



Drain Welcomes New City Administrator

Ken Strobeck Steps in to Fill The Vacancy

Story and Photo by Rusty Savage

It was an unexpected announcement, the City Administrator - Jeni Stevens, is resigning and a new CA pro tem is being hired. That was on the 9th of January and sure enough at the regular City Council meeting on the 13th, Ken Strobeck was sworn in as the interim City Administrator for the city of Drain.

Jeni Stevens announced that she was leaving her position on January 17th. No reason was given for her sudden departure after nearly 4 years in that position and having been fully engaged in her civic duties across the spectrum of Drain's municipal works.

Ken Strobeck introduced himself at that Council meeting and agreed to an informal interview a few days later. Prior to meeting Ken there at City Hall, I decided to find out a little more about Mr. Strobeck.

To say the least, boy was I surprised to find Ken's civic background was pretty impressive. First, he graduated from the U of O in the late 70's, majoring in Journalism and Public Affairs. Initially, he began his career in Television as a news reporter, having worked in Radio earlier. He produced a commercial video on the Mt St Helen's eruption. In the 80's he worked at KATU-TV, KGW-TV, KEZI-TV and KOLD-TV in Tucson.

Ken switched gears in 1988 and went to work as Communications Director at Emanuel Hospital in Portland. In 1992 he became a company spokesman for Blue Cross of Oregon, until 2000. But in 1995 Ken Strobeck was elected to the Oregon State Legislature.

From 1995 to 2001 he served as Speaker Pro Tem, Chairman and on the House Revenue Committee. These years, Ken told me, were the building blocks for his civics background.

After that he had a few positions as spokesman, lobbyist at some Law firms and the Red Cross. It was in 2002 He found his calling as the Director of the Oregon League of Cities and it was in that position that he made his mark and showed his passion and support and advocacy for municipal governments and city friendly legislation.

In 2006 Ken managed to relocate to Arizona a place he had grown to love from his early years in TV in Tuscon. Along with the move was a coveted position at the Arizona League of Cities (every state has a similar organization) and, again, as the Director.

You can easily research his many accomplishments in the position from 2006 until 2019 and they are many. One of the things I noted was his seeming ability to work in many cities with very diverse constituents and still manage to get folks to work together for maximum results. After many accolades for his performance, work as consultant and an Honorary Membership in the International City/County Management Association in 2021, Ken returned to Oregon and listed himself as available for consultation with the Oregon League of Cities.

It was here, in Mid December, that Jeni Stevens first contacted Ken and asked for his

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Roseburg Mayor launches Council Investigation

Story by Milo Banks



Larry Rich, Mayor of Roseburg

Photo Courtesy, City of Roseburg



Ward 1 Councilor Kylee Rummel

Photo Courtesy, City of Roseburg

Roseburg, OR – Larry Rich, Mayor of Roseburg, is calling for an investigation into Council conduct after a City Councilor resigned. Ward 1 Councilor Kylee Rummel submitted a letter of resignation on Friday, Jan. 24.

Mayor Rich announced his call for an investigation at the Monday, Jan. 27, Council meeting after sharing a statement that Councilor Rummel had posted to her Facebook page over the weekend. Councilor Rummel, who chairs the City's Economic Development Commission, did not attend the Monday night meeting.

"Statements have been made that could lead to possible state law violations of Council conduct and rules, so I have called for an independent investigation," Mayor Rich said during the livestreamed Council meeting. "We lost a good City Councilor who served with integrity and honesty. The statements she made are very concerning."

Mayor Rich spoke with Councilor Rummel before the Council meeting and obtained her permission to read into the public record the statement she had posted to Facebook.

"I have debated sharing this information because there are voices that will speak loudly the days to follow so I want to be the one writing my own narrative. After two and a half years of service I have decided to resign from the city council. I first threw my hat in the ring when the vacancy opened seeing it as part of doing my civic duty in an opportunity to give back to the community I love and have called home my entire life. This position has never been about status, power, or the ability to influence others or push a hidden agenda. During my time of service, I have carefully weighed every decision acting what I believe

is in the best interest of the community and I've stood for ethics, truth, and love. I do not believe in airing dirty laundry or pointing fingers so I will not be doing that now. I will say though that lines were crossed by certain members of council trying to use me to push their own agendas and even going as far to try and intimidate and influence my vote by threatening my job. I've never been one to quit but this is a volunteer position and the personal sacrifices have been to great. I will not continue to work against those who oppose progress when my time is better spent elsewhere. I have the utmost respect for those on council who serve with love for the community and for the very passionate and talented city employees who continue to strive to make this community a better place to live."

Councilor Rummel, who also chairs the city's Economic Development Commission, was sworn in as a Councilor on Monday, May 9, 2022, after she was appointed to replace Alison Eggers. Councilor Rummel also works as the fiscal controller at United Community Action Network (UCAN).

The Mayor said he's intent on determining what led to Councilor Rummel's resignation. Near the end of the Council meeting, Mayor Rich said the investigation will answer at least these questions, but will not be limited to only these questions:

1. Was City business conducted privately in direct violation of the open public meetings laws?
2. Were Councilors intimidated or pressured into voting certain ways?
3. Were daytime jobs threatened as a way of keeping Councilors in line?

