



## New Photo Exhibition Documents Effects of Oregon's Landscape Climate Change

A Changing Landscape is on view now at the Oregon Historical Society through November 23, 2025

Story by Rusty Savage

Photo by Jim E. O'Connor; South Sister from the summit of Middle Sister., 2016



You can see how climate change has altered Oregon's geography in A Changing Landscape, on view at the Oregon Historical Society in downtown Portland now through November 23, 2025. This dramatic installation uses modern and historical photographs to visually compare 100 years of environmental change across some of Oregon's most recognized mountains, lakes, and glaciers.

In the summer of 1920, the U.S. Forest Service launched a three-month expedition to lay the groundwork for a scenic road between Crater Lake and the Columbia River Highway. Led by recreational planner Frederick Cleator, the "Skyline Party" traversed north along the high country of the Cascade Range, with Cleator taking 700 photographs documenting the terrain and scenery.

While the scenic highway never came to be, a recreational trail known as the Oregon Skyline Trail opened to travelers in the summer of 1921. Highlighting the beauty of the Cascades, the Oregon Skyline Trail includes dramatic peaks, glacial lakes, and alpine meadows, connecting Oregonians and tourists to the natural wonders of the state.

One hundred years later, geologist Jim

O'Connor followed Cleator's footsteps and recreated 75 of his Skyline Trail photographs – many taken on the same day and at the same time as the original photographs. A Changing Landscape features a selection of Cleator and O'Connor's photographs, showing this picturesque stretch of geography, and the ways climate change has altered the mountains, lakes, and terrain throughout the past century. As explained by O'Connor:

*"I've been motivated by the century of change revealed in these matched pairs, and the photographs tell these stories much more vividly than words. Plus, I revel in the challenge of finding the exact places that previous photographers like Cleator have set up their cameras, in some instances probably places that have known few footsteps since his. In this quest, I have been revisiting the central Oregon Cascades for the last 30 years with family, friends, and colleagues, photographing and rephotographing scenes first recorded in the early 1900s, at first to document changes in the glaciers in the Three Sisters area, but also becoming increasingly intrigued by other landscape changes – vegetation, lakes and streams as well as human uses of the high*

*Continued on Page 2*

## Yoncalla High Participates in the Polar Plunge

Story and Photo by Chelsea Ross



At Yoncalla High School, Special Olympics and Unified Sports has a special place in our hearts. What started as a senior project almost 10 years ago, has blossomed into a schoolwide program and annual tradition that celebrates and honors students with intellectual disabilities and/or autism.

As a Unified school, we fundraise each year to support our athletes through the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Taking place in Eugene, people from all over the area converge in costumes and outfits to dive into the chilly Willamette River. On February 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, 25 people from Yoncalla High School took the plunge as our annual fundraiser. Being a Unified Champion School, 50% of the funds raised through our plunge, come directly

back to supporting students here at Yoncalla High. Staff, students, parents, and even board members, participated in this year's plunge. While the water was a very cold 38 degrees, the environment was warm and welcoming.

For the second year in a row, Yoncalla took home several trophies from our Polar Plunge. The first being the largest school team to participate and the second being top fundraising school for our area. Mr. Sybrant, the head coach for Unified Sports set the ambitious goal of reaching \$5,000 this year. We are nearing our goal with a little under \$4,400 raised so far. Fundraising continues through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

*Continued on Page 3*



## Oregon Legislators Should Listen to Businesses

Story by Milo Banks

One reason Oregon struggles to attract business investment is the state's political culture, which undervalues the private sector. In the Legislature, this culture is manifested frequently as a willingness to shrug when businesses warn about the likely effects of proposals that would harm them – and often their employees, too.

Case in point: The 2022 Legislature's passage of House Bill 4002, which initiated a multi-year phase-out of Oregon's longstanding agricultural overtime exemption. In 2023 and 2024, employers were required to pay overtime to agricultural workers after they'd worked 55 hours in a week. The threshold is now 48 hours per week and will become 40 hours per week in 2027.

At the time lawmakers were considering HB 4002, the Oregon Farm Bureau submitted a report explaining the bill's likely effects. Because farmers in Oregon compete with those in other states and countries, they can't easily pass along increased costs to buyers, who can shift purchasing to lower-cost suppliers. Meanwhile, Oregon's mix of high-labor crops, including tree fruits and berries, makes many of the state's farmers particularly vulnerable to policies that ramp up labor costs.

