlett who can be contacted at: 541-315-0608.



New Apt Complex

72 Units for Sutherlin

Story by Rusty Savage

Sutherlin OR — A 72-unit apartment complex is going up on 3.75 acres next to the Oak Hills Golf Club in Sutherlin. Construction has started on five, three story, buildings, on the plans submitted to the city. Two of the units will house 18 apartments and the other three will have 12 apartments each.

The complex will have 25 garages, 12-feet-by-24-feet each. Vehicle parking will accommodate 134 parking spots and another 72 spots for bicycles. Developers, Tim and Nikole Clark of Clark Property Management LLC, are local developers in Sutherlin.

This complex development is a timely endeavor to help with sutherlin's current housing situation. At an earlier council meeting, it was agreed to create a housing and homeless task force to come up with ideas, and some possible solutions. Said Sutherlin City Manager Jerry Gillham, "It's not just the homeless and it's not just low-income housing we're talking about, it's the totality of workforce housing". A housing development for middle-income workers would help those companies and bolster economic development in the community.

Pat Lynch, director of livability services for the city, said the current housing shortage is underscored by the miniscule vacancy rate of 1.5%. "There's nothing available," he said. "There are people moving here to find someplace to live and there's nothing.

Continued on page 6

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Community Pages

Sutherlin Apartments

Continued from Page 5

We're behind the eight ball on this." He stated that in some places in this state, companies are funding housing projects to provide affordable housing for its workers.

"That's a big step up and that's a big idea to involve the companies and employers, because they're hurting," he went on to say, "They can't hire people."

Lynch also said that while these new apartments are likely to be higher end units for the local market, it may open up some less expensive units. "I do not believe this will add to the 'affordable' or 'workforce' housing inventory that is in such limited supply in Sutherlin. But there is a sense that any addition to available housing here is helpful."

It is certain that this is only a drop in the bucket as far as easing the housing crisis, continued development and planning must continue to chip away at this evolving dilemma.

Drain Chamber Seeks Beautification Ideas

Story by Rusty Savage

The Drain Chamber of Commerce is looking for ideas to make Drain visitor friendly as well as beautification ideas for curb appeal and shopping. Although there are currently some efforts on the part of citizens and city officials, the Chamber is committed to continue with efforts to make a difference for the betterment of the city.

Bonnie Pyles, a long time Drain business owner and activist, has spent

many hours working towards these efforts. She cites the long time heritage of the community and area. From the pioneer history to the legacy of logging and industry in the area, there is a rich precedent of a dedicated and resilient cultures that have thrived here over the years.

A couple of ideas that would rely on tourist attractions, proposing a logging

Continued on Page 11

Business Oregon Awards \$1.8 Million to Support Rural Communities and Entrepreneurs

Story by Milo Banks

After a competitive application process, Business Oregon is pleased to announce a Notice of Intent to Award a total of \$1.825 million in funding from the Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI) program to 19 Oregon communities. ROI is Business Oregon's strategic effort to empower rural communities to support entrepreneurs and small business growth through financial support, innovative partnerships, network expansion, capacity support, and access to business development resources. ROI strengthens entrepreneurial ecosystems within and across Oregon's rural communities with a particular emphasis on diverse populations and low-income households.

ROI funding continues to be highly sought after and especially competitive. Each application was thoroughly reviewed, scored, and discussed by a multi-member evaluation committee prior to a final award decision.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs drive rural economies and are a major source of opportunity as well as resiliency. ROI's "whole community" approach helps entrepreneurs thrive in the good times and recover faster and more fully following disruptions. In lieu of a "one size fits all" approach, ROI reflects community priorities and acknowledges that the best people to determine the right approach for a community are the residents themselves.

ROI is an investment in the vision and aptitude of rural communities and aligns with Business Oregon's strategic plan to innovate, grow local businesses, cultivate rural economic stability, and champion opportunity for underrepresented people.

Listed below are a few of the recipients of 2023-25 ROI funding with a brief description of each community's project.

A Greater Applegate (\$110,000) – AGA is seeking to strengthen the local food and farm system by improving coordination, distribution, and marketing among farmers, ranchers, markets, restaurants, and local consumers. By supporting local businesses and the markets that showcase their products, this effort is intended to increase network participation, enhance coordination between local markets, and stimulate the consumption of regional products.

Bohemia Food Hub (\$120,000) – BFH and project partners will continue to cultivate and refine the entrepreneurial ecosystem for food-based businesses in Cottage Grove, with a particular focus on supporting low-income and immigrant entrepreneurs and scaling its capacity to support more emerging businesses.

CCD Business Development (\$100,000) – CCD plans to strengthen the region's (Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties) entrepreneurial ecosystem by tackling the three gaps identified

in their Economic Recovery Initiative project: access to communication networks, financial resource identification, and business technical support.

Center for Rural Livelihoods (\$110,000) CRL will support entrepreneurs in the restoration forestry sector by helping incubate new businesses, supporting alliances among existing businesses, and encouraging market development for specialized forest products while centering the voices of Indigenous leaders and land stewards. ecosystem development.

Friends of Family Farmers (\$110,000) – FFFF and project partners will enhance the agricultural entrepreneurial ecosystem by supporting farm succession planning that helps beginning farmers and ranchers establish successful and sustainable farm enterprises.

Oregon Frontier Chamber (\$90,000) – The OFC identified business community priorities and is now poised to address them, including reinforcing support for its Rural Ambassador

program, tailoring direct assistance and training to meet individual business needs, expanding support for youth entrepreneurship, and solidifying the Rural Regional Main Street program with participating communities and Oregon Main Street.

RAIN Catalysts (\$100,000) – RAIN and project partners will be active in 29 rural communities and four counties (Linn, Lane, Benton, and Grant Counties) across the state, providing programming, events, and youth entrepreneurship bootcamps that harness existing momentum and contribute to sustainable ecosystems that prioritize entrepreneurs.

Umpqua CDC (\$75,000) – Umpqua CDC and project partners will address the lack of available childcare in the region through training, instruction, and support for culturally specific providers as they build sustainable businesses and the ecosystem that supports them. and

Continued on Page 7

Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Douglas County Task Force Advocates

Story by Scooter Brown

Roseburg OR — The Douglas County Human Trafficking Task Force and the The Mercy Foundation are working to help bring more awareness and prevention to the community. The Task Force plans to identify and respond to victims of human trafficking while working with law enforcement, social service providers and medical professionals throughout the county.

In Douglas county it is primarily in bars and establishments along I-5 and surrounding rest areas where some of the most active places for trafficking are taking place. According to, Violence Prevention Program Manager, Marion Pearson the more the message gets out to the community, the better the chances for awareness so that prevention can succeed.

"The more people that people are aware," explains Pearson, "the less places traffickers will have to hide and that's what we want in our community. We want to be able to identify who our victims and survivors are, get them the assistance that they need, and get these traffickers locked up."

The Task Force has a number of projects at work, including a Sip Safe project, which is designed to help bars and pubs learn what to look out for. This project began last year with nine locations agreeing to go through the training. This year, they hope to bring six more establishments into the training program.

Working with these establishments is important for the training being provided and the awareness needed. Additionally, stickers and drink testers are also made available to help visitors and staff if and when they don't feel safe. Pearson hopes that this will lead to better knowledge on what to do and better prepare staff on how to act.