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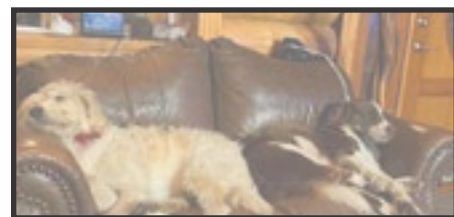
Beloved Dogs Lost to Poison

Story by Rusty Savage

Like many of us, Russ and Charlotte Kaleese love their dogs. Living north of Drain out on Smith River near Hardscrabble, they have room for their 3 dogs to run and play and they have a happy life. Well they had a happy life.

The other day they woke up to Blondie being very sick and she shortly died. Leon was also sick, Russ scooped him up and rushed off to the Vet. While trying to revive Leon, they were able to determine it was an ingested toxin or poison. It was a valiant effort but unfortunately Leon did not make it.

For many who visited the Beaver Creek Unique store in Drain, they are familiar with Leon, who was



a calming presence lounging around the store. Leon made many friends and impressed more than a few others with his wizened presence. As Russ & Charlotte

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“Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.”
- Thomas Jefferson

“The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read,”
- Mark Twain

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Locations for Pick up Points

- 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.
Beaver Creek Unique, 416 W “B” Ave.
Zolezzi Insurance Agency, 208 W C Ave
CG Market, 333 W B Ave
US Bank, 229 N 1st St
Hacienda Viera, 237 West B Ave
Brothers Cafe, 439 W B Ave
Studio Tattoo, 329 N 1st St
- Yoncalla**
Eagle Valley Supply, 2570 Eagle Valley Rd
Food Center & Deli, 2580 Eagle Valley Rd
Why Not Bar and Grill, 164 Main St
Yoncalla Public Library, 194 Birch St
- Elkton**
Arlene’s Cafe & General Store 14858 State HWY 38
Elkton Station 14940 State HWY 38
Tomaselli’s Pastry Mill & Cafe, 14836 OR Hwy 38
Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 HWY 38 W
- Rice Hill**
Buy 2 Arco, 614 John Long Rd
- Scottsburg**
Riverbanks Speedy Mart 32841 State HWY 38
LULD Library Box at Fire Station, 33237 OR 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.
High Water Cafe, 427 Fir Ave.
Lower Umpqua Library, 395 Winchester Ave.
7-11 Store, 2011 Winchester Ave. US-101
Oregon Coast Restaurant, 2165 Winchester Ave
Harbor Light Restaurant, 960 Highway Ave
- Cottage Grove**
Old Mill Farm Store, 327 South River Rd.
Kwik Pik Market #2, 925 E Gibbs Ave.
Daves Comer Market, 633 N 9th St
Safeway, 1500 E Main St
The Book Mine, 702 E Main St.
Dari Mart, 1200 E Main St.
Cottage Market, 603 OR HWY-99
Medication Station, 1041 N Pacific HWY-99
American Market, 911 E Main St
- Eugene**
Dairy-Mart,1495 River Rd #2
Dairy-Mart, 2735 River Rd
Dairy-Mart, 3620 River Rd
Dairy-Mart, 2920 W 11th Ave
Dairy-Mart, 4099 W 11th Ave
7-11 Store, 3762 W 11th Ave
7-11 Store, 1107 S Bertelsen Rd
7-11 Store, 895 River Rd
7-11 Store, 3821 River Rd
7-11 Store, 190 Hwy 99
7-11 Store, 701 Polk St
7-11 Store, 590 E Broadway
7-11 Store, 445 Coburg Rd,
Market of Choice, 1960 Franklin Blvd
Classic Smoke Shop, 733 State Hwy 99 N
The Embers Lounge, 1811 Hwy 99 N
- Springfield**
Dari-Mart, 1950 Mohawk Blvd #38
Dari-Mart, 1875 Main St
Dari-Mart, 1554 M St
7-11, 1396 Main St
Heartless & Hopeless Tattoo, 329 Main St
- 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
Tyee Landing, 11424 Oregon HWY 138
Oakland Tavern, 104 Locust 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 Smoke s, 1230 W Central Ave.
Shop Smart Grocery, 811 E Central
Center Market #32, 206 E Central Ave.
S-Mart, 333 E Central Ave.
Central Food Mart, 1021 E Central Ave.
Chevron/S-Mart, 1484 W Central Ave.
DC Precision Lube & Tune, 489 E Central Ave.
- Roseburg**
Albertsons Grocery, 3013 NW Stewart Pkwy
News & Smokes, 457 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Ridgeway Market, 1800 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Safeway, 1539 NE Stephens St
Roseburg Tobacco & Food Mart, 2050 NE Stephens St
1 Am Market, 1931 NE Stephens St
Lil’ Pantry, 2611 NW Edenbower Blvd
Buy 2 Arco, 2530 NE Stephens St
Mini Pet Mart, 333 NE Garden Valley Blvd
Mini Pet Mart, 2820 NE Stephens St
- Albany**
7-11, 333 34Th Ave SE
AM PM, 33200 OR-34

Government
Know your local Representatives!
Drain

Mayor: **Erin Sparhawk**
Council Position #1: **Melanie Lymath**
Council Position #2: **Kevin VanPelt**
Council Position #3: **Katie Decker**
Council Position #5: **Aaron Lymath**
City Administrator: **Jeni Stevens**
City Council Meeting: 2/10/25 - 6pm

Yoncalla
Mayor: **Kathleen Wertz**
Councilors: **Amy Grabinski**
Open Seat
Harold Gilpin
Bryce Wertz
City Administrator: **Jennifer Bragg**
Council Meeting: 2/11/25 - 6pm

Elkton
Mayor: **Daniel Burke**
Council President: **Joan Smith**
Council Members:
Kim Moore
Dan Shepherd
Sandra Galli
Public Works Supervisor: **Gary Trout**
Council Meeting: 2/13/25 - 8:30am

Oakland
Mayor: **Bette Keehley**
Counselor: **Jan Wier**
Counselor: **Kent Rochester**
Counselor: **Sky Ironplow**
Counselor: **Betty Tamm**
Council Meeting: 2/10/25 - 7pm

Sutherlin
Mayor : **Michelle Sumner**
Council President **Debbie Hamilton**
Councilor **Lisa Woods**
Councilor **Larry Whitaker**
Councilor **Adam Sarnoski**
Councilor **Shawn Smalley**
Councilor **Gary Dagel**
City Manager **Jerry Gillham**
Council Meeting: 2/10/25 - 7:15pm

Reedsport
Mayor : **Linda McCollum**
Council Position #1: **Rob Wright**
Council Position #2: **Clifton Jackson Jr**
Council Position #3: **Sandra Rose Donnelly**
Council Position #5: **Allen Teitzel**
Council Position #5: **Rich Patten**
Council Position #7: **Debby Turner**
Council Meeting: 2/3/25 - 7pm

Cottage Grove
Mayor: **Candace Solesbee**
Councilor Ward 1: **Christine Hyink**
Councilor Ward 2: **Randell Lammerman**
Councilor Ward 3: **Dana Merryday**
Councilor Ward 4: **Greg Ervin**
Councilor: **Jim Settelmeyer**
Councilor: **Darrel Wilson**
Council Meeting: 2/10/25, 2/24/25 - 7pm

County State & Federal
Douglas County Commissioners:
Tom Kress(Chair) **Tim Freeman**
Chris Boice **Jennifer Miller**
Lane County Commissioners:
Dist 1: **Ray Ceniga** Dist 2: **David Lovall**
Dist 3: **Laurie Trieger** Dist 4: **Pat Farr**
Dist 5: **Heather Buch**
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: **Tobias Read**
Attorney General: **Dan Rayfield**
Governor: **Tina Kotek**
Vice-President: **JD Vance**
President: **Donald Trump**

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



Oregon News Herald
Editorial

By Rusty Savage
As we trudge into February, glad to have made it this far, a last gasp of winter is the gorilla on our back. It’s been decent weather this last couple of weeks, but surely something is going to dump on us before it’s over. That’s how it feels anyway. No matter, we’re up for it, maybe not ready but we’ll tackle head on whatever is in store. And if it doesn’t bite us on the backside, well c’mon Springtime I say.

Gathering the news, lately, seems to reveal a lot of problems with the government’s of municipal and county officials. It bares a closer look at the difference in individual and the office or position. We often look to our civic leaders as so called pillars, carrying the torch of our sense of justice and fairness while stewarding our resources to the benefit of all. That is truly what we need to cultivate our growth and prosperity so that we can multiply and satisfy our desire and “the pursuit of happiness”.

When it turns out that the individuals fall short or are maybe caught, hand in the Cookie Jar, it’s the citizenry who bear the consequences. Because positions of power look out for themselves and those around them, citizens are left in their own shadows, lamenting yet another slight or injustice, pondering their own intentions of restructuring new tactics and plans of action to continue their causes.

There is the need for continually watching our watch dogs to make sure they are in fact working for us. For those in service as representatives of the people, there should be some expectation that the citizens want transparency and inclusion in the goings on, big and small. Citizens, remember the power is in your voices, individually and, especially, collectively. Not just the voice of your vote every few years, but every day we have the power to question and ask for clarity. Most municipalities have at least 1 city council meeting each month. Find yours and attend a couple. Find out how the issues of your town are addressed and look towards city groups or advocate your own. Listen and question on the methods if you agree or don’t agree. Volunteer and join your neighbors if you have a desire to serve. If we expect that things are being taken care without any efforts on our own part, that’s when things can fall apart.

It’s been a great migration for us here at the Herald. Our new name is the Oregon News Herald, but the mission is the same; bringing local & community pertinent news, to Oregonians for FREE. As we look a little wider around Oregon for our news, we also are spreading out wider. We now have over 90 locations where you can pick up the Herald locally. Check for a location near you.

It’s a grueling quest to research, layout, publish & deliver the newspaper far and wide. Gathering the news and formatting the Newspaper is first. Then, it takes 3 days to get all of the newspapers delivered in our old truck. Then about mid January our main computer, that manages and lays out the newspaper, fried itself with all of our electronic and graphic files. We managed to save the hard drive and installed it on my home computer, saving the paper.