"If they believe that their drink has been spiked or their friend's drink has been spiked or something just weird is happening

within the bar, they have an opportunity to let somebody in the bar know and that somebody in the bar will respond appropriately to whatever it is that they need."

The task force, made up of over 15 partners, is dedicated to educating our county on how trafficking occurs, the red flags and indicators, risk factors and resources for human trafficking. The task force and all activities are generously funded through a federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. Through this VOCA funding, the Task Force has hired an advocate to address the complex needs of local survivors.

Some of the projects that are advocated are:

- Agency specific education, training and resources throughout the social service and medical fields
- Trainings for UCC nursing, paramedic and truck driving students
- Trainings and resources to all Douglas County EMT's
- Law enforcement, security staff trainings
- Education and materials for local hotels and motels
- Community events & Outreach
- Consultation to change policy and protocol to screen for and identify victims and survivors of human trafficking
- In – school prevention education
- Partnerships throughout Oregon and with the Dept. of Justice
- Advocacy, counseling, shelter and/or relocation services for survivor

The Douglas County Human Trafficking Task Force can be contacted at 2700 NW Stewart Pkwy, Roseburg, Oregon 97471, phone 541-677-4818.

Important phone numbers:
National Human Trafficking Hotline – 888-373-7888

To report child abuse – 800-305-2903
Battered Person's Advocacy Crisis Line – 800-464-6543

Lane County Assessment and Taxation

Property Tax Break from Ice Storm

Story by Milo Banks

Lane County - For property owners in Lane county, if your property was damaged during the ice storm at the start of January, you may be eligible for a reduction of your 2023-24 property taxes. For damaged property, the percentage of assessed value lost is multiplied by the total tax on the account for the month the property was damaged and for each remaining month of the tax year.

For example, if:

the property was damaged in January 2024
80% of the assessed value is lost
(the damage is to the improvements only)
the total 2023-24 tax bill is \$2,400
Then: $\$2,400 / 12 = \$200 * 6$ (months)
 $= \$1,200 * 80\% = \960 .

Most, if not all, properties will need to be physically inspected for damage. The refund process can start as soon as the appraiser verifies the damage and the amount of loss.

The application can be picked up at Assessor's office or at Assessment & Taxation website: www.lanecountyor.gov/at. It can be returned to assessor@LaneCountyOR.gov or dropped off or mailed to: Assessment & Taxation
125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Questions about proration can be direct to: (541) 682-4321 (Monday—Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Officials with LCG say applications for must be submitted to the Assessor's

Office by June 30, 2024 either in person or by mail, applications may also be emailed online to assessor@LaneCountyOR.gov.

Fire or Act of God—Tax Proration

Oregon's tax year runs from July 1 through June 30. Taxes on property that has experienced a casualty loss due to fire or other act of God are prorated. The amount you are eligible for reflects the portion of the tax year you were a "property owner."

What qualifies?
If any real or personal property is damaged or destroyed by an act of God or fire, the property is eligible for a proration of the tax. An act of God is generally considered an act of nature without human intervention. For example, damage from a tornado or a lightning strike is an act of God. Damage isn't an act of God if it is caused by the property owner. Property that is damaged or destroyed by a fire is eligible for proration as long as the applicant hasn't been convicted of arson for the property for which relief is sought. You would be eligible for relief if, for example, your house burns down as the result of an accident or if you ask the fire department to leave it alone for you.

Who may apply?
For real property, the owner or purchaser under a recorded instrument of sale may apply. For personal property, the person owning, possessing, or controlling the property may apply. All applications are made to the tax collector.

If the damaged or destroyed property is located within a geographical area covered by a state of emergency declared by the Governor due to fire or act of God, or subject to a configuration action taken under the authority of the Governor, the tax collector may process without application if they know or have reason to believe the property was destroyed or damaged. Through the tax collector may process taxes for these properties without an application, it is still recommended that you submit an application if your property is located in one of these areas.

Each year, the amount of the tax year you lost, or the amount you should have received, is prorated for that year.

A refund isn't required if proration results in a tax reduction of \$100 or less, and the tax has been paid. The tax collector will also determine if the amount of the refund is a basis for submitting your return.

Is the value on the account reduced in the current tax year?
No, the value on the account for the tax year to which the damage or destruction occurred isn't reduced. The amount value is always the value of the account as of the assessment date for the tax year to which the return is being prepared.

Is the impact of the damage or destruction reflected in the property's value?
Any loss in value will be considered in the account value for the assessment date following the next assessment. Normally, your property tax is based on the value of the property as of January 1 for the tax year beginning July 1 of that calendar year. If your prop-

What is the deadline for submitting an application?
The application is submitted to the county tax collector no later than the end of the tax year in which the damage or destruction occurs, or 60 days after the date the property was damaged or destroyed, whichever is later. If you are unable to submit your application by this deadline, you may submit it by mail by the deadline. For example, if your property is destroyed by a fire on November 1, you must file an application by the following June 30. If the tax year begins on January 1, the application deadline is 60 days later, August 31.

Where do I get an application and with whom do I file it?
Applications are available at www.lanecounty.gov for all seven-county tax collector's offices. In some counties, applications may also be available at the assessor's office. File your application with the county tax collector. The tax collector consults with the assessor's staff to determine whether or not the property has been damaged or destroyed and how much value was lost.

How is the refund calculated?
For property not specially assessed there must be a loss in assessed value. If the damage or destruction causes the assessed value of the property to decline, the amount of the refund is calculated by the amount of the loss in assessed value for the tax year. The tax collector should have prorated or credits been owing for that year.

For property specially assessed under a program, the amount of the refund is calculated by the amount of the loss in assessed value of the property. The amount of the refund is calculated by the amount of the loss in assessed value for the tax year. The tax collector should have prorated or credits been owing for that year.

Do you have questions or need help?
www.lanecounty.gov (for all seven-county tax collector's offices)
541-677-4818 or 800-541-6543
Contact us for ADA accommodations or assistance in other languages.

5 Timeless Valentine's Day Gift Ideas

Story by Scooter Brown

On a day that signifies the importance of love and companionship, many people find it rewarding to show their loved ones just how much they mean. If you're in the gift-giving spirit this Valentine's Day, you may find a bit of inspiration with these ideas.

Just remember, whether you're celebrating the relationship with your significant other or showing appreciation for a friend, the best gifts come from the heart.

*** Food** - If your partner is a foodie, a Valentine's Day date is an obvious choice. Make a reservation at his or her favorite restaurant or opt for takeout and enjoy quiet time together in the comfort of home. Satisfy that special someone's sweet tooth with a classic box of chocolates or create a personalized candy basket full of guilty pleasures.

*** Jewelry** - Whether you've been together a year, a decade or more, it's a perfect opportunity to splurge for a gift he or she will cherish for a lifetime. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, anklets, watches and more all make for perfect gifts that can often be customized with engravings like names or important dates.

*** Experiences** - Oftentimes, the gift of moments together means more than a trinket. Consider the things you enjoy doing side by side and schedule a day or weekend to do nothing but your favorite activities. Book a tour at a local museum, find tickets to the next big game, sit frontstage for a favorite band or road trip to a nearby attraction for new sights and sounds.