Then the freeze we had about a week ago cracked the engine block. Without much choice ,we got a rental car so that you can get your BEST FREE newspaper delivered to your closest pickup point. Just part of the commitment to bring you the printed news.

You may notice we’re a little smaller this month, the North Douglas Herald is supported by our display advertising, and our support kinda falls off a little this time of year. After the Holidays but still shy of the wonderful springtime economic awakening, so our coffers are a little low. We want to attract more advertisers and we need YOU, our readers, to support our advertisers and tell them to support your newspaper.

Dogs

Continued from Front Page
moum both of their dogs, customers at Beaver Creek Unique will be saddened to also learn the news.

The shock of their dogs deaths is rough enough but that they ingested poison is more than a little concerning. Russ spent a couple of days looking and insuring that there was nothing around the property they could have gotten into. At a loss for any answers he asks folks in the area to be vigilant and if there is any information that pertains to this, please report it to the authorities.

Like the loss of any treasured pet, it hits hard for the Kaleese’s. As Russ reported this to me, he mentioned his wife had to pull over for a moment, on the way home from work, when the Neil Young song “Old King” came over the radio.

*“I had a dog and his name was King
I told the dog about everything
There in my truck the dog and I
Then one day the King up and died”*

Oregon Public Safety

Fatal Crash on HWY 126

Lane County, OR - On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 3:05 p.m., Oregon State Police responded to a single vehicle crash on Highway 126, near milepost 8, in Lane County. The preliminary investigation indicated a westbound Ferrari GTB, operated by Victor Joseph Cianci (74) of Florence, was travelling at a highrate of speed when it crossed the center line, struck a guardrail, and overturned coming to rest in a pond.

The operator of the Ferrari (Cianci) was declared deceased at the scene. The highway was impacted for approximately two hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by Lane County Sheriff's Office.

OSP & LCSD make Hwy. 20 Rescue

Linn County, OR - On 22 Jan. 2025, at 9:15 a.m., an Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Trooper encountered a vehicle on the shoulder of Hwy. 20 near milepost 68 and quickly determined the person associated with the vehicle was lost and in distress. The 30-year-old female had left her vehicle for unknown reasons and walked up a nearby U.S. Forest Service road.

Linn County Search and Rescue and an OSP Fish and Wildlife K-9 team responded to assist in the search. K-9 Scout tracked the individual and finally located her about a mile from the vehicle. Troopers remained with her, built a fire, and provided food and emergency blankets until search and rescue members arrived with a snowcat to transport her back to the highway.

Medics from the Sweet Home Fire Department then transported the individual to an area hospital for medical evaluation.

While the rescue was underway, the Linn County Sheriff's Office received two additional calls from motorists stranded on forest roads in the snow. Sheriff Michelle Duncan said, "This is a

good reminder for motorists to always have a plan and adequate equipment if traveling or recreating in the snow." She continued, "Always let a friend or family member know your destination and carry a cell phone or rescue beacon. It's always a good idea to keep your car winter ready with safety items such as extra blankets or warm clothing, extra food and water, a first aid kit, and other survival items."

Oregon State Police Captain Kyle Kennedy said, "Winter weather can be unpredictable and conditions can change quickly. This rescue was a great team effort and we are grateful this individual was quickly located and transported to safety."

Fatal Crash on HWY 101

Coos County, OR - On Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., Oregon State Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Highway 101, near milepost 247, in Coos County.

The preliminary investigation indicated a northbound Ford Ranger, operated by Judy Marie Scharf (79) of Bandon, crossed into the southbound lanes for unknown reasons and struck a southbound Chevrolet Silverado, operated by James Earl Yost (71) of Sixes, nearly head-on.

The operator of the Ford (Scharf) was declared deceased at the scene. The operator of the Chevrolet (Yost) suffered reported serious injuries and was transported to an area hospital. The highway was impacted for approximately two hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP as assisted by Bandon Fire, Green Acres Fire, Coos County Sheriff's Office, and ODOT.

Fatal Crash on HWY 138

Douglas County, OR - On Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 3:15 p.m., Oregon State Police responded to a single-vehicle fatal crash on Hwy. 138 near Roseburg.

The preliminary investigation indicated a silver Honda Accord, operated by Jessica Rae Thompson

(36) of Winston, was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 138 near milepost 5.3 when it veered off the south side of the highway and struck the embankment. The vehicle went airborne, rolled over, and came to rest down the embankment.

The operator (Thompson) was ejected from the vehicle and declared deceased at the scene. Thompson is not believed to have been wearing a seatbelt. Speed and impairment are believed to have been factors in the crash. The highway was impacted for approximately three hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Central Douglas Fire, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Deadly Crash on HWY 22

Linn County, OR - On Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at about 11:34 a.m., Oregon State Police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Highway 22 near milepost 64 in Linn County.

The preliminary investigation indicated a red Cadillac, operated by Theodore Kleinman (79) of Redmond, was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 22 near Minto Road when it left the roadway and struck a blue Ford F15, operated by Delores Ann Carroll (76) of Redmond, head-on. Both drivers were seriously injured and transported to an area hospital. A passenger, Glenn L Carroll (51) of Redmond, in the Ford was transported with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Cadillac (Kleinman) later died at the hospital.

The highway was impacted for approximately four hours during the on-scene investigation by OSP's Collision Reconstruction Unit. OSP was assisted by the Turner Fire Department, Gates Fire Department, Idanha Fire Department, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

On January 29, 2025, OSP was notified that the driver of the Ford, Delores Ann Carroll (76) of Redmond, died from injuries received during the crash.

Deputies Recover Stolen Trailers

Lane County, OR - On January 14th, Lane County Sheriff's deputies learned two trailers had

been stolen from a storage facility in the 86200 block of College View Road, Eugene. They determined the trailers had been stolen by renters, identified as Joshua Adam Hemion, 46, and Kimberly Ann Hemion, 48, both of Fall Creek.

A Lane County Sheriff's detective applied for and was granted a search warrant for a suspect property in the 38800 block of Fall Creek. Detectives and deputies served the search warrant on January 16th. Both trailers and much of the property they had contained were recovered.

Joshua Hemion and Kimberly Hemion were both arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail for two counts each of Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle and Theft in the 1st Degree, as well as Theft in the 2nd Degree. Joshua Hemion also had a warrant for his arrest from the state of Washington. LCSO Cases #25-0216, #25-0218

Homicide/Suicide Investigation

Yoncalla, OR - Detectives are investigating an apparent homicide/suicide in Yoncalla. On Friday, January 31, 2025, around 10:20 PM, a business called the Douglas County Sheriff's Office requesting a welfare check on an employee who had not shown up for work.

Deputies responded to the residence in the 100-block of Williams Road in Yoncalla. Upon arrival, a deputy observed two persons down in the residence and forced entry. The deputy confirmed the two adult individuals were deceased from apparent gunshot wounds.

Detectives were requested to the scene along with the Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office. Evidence at the scene indicates that the incident is likely homicide/suicide. The names of both individuals and the details of the victim and perpetrator are being withheld at this time pending next of kin notification and further investigation. Additional details not disclosed as of this writing, further Press Release expected. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Oregon State Police, Sutherlin Police Department and North Douglas County Fire & EMS.

Community Matters

Planned Projects Look Good for Yoncalla Improvements

At its January meeting members of the Yoncalla Beautification Committee (YBC) learned that donations have met the \$5000 pledge made by an anonymous donor. This pledge plus matching donations from friends of the community will allow the committee to proceed with community improvement projects during the year.

Proposed projects selected for the year include: updating civic signs, establishig welcome kits for new residents, improving city sidewalks, coordinating City Cleanup Day with local schools, replacing worn-out memorial flags, and doubling the number of hanging flower baskets along city streets, Jess McHaffie, Yoncalla High School shop teacher, has volunteered his students to make additional hanging basket stands and update civic signs.

Completing the above projects this spring and summer is an ambitious goal for a small non-profit committee. Members meet at the Community Center at 6 pm the fourth Thursday each month. OUR LITTLE TOWN NEEDS YOUR HELP! JOIN US, BRING YOUR IDEAS, GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY, AND HAVE FUN.



CASAD Club Bake Sale Valentine's Day February 14, 2025 11 – 2 Umpqua Bank 1975 Winchester Ave Reedsport Oregon

Come enjoy an array of delectable treats, including homemade breads, pies and cookies. Also available is our renowned historical cookbook and exclusive "Come and Stay All Day" merchandise. This event will directly support our vibrant community.

Veterans Corner

OR Veteran Home Loan Limit Raised to \$806.5K

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has increased the maximum home loan limit for the Oregon Veteran Home Loan for 2025, conforming to loan limits for mortgages set by the Federal Housing Finance Agency. ODVA will now accept loans up to the new maximum loan amount of \$806,500, an increase of \$39,950 from last year's limit. This new limit took effect on January 1, 2025.

The Oregon Veteran Home Loan Program, which has been one of ODVA's core veteran benefits since the agency's inception in 1945, offers eligible veterans fixed-rate financing for owner-occupied, single-family residences.

The veteran home loan product is a non-expiring, lifetime benefit for any eligible Oregon veteran and may be used up to four times. The

program provides financing for purchases only and cannot be used for refinancing.

This state veteran home loan benefit is separate and distinct from the federal VA home loan guaranty and has lent nearly \$9 billion in low-interest home loans to more than 336,000 veterans since 1945. To be eligible, a veteran must have served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, as documented on their DD-214, and must meet one of the service criteria outlined on ODVA's website.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Home Loan Program, program eligibility, or to find a partner broker near you, please call (800) 633-6826 to speak with a loan specialist or visit www.orvethomeloans.com.

Mayor's Investigation

Continued from Front Page

4. Was the City Manager denied a proper job evaluation because certain Councilors wanted to fire the City Manager and replace the City Manager with one of their own?

"I strongly believe in open, transparent government, so the community will find out the results," Mayor Rich said later, shortly after the meeting. "If there are violations, there

will be consequences."

The Roseburg City Council normally meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in person in the City Hall Council Chambers. Watch the Council meeting on the City website or via the City's Facebook page.

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help. With some conversations and contracts exchanged, Ken was contracted on January 9th and sworn in at the January 13th Council meeting.