*** Subscriptions** - Gifts don't always need to be sentimental. Sometimes, they can be downright practical. Creating an account for a new streaming service or music platform, signing up for monthly food or wine gift boxes and buying ticket packages for a favorite local team are all gifts that keep on giving.

*** Handwritten Notes and Flowers** - Take time to write what you appreciate most about your special someone - personality traits, favorite memories, thoughtful gestures and why they're important to you - and pair your note with favorite flowers. Gifts may spark a smile, but sharing a moment of connection offers a reminder of what you're celebrating in the first place.

Inaugural Oregon Civics Bee

(Entry Deadline March 4)

Oregon Business & Industry is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to host a first-of-its-kind civics competition in Oregon that encourages middle-school students to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

Middle school students throughout Oregon are invited to participate in the inaugural Oregon Civics Bee. Presented by the Oregon Business & Industry Research and Education Foundation, this competition will give students a chance to share their ideas for improving their communities and show their enthusiasm for civics. Participants will have a chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

"Today's students are tomorrow's leaders," said OBI President and CEO Angela Wilhelms. "Civics education and engagement are critical to an informed citizenry and healthy democracy, all of which underpins a prosperous economic future. Engaging middle school students in a fun, engaging and rewarding opportunity is one small way OBI can help with education and awareness."

The Oregon Civics Bee is part of U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's

National Civics Bee. The winner of the Oregon Civics Bee will be invited to participate in the national round of the competition in Washington, D.C. Participants in the national competition will have a chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who'd like to participate in the Oregon Civics Bee will identify a problem in their community and write a 500-word essay about how they could address it. The essay must be submitted by means of a portal on the Oregon Civics Bee website. The portal will open on Nov. 13, and all entries must be submitted by March 4, 2024. A panel of judges will review the essays and select 20 students to participate in the Oregon Civics Bee finale on May 30, 2024, in Willamette University's Hudson Hall. The live competition will include a quiz-style round and, for three finalists, a chance to make the case for their essay in front of a panel of judges.

Additional information for students, parents and teachers can be found on the Oregon Civics Bee website. There is no charge to participate.

Business Oregon Awards \$1.8M

Continued from Page 6

events for entrepreneurs, plus ongoing alignment with the regional Main Street program. Oregon Frontier Chamber (\$90,000) – The OFC identified business community priorities and is now poised to address them, including reinforcing support for its Rural Ambassador program, tailoring direct assistance and training to meet individual business needs, expanding support for youth entrepreneurship, and solidifying the Rural Regional Main Street program with participating communities and Oregon Main Street.

RAIN Catalysts (\$100,000) – RAIN and project partners will be active in 29 rural communities and four counties (Linn, Lane, Benton, and Grant Counties) across the state, providing programming, events, and youth entrepreneurship bootcamps that harness existing momentum and contribute to sustainable

ecosystems that prioritize entrepreneurs. Umpqua CDC (\$75,000) – Umpqua CDC and project partners will address the lack of available childcare in the region through training, instruction, and support for culturally specific providers as they build sustainable businesses and the ecosystem that supports them.

Warm Springs Community Action Team (\$110,000) – WSCAT will support development of a small business incubator on the Warm Springs Reservation in an effort to inspire authentic and positive relationships among Warm Springs entrepreneurs, visitors, and clientele, and to build a robust pipeline of entrepreneurs for the Commissary.

For more information on Business Oregon's ROI program, please visit www.oregon.gov/biz

Port of Umpqua 2 Positions Open for Board of Commissioners

The Port of Umpqua is seeking applicants to fill 2 vacancies for Position(s) #1 and #2 on the Board of Commissioners. These are volunteer positions; the appointees will not receive compensation. Both of these appointee's terms will expire June 30, 2025.


To be eligible for appointment, an applicant: Must live within the Port District (includes Gardiner, Reedsport, Winchester Bay, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton, parts of the Smith River area and other rural areas within Western Douglas County – SEE MAP BELOW OF THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY); and Must be a registered voter in the Port District

Applications must be received in the office by February 14, 2024 and are available at the Port office: 1877 Winchester Ave, Reedsport or you can download a copy if you click [HERE](#)

For additional information, contact Port Manager Scott Kent 241-271-2232


Completed applications can be hand delivered to our office 1877 Winchester Ave, Reedsport OR 97467, mailed to The Port of Umpqua, P.O. Box 388, Reedsport, OR 97467 or you can also email them to: portofumpqua@portofumpqua.net





WIC is a supplemental nutrition education program for children under 5, Pregnant and Post-Partum Women. If you are a parent, grandparent, foster parent, or legal guardian of a child under 5 years old or pregnant, you can apply. WIC gives you the information, tools and support, helping you and your children along the path of lifelong health. WIC provides Breastfeeding education, support and food packages design for nutritional needs.

Could you or your family benefit from a Supplemental food and Nutrition Education Program? WIC appointments are available in Roseburg, Reedsport, Drain, Sutherlin, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, Glendale and Glide. Scan and fill out the interest form Or Call/Text 541-440-3516



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Hot		Cold	
Latte	4.00 4.50 5.50	Milkshakes	7.00
Mocha	4.50 5.00 6.00	Malts	7.50
Cappuccino	4.00 4.50 5.50	Smoothies	5.50 7.00
Americano	3.00 4.50 5.50	Italian Soda	4.25 5.25
Drip Coffee	2.00 2.50 3.00	Root Beer Float	4.50
Hot Choco	3.00 3.75 4.75	Frappuccino	5.00 6.00
Hot Tea	2.00 2.50 3.00	Blended Chai	5.50 6.00
Hot Chai	4.50 5.00 6.00	Iced Red Bull	5.50 6.50
Breakfast Burrito	8.00	Soft Drink	1.50 2.25
Breakfast Sandwich	6.50	Ice Tea	1.50 2.25
Biscuits & Gravy	5.00 7.50	Orange Juice	3.00
		Bottled Water	1.50



COUNTRY CABIN

Laundrymat

Desserts

Soft Ice Cream	3.00 4.00
Soft Yogurt	3.00 4.00
Ice Cream Cone	3.00 4.00
Waffle Cone	5.00 6.00
Cookie - Big	3.00
Cookie - Small	.75
Rice Crispy Treat	3.00
Mini Banana Bread	4.00
Mini Pumpkin Bread	4.00
Raised Donut	1.50
Cake Donut	1.00
Danish	2.00
Brownies	3.00
Pies, 5 inch	7.95

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Above In North Douglas county out on Smithville Rd. Freezing water has played havoc on this county road. Asphalt is cracked open. *Photos by Russ and Charlotte*

Below Ice and cold takes a destructive swath across Eugene and Springfield, downing trees and power lines. *Photos by Lauryn Rieken in Springfield*



(541) 808-1900

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10am-4pm

Mid Coast Mall

Creative Mercantile
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Unique finds for you and your home. A wonderful place to buy that one of a kind item

Jenee Anderson

Across Cottage Grove there was major devastation to trees, homes, businesses, even vehicles did not escape the severe effects of January's ice storm. Power was out for well over a week in some areas.

Photos by Mckendrianna Purdy with Purdy K Photo



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February 13, 2024
North Douglas Elementary
6:00 PM

SCAN ME
RSVP



Shadows Along the Creek

(Paperback) by Rusty L. Savage
2.6 out of 5 stars on Amazon
\$14.84

Judson Ringo has not been dealt an easy hand in life. After losing his father, and nine months later his mother, he is left on his own at seventeen in rural 1890s Kentucky. He goes to Tennessee to live with his uncle, but instead of being treated like family, he is a slave. Judson faces each challenge as it comes, thinking only to survive. After four years in bondage, John Harrington dies and Judson is set free. He returns to his father's farm on a cold winter night, finds it in ruins, is suspected of murder, and begins life all over, finding strength in the midst of struggle and love in remnants of buried dreams. Martha Jane gets her buggy stuck in the mud on a cold winter night. She tries everything, but cannot get the buggy back on the road. She is all but ready to leave the buggy, when a horse and rider approaches. The hopes and dreams Martha Jane believed long dead come to life once more.
NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
<https://a.co/d/9NIFOYc>



The Highest Hill

(Paperback) by Rusty L. Savage
\$13.66

This is the story of two young brothers, Bobby and Jackie Ringo, who struggle to overcome the hardships of an unpropitious home environment in rural western Kentucky in the 1940s and 1950s. Their lives and futures are fraught with pitfalls and roadblocks, both debilitating and deadly. The reader will feel the dreams, aspirations and wonder of the youngest whilst living and growing up in very different time than our own. The boys, left on their own much of the time cope with a drinking and abusive father, barely escape being sent to reform school, struggle to stay in school, graduate and overcome their circumstance and to reach higher and higher to achieve a better life as kids and for their futures. Follow Bobby and Jackie through the early 1950s, starting at ages nine and twelve, through their high school years to a dramatic climax of personal and physical struggle with the "Ringo Streak" and its repercussions. If they survive, it'll be to eventually realize the true lessons of the Highest Hill which continues to reveal its real measure and meaning.
NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
<https://a.co/d/jivKij6>



A Place to Die

(Paperback) by Rusty L. Savage
4.1 out of 5 stars on Amazon
\$15.66

Johnny Ringo's brother was dead. "I'll get 'em Frank, I swear to you I'll get them". What a place to die, there on the frozen banks of the Rough Creek. The Law wasn't doing anything about it and Johnny had decided he would. It was 1938 and the county was full of Bootleggers. One of them "Shiners" did it. Johnny was gonna find out who and he knew how to do it. Trouble is there are a lot of prime suspects and a good deal of danger from any one of them. Johnny has a plan, if he can keep out of sight of the Sheriff long enough and keep from getting killed himself. He knows the woods and hills and he will find out what he needs to know.
NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
<https://a.co/d/2cOZfG2>

Rural Report

ODFW Chinook Harvest Ban due to low population numbers

Story by Scooter Brown

Roseburg OR – State fish and wildlife officials said that harvesting adult and jack wild spring Chinook salmon on the North and the mainstem Umpqua rivers will be prohibited starting in February 2024.

Citing historically low population numbers in 2023 for adult wild spring Chinook on the South Umpqua and numbers reportedly well below average in the North Umpqua River, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said low forecasts expected for 2024 have triggered the harvest prohibition on wild Chinook salmon.

“The best way to address these issues and reverse the fortunes of salmon and steelhead in the Umpqua is through targeted habitat and flow restoration to cool our rivers,” said Greg Huchko, District Fish Biologist.

Factors contributing to the low numbers include access to habitat, degraded habitat,

and predation from such non-native species as smallmouth bass, state fish and wildlife officials said. Multiple agencies are partnering with ODFW to address the fish passage issue for spring Chinook in the upper South Umpqua River, ODFW officials said.

State officials have said that the restrictions, which will go into effect starting on February 1, 2024, and continue through June 30, 2024, follow the conservation sliding scale in ODFW’s Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, which was adopted in 2014 by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and developed by multiple stakeholders within the Umpqua Basin.

According to ODFW officials, the ‘sliding scale’ makes adjustments to wild fish harvest opportunities based on the North and South Umpqua River population numbers.

ODFW Collecting Steelhead Snouts Locations around Umpqua Basin

Story by Scooter Brown

Roseburg OR – Winter steelhead anglers are asked to return snouts from hatchery steelhead harvested in the Umpqua River basin. ODFW will scan the snouts for coded wire tags in the first of a multi-year research project to improve winter steelhead fishing in the South Umpqua River.

Anglers can deposit snouts in collection barrels at various boat ramps around Douglas County. Bags and tags with date and location of harvest are in the barrels. The barrels are set up around popular fishing spots on the North Umpqua, South Umpqua and mainstem Umpqua Rivers. These locations include Scott Creek, Sawyer’s Place, Elkton, Osprey and James Woods boat launches and the ODFW office in Roseburg. The barrels also have little paper tags and pencils. The tags and pencils are for anglers to mark down when they caught it, an approximate size of the fish, their name and their contact information. Entries are submitted into a monthly drawing for a gift card to Sportsman’s Warehouse.

Fish were coded wire tagged in February 2018 and released in March and April from the Rock Creek and Cole Rivers hatcheries in Canyonville. Any of those fish returning this steelhead angling season are considered “one salt fish” after spending one year in the ocean. This citizen science project collects information on the winter steelhead fishery including number of fish harvested, whether they are wild or hatchery, and fishing effort. This information will be used in conjunction with the coded wire tag data to better manage the hatchery fishery.

ODFW STEP biologist Evan Leonetti said the agency will use the data collected from anglers and coded wire tags to adjust hatchery release timing to improve future hatchery winter steelhead fishing, particularly in the South Umpqua River.

“Getting the data from the coded wire tags will help us determine which releases have better returns for anglers. These fish were all in the four to five-inch range when released in Canyonville,” Leonetti said. They take the juvenile steelhead from the hatchery, implant the tag into their snout, then release the fish from their acclimation site in Canyonville. Those fish migrate out to the ocean, grow up and return in one to three years.

Leonetti is also asking for volunteers to interview winter steelhead anglers on the North and South Umpqua rivers. Volunteers can work a very flexible schedule and will be stationed at boat ramps throughout the two basins. Leonetti is looking for people with flexible schedules, that enjoy talking with anglers. He is also asking volunteers to assist with the collection of snouts. Volunteers must provide their own transportation and may be working alone or with a partner. The project runs the length of the winter steelhead season, ending about mid-April.

Anyone over the age of 18 who is interested in volunteering should call Leonetti at 541-464-2175 or email evan.leonetti@state.or.us or anyone interested in volunteering to handle fish, in Canyonville, contact Levi Simmons at 541-464-2157.

Veterans Corner

Deported Veteran returns after 17 years

Hector Lopez has been on the front lines in the battle to get all Deported Veterans returned for many years.

He helped run an office in downtown Tijuana to locate and help the vets who were struggling to stay alive. He was finally able to secure a humanitarian pass to help his ailing mother in Madera. Not exactly a full return of his US citizenship, yet but it was a crack in the wall of bs and he is now home.

Victor Hinojosa, who lives in Rosarito Mexico, a founder of supporter of returning the Veterans, drove Hector and his wife home. He is still going through all the paper work to be sure he can get Hector all the help he needs at the local VA.

All the returning Veterans face the same PTSD problems as somebody who was a POW.

Bring Deported Veterans Home!