When I spoke to Ken, I was struck by his easy demeanor and a pleasant conversational style. When he looks at you, there is a bit of a whimsical smile and his eyes twinkle a little

Ken Strobeck - Drains

and you can tell he is focused in on you. Our conversation meandered a bit and through it all Ken made a point to talk about the importance of good governance and working with the citizens and citizen groups.

He states as his first and foremost intention is start a process to search for and recruit and hire a permanent and competent

City Administrator Pro-Tem

City Administrator . Along the way there are a number of deficiencies and challenges that Drain is facing and he is committed to evaluate and give his own best effort to find the needs and concerns and address some of the challenges and obstacles ahead.

With only a couple of weeks into the job, Mr. Strobeck is still in the evaluation stage

and had little to report on the current stages of development. I asked about the situation regarding the City audits, which have been in delinquency since 2021. Ken was not to familiar yet but he said he understood the new Auditors hired to work on it were just about

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New Temporary City Administrator

Continued from Page 3

done with a report for the 2021 audit. I asked if he was aware of any pressure from the state in regards to those audits not being done and he had no information to address that. It has been reported that the State has pushed back on city officials due to complaints to the State Ethics Board and lawsuits in this and other regards. I'm of the opinion that the city has opened the door to enhance the process of "righting

the ship" as it were. Ken Strobeck is certainly qualified to provide some guidance to current city officials and staff with his expertise in civic and municipal function and processes. I look forward to some clarity and rejuvenation to efforts within city government to further and enhance the livability and prosperity of the citizens and businesses here. Mr Strobeck, there are high expectations of you on behalf of the city of Drain.



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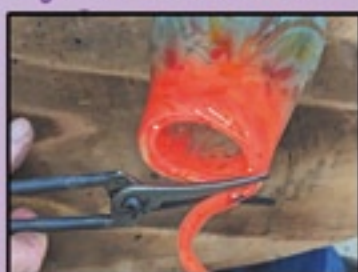
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Oregon SBO advocate saved Businesses \$1.2M

Story by Scooter Brown

The Small Business Ombudsman for Workers' Compensation saved small businesses \$1,267,862 in 2024 by helping constituents with audit and compliance issues and finding more affordable coverage.

"Small businesses provide opportunities for success for so many and give our neighborhoods the vibrancy that makes Oregon so special," Governor Tina Kotek said. "The Small Business Ombudsman makes it easier to open and operate a business, and when our small businesses succeed, the whole state benefits."

The Small Business Ombudsman is the state office that serves as an independent advocate for workers' compensation questions, complaints, and disputes.

"Every dollar that we are able to save small businesses is a dollar they can use to help their business thrive, help their employees, and feed back into our local economy," said Small Business Ombudsman Caitlin Breitbach. "We are here to help businesses so they don't have to navigate the workers' compensation system alone."

The office can help small businesses by:

Explaining workers' compensation coverage requirements and what type of coverage best suits businesses' needs.

Providing advice on how to shop for workers' compensation insurance.

Helping businesses that are in dispute with their insurance company, and helping them navigate through the appeal processes that are available.

Conducting outreach to businesses and their professional advisers to educate them about their rights and responsibilities under the workers' compensation laws.

For more information, call Breitbach at 503-329-4260, email wc.advocate@dcb.s.oregon.gov, or go to oregon.gov/dcb/sbo. Contact information, Mark Peterson, communications director, 971-283-5405, Mark.Peterson@dcb.s.oregon.gov.

The Office of the Small Business Ombudsman for Workers' Compensation is the state office that serves as an independent advocate for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and the professional advisers who serve them. The office is part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon's largest consumer protection and business regulatory agency. Visit oregon.gov/dcb/sbo.

Letters from the Librarian



"The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library." - Albert Einstein

All this month, we're celebrating the love of reading and the love of our community, sometimes both at the same time!

Blind date with a book? Ask a librarian for a suggestion or choose one of our gift wrapped mystery books. Stop in Tuesday-Saturday during open hours or check out the catalog at ndld.org any time of day.

Wanting to add some stretch and strength? Join our exercise class Fridays at 3 pm. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. This class is geared for adults and will happily accept young adults 12 and up.

Toddlers and preschoolers gather with their grownups every Tuesday at 11 am for story time, crafts, and fun.

Knitters and other artists get together for a great time each Wednesday at 4 pm. We also show a family movie at the same time.

Our full calendar of programming is on the website. We'd love to see you.

Miriam Sisson, Director
Mildred Whipple Library, North Douglas Library District

ndld.org 541-836-2648

Lower Umpqua Library Notes



Lower Umpqua Library District (LULD) continues to expand its collections. The library recently obtained several decades of the historical local newspaper, the Port Umpqua Courier in bound book format. These volumes provide invaluable information about life in the Lower Umpqua Valley during the 20th century (dating back as early as 1917) and may be of interest to people seeking to research local history or genealogy. These bound newspapers are available as reference materials within the library. LULD's purchase of these historical newspapers was made possible by a grant from the Douglas County Library Foundation. Many books and DVDs continue to be added to LULD's collection with funds from the same grant, including but not limited to a substantive increase in the young adult graphic novels section.