Oregon Gray Wolves moving West and South

There are now about 200 gray wolves in Oregon

Story by Scooter Brown



The breeding male of the Chesnimnus Pack is caught on camera during the winter survey on U.S. Forest Service land in northern Wallowa County in December 2018. (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)

State biologists say Oregon’s gray wolf population may have reached its ecological limit in the eastern third of the state and that packs will probably spread out to the west and south in greater numbers. Those comments, made at a meeting of the state Fish and Wildlife Commission, came as Colorado released five wolves trapped from Oregon as part of a historic reintroduction program.

Roblyn Brown, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s wolf coordinator, told ranchers and conservationists in December 2023, that about 200 gray wolves in nearly 25 packs call Oregon home. She said their numbers have leveled off in recent years because most wolves live in northeast Oregon, an area that’s becoming crowded for the species. Wolves first recolonized their native habitat there in 2009 after hunting and harassment eradicated them from Oregon for 50 years.

The wildlife agency counted 178 wolves in the state in 2022, up from 175 in 2021 and 173 in 2020, though officials say that’s an undercount. Their numbers have plateaued in recent years after spiking for a decade. Wolves packs have taken root in central and southwestern Oregon, including a pack in Jackson County that has become notorious for preying on cattle.

“We’re going to start seeing a lot more wolves over the next few years in other areas of Oregon,” Brown said.

But conservationists are concerned that the agency is killing more wolves as packs prey more and more on livestock. Illegal kills also continue to plague wolf packs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a \$26,500 reward for information leading to convictions for two separate wolf slayings in November, including one in Jackson County. Wolf hunting is illegal in Oregon, and the Jackson County wolf was protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, like all others in central and western Oregon.

In a recent Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, Brown reported that a sustained wolf population is “a big accomplishment.” She went on to say that almost 90% of adult wolves survived year-to-year in Oregon, a much higher rate than Western states, including Idaho and Montana, where authorized mass wolf hunts are common. Both states have much higher numbers of wolves than Oregon.

Derek Broman, the agency’s game program manager, said that some environmental challenges expected to plague Oregon wolves haven’t been issues after all. Conservationists had been concerned about a lack of genetic diversity among different wolf packs, which could make wolves more susceptible to canine diseases and disruptions in their environment.

“Some of those conservation threats are not what they were five years ago,” Broman said.

John Williams of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association said that trust is growing between ranchers and wildlife managers thanks to a

more efficient process of investigating kills of livestock. This is a source of concern for a small group of ranchers who have lost cattle, sheep and goats. The agency is also streamlining its process for approving the killing of predatory wolves, he said.

“We’re encouraged by the direction,” he told the commission.

The Oregon Legislature this year also released \$1 million more to compensate ranchers for livestock losses, more than in any year since lawmakers created the state program in 2011, according to Capital Press.

After hearing from wildlife officials, ranchers, hunters and conservationists, the commission decided not to reform the state’s wolf management plan, a hard-fought set of rules and regulations that took four years to hammer out due to disagreements about state-approved wolf kills and attacks on livestock, of which are both on the rise. Investigators confirmed that wolves killed 76 privately-owned livestock last year, compared to 16 in 2019.

ODFW has authorized the killing of 16 wolves so far this year, according to the Western Environmental Law Center, a conservation advocacy group. That’s up from an average of less than four wolves each year from 2019 to 2022. The agency killed six gray wolves in six weeks this summer, to the anger of conservationists. Sristi Kamal, deputy director of the Western Environmental Law Center, said the wildlife agency is over-relying on legal wolf killings to protect livestock.

“They are now choosing very heavily to engage in lethal,” she said.

Holly Tuers-Lance, a state wolf biologist, said that preying on livestock is a learned skill for some wolves and that two-thirds of wolf packs in Oregon aren’t known to do so.

According to the agency’s data, just eight livestock producers experienced half of all known livestock predations. She said that data helps wolf managers be deliberate about where to reduce conflict between wolves and communities.

ODFW claims they only authorize the killing of a wolf when a rancher documents no less than two incidents of livestock predation within nine months, and only after other methods have failed to deter wolves, such as building fencing, enlisting livestock dogs or guarding cattle.

Additionally, wolves are off-limits for lethal removal in most of the state because packs outside eastern Oregon are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.

Tuers-Lance said the federal law prevents the agency from additional efforts to protect livestock from the Rogue wolf pack in southern Oregon, which has preyed on livestock more than 60 times from 2016 to 2022. She said experiments with non-lethal deterrents and new technology haven’t worked, and ranchers are spending “unsustainable amounts of time trying to prevent conflict.”

Business Matters

New Jobs Forecast for Oregon

Replacement and Transfer Jobs outnumber New Jobs 11 to 1

Story by Milo Banks

Salem OR - The Oregon Employment Department projects total job growth in Oregon of 10% between 2022 and 2032, which translates to about 221,600 new jobs. That's a lot of jobs added, but in terms of 10-year growth since the year 2000 it's moderate growth.

New jobs are only one element of Oregon's workforce needs. Across the board workers are lost to retirements or career changes, and those workers will need to be replaced. Replacement job openings make up 92% of all opportunities during the next decade. Replacements outnumber new openings 11/1 and total nearly 2.5 million openings statewide.

Even industries that aren't projected to grow at all will have many job opportunities available as the current workforce retires or changes careers. A wide range of industries will grow more slowly than average, from natural resources and manufacturing to retail trade and government. Although utilities and mining are small and slow growth fields, there will still be thousands of job opportunities in the next decade from replacement. Even finance and insurance, which is projected to decline in total employment, will have nearly 50,000 projected replacement openings over the next 10 years.

The workforce is aging in the U.S. and Oregon, and while workers are staying in the workforce later in life than in previous generations, older workers are still very likely to exit the workforce. Several slow-growth

industries have an older than average workforce, especially natural resources and mining, real estate, and utilities, where approximately 30% of workers are 55 and older.

Another aspect of this is "transfers", those workers who leave one field for another. Projections indicate a higher turnover and younger industries, such as retail, have many more transfer openings over the 10-year period.

An example is, Power Plant Operators, who are a high-wage occupation that is vital to the slow-growth utility industry. The median wage in Oregon is an enticing \$50 an hour, but the field is relatively small and expected to decline 7% from 2022 to 2032, meaning there will be roughly two fewer people doing this job each year across the state. Those declining number of jobs might discourage people from considering this lucrative and important career, but the industry will still need to find new workers. There are about 17 projected openings in this field annually due to replacement needs. There are dozens of examples of occupations that are slow-growing or declining that will still need trained workers to enter the field each year.

New jobs, overall, are projected to be somewhat soft over the 10 years, 2022 - 2032, but it doesn't portend decline per say. Replacement jobs in an older workforce and job "transfers" will likely translate into continued stable employment rates even in slower economic growth times.

Business Oregon Seeks Applications for Grant Program

Story by Milo Banks

Supporting Regional Innovation Hubs Business Oregon and the Oregon Innovation Council are pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$2.5 million in grant funding to support the implementation of Regional Innovation Hubs. These grant funds are expected to support collaboration and community partnerships, create and expand existing innovation-based entrepreneurial services, and assist regions across Oregon to coalesce around a larger vision for their innovation ecosystem. The Request for Grant Applications is currently open and will close on February 20, 2024.

A key recommendation in Oregon's 10-Year Innovation Plan, Regional Innovation Hubs are partnerships that deliver programs and services to support the creation and development of high-growth, scalable, innovation-

based businesses. To receive grant funding, Hubs will provide technical assistance, access to capital, networking, talent development, and mentorship to Oregon companies primarily in the technology and science sectors.

Key program outcomes will include innovation-based companies growing, attracting investment capital, and creating jobs. In addition to directly supporting entrepreneurs, the goal of the program is to fill gaps in the existing innovation and entrepreneurial resources across Oregon, encourage increased partnerships and coordination among partners, and foster regional collaboration.

Applications are due no later than 8:00 a.m. PST Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

More information about this program and the full application can be found at www.oregon.gov/biz.

Drain Chamber of Commerce

Continued from Page 8

industry museum or a pioneer plaza or history walk in town. There is of course the covered bridge and the old wagon display to incorporate into any of these projected features. Breathing new life into the towns features and appearance would go a long way to improvements.

Betterment ideas include, painting or revamping downtown buildings and put a new face on the blight and decline. Adding park and park like facilities to give more local activities a place to bring folks a comfortable recreational setting. One of the ideas is to look towards a Park overseer, a resident to help keep Ana Drain park secure and safe. Bonnie has done some inquiry on the feasibility and has information from Yoncalla city who has such an attendant

there. Still in the exploratory stage, if the details are worked out properly, it could help curb vandalism and other inappropriate problems that affect the park.

Any efforts at improvement or beautification requires citizens and residents to step up and work together. Bonnie reminds us that the city of Drain has rich history of citizen involvement in it's past and the whittling away of our lifestyle can only be reversed with volunteerism. Step up and find a voice and reach out with your activism and organize. Join the Chamber of Commerce, find a Committee, form a coalition with your neighbors and work together.

Zolezzi Insurance - Two Generations

Continued from Page 4



"A lot of things in this industry have changed and the one thing that I try to keep consistent is the level of service. If we weren't doing the service piece of it I suspect we wouldn't be nearly as successful as we are."

"The other side of that success is the people I work with. I have a wonderful staff, I always have. I've been fortunate to find such good people and there are a lot of talented people in these small rural communities, like the ones which we live, that get overlooked. We somehow find a way of sifting the sands and getting the gold nuggets on the other side of it. So, yea, we provide a good service and I have a wonderful staff, without those 2 most important things, we certainly wouldn't be successful."

I asked about managing challenges in the current market and economic landscape, Craig had this to say.

"So, yeah, covid changed the business world a ton. Folks started working remote. We still do a little bit of a hybrid with some of the employees that may work a day or two at home but the majority have now come back in the office on a full-time basis. We have a wonderful team, some great people but it is the biggest challenge, as we grow and need more talent it's ever increasingly difficult to find it. Jessilyn Whiteman is the agency manager, she deals with 99% of the HR, she is my right arm, she is wonderful. She's a good communicator, can handle many things at once and she continues to drive that side of the business which is wonderful for me because it gets me gives me the ability to get out and about and try to drum up some business. I need talented people, I'm not a big fan of let's do everything remote. Yes we do utilize technology we've done a good job with that but I don't want it to be 1-800 hit a button you get somebody in Denver Colorado that knows absolutely nothing about living in Western Oregon and they're going to be the ones that helps you, that's not a model for us so I would say recruiting talent is a massive challenge."

"Another challenge is markets. Smaller agencies like mine, I need to make sure that I can continue to build and foster good relationships with the markets so that I have good competitive price products to sell to my customers. With the inflation, everything's up. That's a challenge. In the thirty some years I have been doing this, it's the most difficult insurance marketplace I've seen. So what I mean by that is the insurance companies appetite for risk has shrunk. Things that they used to write every day, are no longer acceptable to them or if it is acceptable, then they increase the price 30%. So we're seeing significant rate increases across the board. I don't know when or if that end is in sight. It's a trend that I don't like and it is continuing. And then from just owning a business, the tax structure in which we live makes it very difficult to continue to be profitable and fiscally healthy as an organization I'm not sure that's ever going to change either."

When we talked about goals for his company he said, "So my goal is to provide the best service in the industry. I want my people to care about what they're doing to be passionate about what they're doing and to take care of the people that we do business with. That is number one. Yes we have to make a profit while we're doing that, but that isn't the main focus. That culture has been established when this business was established. My dad instilled that in me. There's a certain way, there's a right way to do things and there's a right way to treat people. I think we've done a good job of fostering that and being committed to that and developing a culture that resembles and reflects that. So that is probably what I'm most proud of, the bottom line is that I've got good staff. They come to the party each and every day, they put themselves out there and they do a wonderful job of service and to continue with that culture we have. And we did just expand into

Florence, that was a goal I had like three years ago and worked very diligently to get there. What I want to do next is to continue the culture and migrate it to the west. We've done that for the last year and we're pointed in the right direction. The talent that I acquired when I purchased the agency, they are drinking the Kool-Aid and they're providing the services this insurance agency is known for. I want to grow, I want to employ more people as the growth comes but the biggest thing is the service to customers and the well-being and the happiness and health of my staff. I want to maintain that and continue forward."

Spending the morning with Craig was a high energy tour of the Drain office and meeting his co-workers and a very concise description of his enterprise and after a few photos I thought we would



Gordon L. Zolezzi
Founder, Zolezzi Insurance Agency

wrap it up and he wanted to end with these words.

"My favorite things are the relationships that I've built with customers. Hands down the relationships that I have built with people across the state make me get up every single day, right? I'm kind of a workaholic I do this everyday. I don't complain about it because I enjoy it and the reason I enjoy it is because of all the relationships I have not only with my staff, they're awesome, but also with all of the folks in the communities in which I serve."

"The other thing about small communities is that I grew up in Drain it's fun to just kind of walk the streets and visit with people that I don't see that often anymore and that I remember as a kid. One of the things I really like to do, this is strange but in the summer when it gets light really early, I'll go to the Drain office and maybe do some work outside and then there's a bench in front of our building and I like to sit there and just kind of look around."

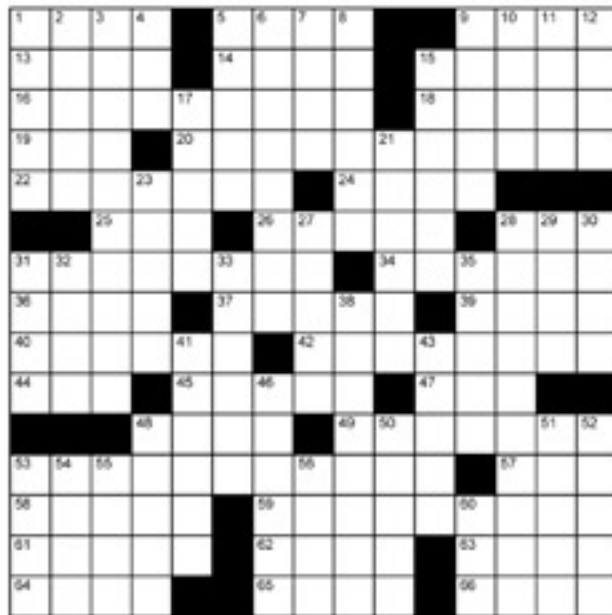
"I remember when Bob Whipple had his accounting shop next door and Bill Lockyear had the pharmacy and the bank was right here and the postmaster George Eglington was down there and it was a real downtown community. I'm not saying it isn't now but you know I have all of those memories and those are created because we live in such a small area that everybody becomes friends oftentimes I'll sit on that bench and I will see someone walking by, and I'll be like, 'Hey Rusty how you doing. Good to see you', 'Hey remember when we were kids and we went and did this or that?' That's what's fun about being in a small town. I played Little League baseball here and really, that is the most fun about growing up in a rural community and working the business that you have established and, you know, you have some pride. I have a lot of pride. I tell people where I'm from and they laugh at me, right? And they kind of they kind of snicker and I tell them, I have no problem. I'm proud I came from there, that's a hard working town, there's a lot of good folks there and that's where I cut my teeth, so I own that."