LULD created a new Speculative Fiction section, which comprises books in the science fiction, fantasy, paranormal, paranormal romance, dystopian, horror, and similar genres. This consolidates titles that had previously been spread throughout the library into a common area to facilitate finding such materials. Books in the Speculative Fiction section each have their own genre label to make it even easier to find the exact type of story desired.

LULD received grant funds from the Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Society, which were used to purchase science books for the library, plus an annual subscription to Rock & Gem magazine. The science

books are meant to appeal to a wide array of audiences, including people with beginner, intermediate, advanced, and expert prior knowledge of the topics and from the juvenile, young adult, and adult age levels.

These expanded and new collections should not distract from the fact that LULD also has substantive juvenile, young adult, and adult books across a wide array of topics, over 160 magazine and newspaper subscriptions, thousands of audiovisual materials such as DVDs and CDs, electronics such as Wi-Fi hotspots and computer accessories, and equipment for outdoor activities such as trekking poles and bicycle locks. Overdrive/Library2Go provides access to tens of thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks.

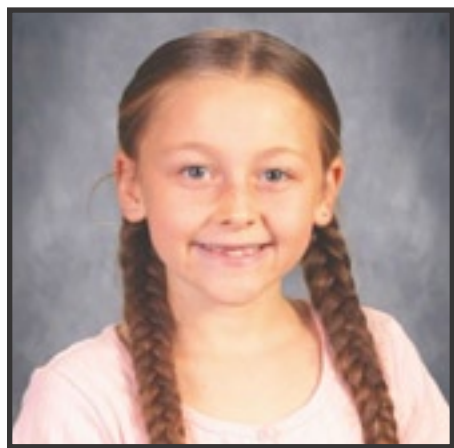
LULD holds pre-school storytime every Wednesday at 11:00 am and a Knit & Crochet group, which meets every Thursday from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The Friends of the Library hold book sales at LULD, the next of which will be on Friday, February 14th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The library district's boundaries can be seen on the map. Anyone who lives within LULD may obtain a library card for free and borrow up to 25 items at a time per person. Nonresidents are welcome to visit the library to use materials within the building and participate in events but may not borrow from the collection unless they pay an annual \$30 fee. Please call, visit, or email the library for more information.

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

School is in Session

**North Douglas Elementary School
Student of the Month:
Kimber Colley 3rd Grade**



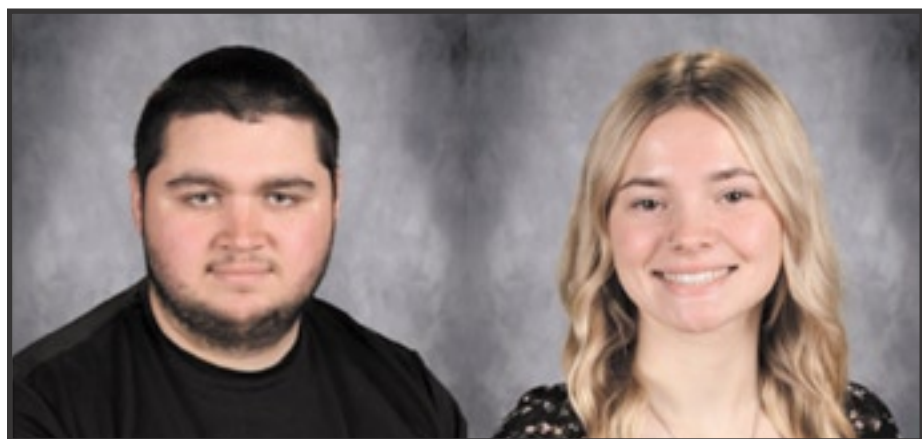
Kimber is an excellent example of perseverance. She always works hard even when the work gets tough. Kimber is passionate about learning and always comes to school ready to learn with a smile on her face. Keep it up Kimber!

**North Douglas Middle School
Student of the Month:
Trentyn Spurlock, 6th Grade**



Trentyn is a hard worker and takes his schoolwork very seriously. He is always willing to stay in during recess to get extra help with his assignments and take things home if necessary.

**NDHS Student of the
Month November
Justin Woody**



**NDHS Student of the
Month December
Shena Solesbee**

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February Crossword Puzzle Sponsored by Studio Tattoo