February Crossword Puzzle

Sponsored by Studio Tattoo

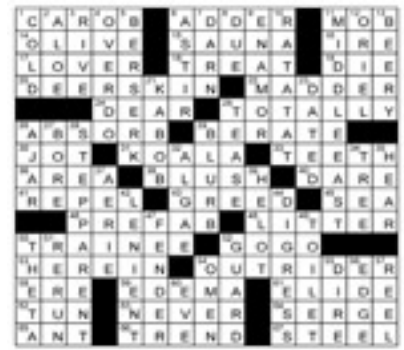
Across

- 1. Half of a Capezio pair
- 5. Husky burden
- 9. Did the butterfly
- 13. Shredded
- 14. Stay out of sight
- 15. River reflection
- 16. Painkiller
- 18. Lions' locks
- 19. Bon ___ (witty remark)
- 20. Printing technique
- 22. Barbecuer's buy
- 24. Shipsape
- 25. Made tracks
- 26. Birth-related
- 28. Popular dog breed, briefly
- 31. Like beauty, they say



- 34. Gobble up
- 36. ___ in a blue moon
- 37. Student's mark
- 39. Chunk of land
- 40. Casino worker
- 42. Grocery store haul
- 44. Hole maker
- 45. Bowler's button
- 47. Monotonous sound
- 48. Start of a Steinbeck title
- 49. Sainly glow
- 53. Take apart
- 57. Scottish cap
- 58. Grammar topic
- 59. Ceremonial smoke
- 61. Do a tailor's job
- 62. Sit for a photo
- 63. In a dead heat
- 64. Salacious glance
- 65. Pitcher
- 66. Neuter a horse
- Down**
- 1. Post Office purchase
- 2. Pay tribute to
- 3. Like a long speech
- 4. Snaky fish
- 5. "Apocalypse Now" actor Martin
- 6. NPR fan
- 7. Touch up, as text
- 8. Properly clothed
- 9. 99's cohort in '70s TV
- 10. Draw to a close
- 11. Many moons
- 12. Predicament
- 15. Stick on a stake
- 17. Adrenal or thyroid
- 21. Library patron
- 23. Group of experts
- 27. Rapidly
- 28. Train puller
- 29. Special glow
- 30. Partner of born
- 31. Fountain fare
- 32. Had no doubt
- 33. Way out
- 35. Hold in high regard
- 38. MySQL, e.g.
- 41. Pencil end
- 43. Afternoon hour
- 46. Treeless tract
- 48. Raring to go
- 50. Sore spot
- 51. Place for a pin
- 52. Make corrections to
- 53. Kind of citizenship
- 54. Wight, for one
- 55. Indulge to excess
- 56. Litter cry
- 60. Cribbage piece

January Crossword Solution



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February 2024 Weather Forecast Sponsored by Travis Williams

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
44° 29°	44° 28°	45° 28°	45° 29°	46° 29°	47° 30°	46° 31°
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
45° 33°	46° 35°	47° 31°	46° 29°	47° 29°	47° 30°	48° 30°
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
48° 29°	47° 30°	48° 33°	48° 39°	52° 40°	53° 39°	54° 40°
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
56° 38°	53° 39°	56° 37°	53° 37°	54° 38°	56° 41°	59° 39°
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
59° 40°	58° 40°	60° 39°	56° 41°	60° 41°	56° 40°	59° 40°

Great Food Live Music



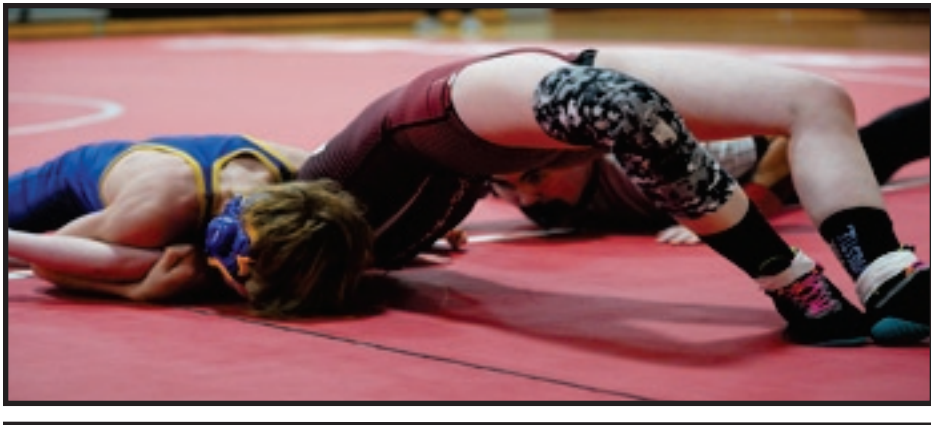
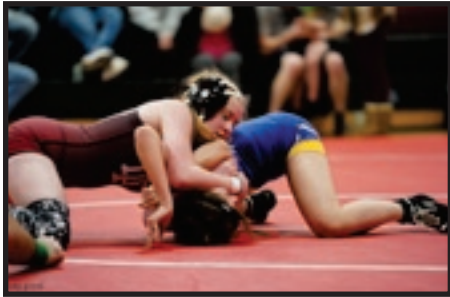
413 Umpqua HWY38, Drain Oregon

School News

Send your School & Sports news to schoolnews@ndherald.com

North Douglas HS and Oakland HS Girl's and Boy's Wrestling on January 31st 2024

Photos courtesy of OSAA photographer Becky Gerrard



Charley Dean North Douglas Elementary 3rd Grade Student of the Month



Charley is always determined to do her best. When she struggles, she just "digs in" and works that much harder to succeed!

-Mrs. VanPelt

Tana Baughman North Douglas Middle School 6th Grade Student of the Month



Tana has done a stellar job this year. She is very dedicated to completing her classwork to the best of her ability and provides valuable contributions to classroom discussions. She is a wonderful person and a delight to have in class.

-Mrs. Shipley

February 13th at 6:00pm in the North Douglas Elementary Middle School gym we are holding our first ever Literacy Night. We are celebrating our love of reading with family games, fun activities, a lasagna dinner, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our brand new book vending machine! Please join us- scan the barcode on the flyer, on page 9, to RSVP.