January Crossword Solution

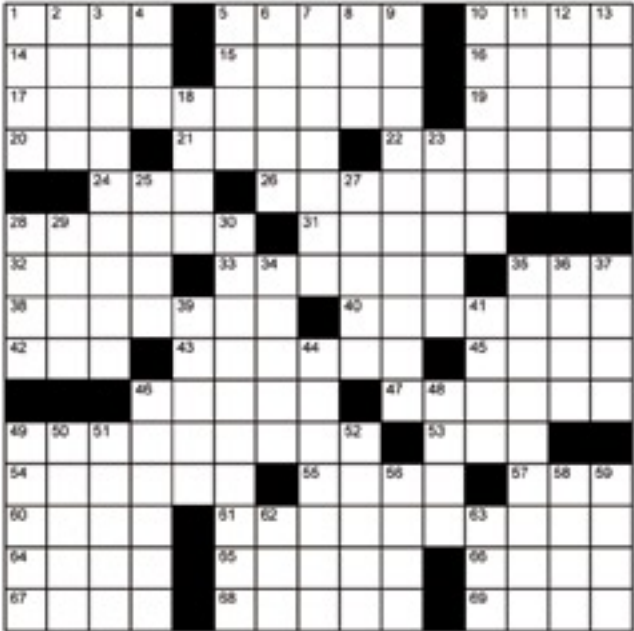
Across

1. In need of a map
5. Bank heist, e.g.
10. Wished, as a farewell
14. Feedbag fill
15. Way past plump
16. Responsibility
17. Teachers at the prom, perhaps
19. Revival setting
20. Airline's home base
21. Early 20th-century art movement
22. Walk like a show horse
24. Hang back
26. Happen upon
28. Pricy wheels, slangily
31. Street-smart
32. Highest point
33. Bite off too much
35. Pipe material
38. Snack bar?
40. Military bigwig
42. Work on a tan
43. "Always on My Mind" singer
45. Way to pay
46. Copycat
47. Like some birthday parties
49. Some three-digit numbers
53. Before, in verse
54. Type of owl
55. Gyro holder
57. Harbor vessel
60. Every which way

61. Kirk's ship
64. Potatoes, perhaps
65. Lord's subject
66. Doomsayer's sign
67. Follow, as advice
68. Shopping binge
69. "___ #1!"
9. Defendant in a lawsuit
10. Horticulturist's study
11. About, old-style
12. Conical-cap wearer
13. Fragrant compound
18. Perimeter
23. Talk a blue streak
25. Congregation's cry
27. Freight
28. Overhead items
29. Shade of beige
30. Example-setters
34. Bona fide
35. 8 to 11, on TV
36. Flower holder
37. Outfitted
39. Chilling, say
41. ___ and anon
44. Sovereign's staff
46. Like a cheater's deck
48. Run-down car
49. Put to shame
50. Textile fiber
51. Lose ground
52. Military blockade
56. Nursery purchase
58. Kind of ID
59. Actor Wilder
62. Quick drink
63. Theater section

Down

1. Ness, for one
2. Where Pearl City is
3. Ranch worker
4. Cooking meas.
5. Elizabeth McGovern's character on "Downton Abbey"
6. Home
7. Sinner's punishment
8. Opposite of WNW



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Event Calendar on Page 15

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
60° 21°	63° 22°	64° 23°	67° 24°	49° 26°	56° 40°	52° 42°
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
45° 34°	40° 27°	41° 28°	44° 31°	41° 29°	45° 28°	46° 27°
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
45° 26°	46° 30°	43° 29°	39° 27°	42° 30°	43° 34°	50° 35°
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52° 34°	48° 34°	47° 32°	48° 32°	47° 31°	47° 31°	48° 32°
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
47° 29°	48° 29°	49° 32°	49° 31°	50° 32°	51° 32°	50° 33°



413 Umpqua HWY38, Drain Oregon

Obituary & Memorial



William Robert Walton, 86, known affectionately to friends and loved ones as Bill, passed away on December 19, 2024 in Eugene, Oregon. Born on August 1, 1938, in Roseville, California to parents Chester and Elizabeth (Taubenkrau)

Walton.

Bill Joined the United States Navy on June 13, 1956. He served as a hospital corpsman, rank HM3, until his honorable discharge on June 12, 1962.

A proud alum of the University of Oregon, Bill graduated on December 19, 1970, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. His passion for history led him to a fulfilling first career as a history teacher and later, he brought his friendly demeanor to Willamette Stationary, where he

excelled as a sales associate for many years.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Bill was an avid supporter of the University of Oregon football team, maintaining his role as a dedicated season ticket holder for decades. His love for golf and fishing allowed him moments of joy and relaxation, while his knack for crossword puzzles and his appetite for books spoke to his unceasing curiosity and sharp intellect.

Bill will be remembered and deeply missed by his family: nephews Richard (Amy) Walton of Yuma, AZ, and their son Blaine; Scott (Tauine) Walton of Yoncalla, OR, and their children Jalen,

Justin, and Kenzie; his niece Jo Groshong and her daughters Stephanie and Jennie; niece Sue Prince of Yoncalla, OR, and her children Sherry and Troy, and niece Breann Flores and her children Mike, Alia, Mateo, Brizeyda, Ahmed, and Sam.. Each of them carry treasured memories of Uncle Bill's remarkable spirit. Bill was preceded in death by his brothers Frank Walton, Dennis Hungerford, and sister-in-law Gail Hungerford.

No services will be held at this time. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium and Cemetery. Inummment will be held at Drain City Cemetery at a later date.

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541 836-2369
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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

Seventh-day Adventist Church
278 Douglas St
Saturday Worship 10am -12pm

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
Oregon News Herald
PO Box 581

Drain OR 97435

Include: Name, address, phone & worship hours - 4 lines only.

Shadows Along the Creek

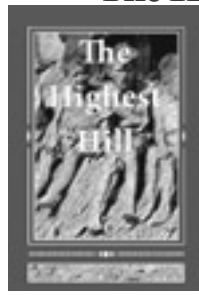
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A Place to Die

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Event Calendar

Rick Miller Band Feb 7 8-11
Karaoke Feb 14 8-11
Timberwolf Feb 21 8-11
Rockwork Orange Feb 22 8-11
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