ABOVE Yoncalla HS vs North Douglas HS Girls Basketball at YHS on January 20th, 2024 Final Score 41(YHS) - 8 (NDHS)

Photos courtesy of OSAA photographer Becky Gerrard

BELOW Elkton HS vs North Douglas HS Boys Basketball at NDHS on January 23rd, 2024 Final Score 78(EHS) - 73(NDHS)

Photos courtesy of OSAA photographer Becky Gerrard



Travel/Entertainment



February 8 L/B & Company 8pm
 February 9 Timberwolf 8pm
 February 16 Timberwolf 8pm
 February 23 Karaoke 8pm
 March 8 Timberwolf 8pm
 March 22 Karaoke 8pm
413 Umpqua HWY (38), Drain

THE SUNNY SKY BOYS at Little Brothers Pub
Little Brothers Pub, 428 SE Main St, Roseburg, OR 97470
SAT, FEB 17, 2024 from 6 – 8 pm

The Sunny Sky Boys will be jammin' on guitar and mandolin from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at Little Brothers Pub! Jerry Ashford & Joe Ross play a lively variety of Hillbilly Jazz, Classic Country, Bluegrass, and Western Swing music. Special guests often sit in with them on bass, fiddle, banjo, pedal steel and/or vocals. All ages welcome! Little Brothers Pub (428 SE Main St, Roseburg, OR 97470) offers micro-brewed beers, local wines, sandwiches, burgers, appetizers, snacks & live music. No cover but tips are sincerely appreciated. Call the pub at 672-0912 if you want to reserve a table. Info: Joe Ross at email rossjoe@hotmail.com <http://www.littlebrotherspub.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Little-Brothers-Pub-117365864949977/>

PADDY O'FURNITURE at Little Brothers Pub
Little Brothers Pub, 428 SE Main St, Roseburg, OR 97470
SAT, March 16, 2024 from 6 – 8 pm

Paddy O'Furniture often stays out all night in the rain or shine! They will play rollicking Celtic Music, featuring percussion, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, vocals and more. All ages welcome!

Paddy O'Furniture will perform at Little Brothers Pub (428 SE Main St, Roseburg, OR 97470) where you can enjoy micro-brewed beers, local wines, sandwiches, burgers, appetizers, snacks & live music. No cover but tips are sincerely appreciated. Call the pub at 672-0912 if you want to reserve a table. Info: Joe Ross at email rossjoe@hotmail.com <http://www.littlebrotherspub.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Little-Brothers-Pub-117365864949977/>

Sunny Sky Boys at the Umpqua Valley Farmer's Market
Always on Second Saturdays from 10:30 am-12:30 pm (unless otherwise indicated)
1771 West Harvard, Roseburg, Or 97471
<http://www.uvfarmersmarket.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyFarmersMarket>
 (541) 530-6200
uvfmmanager@gmail.com

The Sunny Sky Boys will be jammin' on guitar and mandolin from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Umpqua Valley Farmer's Market! Award-winning guitarist Jerry Ashford & mandolinist Joe Ross play a lively variety of Hillbilly Jazz, Classic Country, Bluegrass Hoedown, and Western Swing music. Special guests often sit in with them on bass, fiddle, banjo and/or vocals. Open every Saturday, year-round, 9 am -1 pm. Produce, plants, artisan crafts, soaps, jams, hummus, kombucha, handmade pottery, local honey, jewelry, food, baked goods, woodworking, candles, soaps, spices, flowers, all produced in & around Douglas County. Local producers come together every Saturday at this family event that promotes thinking locally and supporting your neighbors. Umpqua Valley Farmers Market was voted 2021's Outstanding Large Market by the Oregon Farmers Market Association. That's impressive, considering that Oregon has 113 Farmers' Markets in 136 locations, 5900 vendors, and 3.4 million visits!

FEB 18 and MARCH 17
Third Sunday Bluegrass Jam - - OPEN to all acoustic musicians & listeners
Sutherlin Senior Center, (202 East Central Ave., Sutherlin, OR 1 – 4 PM

Third Sunday Jam from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Sutherlin Senior Center (202 East Central Ave., Sutherlin. Come to

the **THIRD SUNDAY Bluegrass Jam** - 1 PM till 4 PM. You'll know you are there when you hear the music! Open to listeners and pickers alike. All levels encouraged. Refreshments - Donations kindly accepted. Sponsored by the Oregon Bluegrass Association - Roseburg Chapter (a 501c3 non-profit organization). DIRECTIONS TO SUTHERLIN SENIOR CENTER (202 E. Central Ave., Sutherlin, OR. 97479). Take Exit 136 off I-5. Go east for 1.4 miles. Turn right on Umpqua St. (at City Hall) and immediately left into the parking lot. Enter the Senior Center from the parking lot - up the concrete wheelchair ramp.

More information, please call LIZ at 541-679-0553 or lizcrain42@gmail.com. <http://www.oregonbluegrass.org/>

FEBRUARY 24 & MARCH 23
Fourth Saturday Oregon Old-Time Fiddle Jam - OPEN to all acoustic musicians & listeners
Noon – 3 pm
Sutherlin Senior Center, 202 East Central Avenue, Sutherlin, OR.

Please come to the Oregon Old-Time Fiddlers District Finger Foods Potluck and Jam on the Fourth Saturday, Year-Round. The Jam will run from Noon til 3 pm at Sutherlin Senior Center, 202 East Central Avenue, Sutherlin, OR. Open to fiddlers, listeners, pickers & dancers alike. Coffee...cookies...Do nations kindly accepted. Sponsored by District 10 of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Assn. Ample paved parking in the back. Handicapped parking accessible.

INFO: 541-430-2080 or jude999s@gmail.com

Douglas County Fair 2024 Headliners

Roseburg, OR. — The Douglas County Fair has announced its concert lineup.

Here are the headline entertainment acts for the 2024 fair presented by Clint Newell
 August 8: country band Parmalee
 August 9: country artist Colt Ford
 August 10: alternative rock band Smash Mouth

All concerts will be in the Cascade Community Credit Union Amphitheater and are free with Fair Admission. Reserved concert tickets will go on sale Friday, March 1 online at 8 a.m. at www.douglasfairgrounds.com or in the Fair Office during regular business hours.

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.

FACT

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3 Locations to Serve You

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 Roseburg, OR 97471
 Mon - Sat: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
 Sun: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(541) 229-4904
 377 NW Garden Valley Blvd
 Roseburg, OR 97470
 Mon - Sat: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

(541) 802-7722
 489 East Central
 Sutherlin, OR 97479
 Mon - Sat: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Real Estate: For Rent:

General For Sale:

Brand new household overstocks 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:

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

Advertising Sales

Are you a Motivated Self Starter? Commission Display Ad Sales Protected Sales Areas 541 221-3283 sales@ndherald.com

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Caregiver looking for work

I can cook, clean and help shop Longer hours pref or live in I have 30 years of exp and CPR cert Clear background check and honest Call Cindy @ (408) 469-9953

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North Douglas Herald is in need of a reliable vehicle for our newspaper delivery route of over 350 miles Rusty at (541) 221-3283

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Notices:

Family Relief Nursery Enrolling 0-5 years old!

Interested in Free Childcare in your Community? Contact Hanna at 541 600-5312 for more information TECP Classrooms, Respite and MORE!

Wanted; New Members

from Elkton, Drain, Yoncalla Elkton Lions serve these areas Why not join us and help! call 541 584-2271

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