For many specialty crop farm sectors, the report predicted, "an overtime rule could result in very high pay rates that may exceed the economic means of growers."

While proponents of HB 4002 may have assumed that agricultural workers would continue to work the same number of hours and earn a lot more money, such an outcome is simply at odds with economic reality. Instead, the report concluded, three things were likely to happen:

1. Employers would reduce farm labor hours.

2. Employers would hire additional workers to reduce overtime pay.

3. Some employers would reduce standard wage rates to partially offset the effects of mandatory overtime.

The Legislature passed HB 4002 anyway.

To assess the law's effects, economists at Oregon State University collected anonymized payroll data covering 2022 and 2023 from several dairies, nurseries and cherry farms. Beginning in 2023 – the first year of the overtime threshold – per-hour pay went up for many workers, but overall pay went down. In other words, farmers adjusted to the new law by limiting workers' hours, just as the Oregon Farm Bureau's report predicted they would.

The OSU economists, who reported their findings in a Jan. 31 blog post, noted that farmers controlled labor costs in other ways as well. Some operations have reduced year-end bonuses. Others "report feeling less pressure to increase the base-wage rate of employees that now earn overtime pay."

Reducing overall pay for farm workers hardly seems like the sort of outcome HB 4002's backers were hoping for. Nor is the following prediction offered by OSU's economists: "On the employee side, we should expect some farm workers to seek second jobs, which may be with other farms, our outside of agriculture."

The consequences of HB 4002, which will intensify as the overtime threshold drops, make a compelling case for legislative reconsideration.

Meanwhile, the lesson of HB 4002 – that policymakers should take the input of businesses seriously when proposing to regulate them – is one legislators should apply to several highly destructive bills now under consideration. These

*Continued on Page 7*





**March, 2025 Vol 3, Issue #3**  
**The Oregon News Herald** Newspaper, published once a month in Drain Oregon, is owned, operated, published and printed in the State of Oregon. It is our mission to bring the news and information that our readers find pertinent, useful and with some insight to our common values and sensibilities.

The Oregon News Herald is formerly the North Douglas Herald.  
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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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March 2025

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The Rose Bar, 413 Umpqua Hwy 38  
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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

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Food Center & Deli, 2580 Eagle Valley Rd  
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Yoncalla Public Library, 194 Birch St

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Tomaselli's Pastry Mill & Cafe, 14836 OR Hwy 38  
Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 HWY 38 W  
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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.  
Dart 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, 220 W B St  
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, 1367 W 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**  
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  
Dari-Mart, 1005 Queen Ave SW

# 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: **Ken Strobeck**  
City Council Meeting: 3/10/25 - 6pm

## Yoncalla

Mayor: **Kathleen Wertz**  
Councilors: **Amy Grabinski**  
Open Seat  
**Harold Gilpin**  
**Bryce Wertz**  
City Administrator: **Jennifer Bragg**  
Council Meeting: 3/11/25 - 6pm

## Elkton

Mayor: **Daniel Burke**  
Council President: **Joan Smith**  
Council Members:  
**Kim Moore**  
**Dan Shepherd**  
**Sandra Galli**  
Public Works Supervisor: **Gary Trout**  
Council Meeting: 3/13/25 - 8:30am

## Oakland

Mayor: **Bette Keehley**  
Counselor: **Jan Wier**  
Counselor: **Kent Rochester**  
Counselor: **Sky Ironplow**  
Counselor: **Betty Tamm**  
Council Meeting: 3/10/25 - 7pm

## Sutherlin

Mayor : **Michelle Sumner**  
Council President **Debbie Hamilton**  
Councilor **Lisa Woods**  
Councilor **Larry Whitaker**  
Councilor **Adam Sarnoski**  
Councilor **Shawn Smalley**  
Councilor **Gary Dagle**  
City Manager **Jerry Gillham**  
Council Meeting: 3/10/25 - 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: 3/3/25 - 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: 3/10/25, 3/24/25 - 7pm

## County State & Federal

Douglas County Commissioners:  
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**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](mailto:citydesk@ndherald.com)*



Oregon News Herald

# Editorial

By Rusty Savage

This last month has impressed on my brain, the undenyng consequence of how the weather around us dominates our lives. Sailors and Merchantmen, live and move under calm or stormy seas. Regardless of our will and intent, the pursuit of our ends and means can be boosted or stymied by a snowstorm or a spring breeze. Watching across our country just this winter, I have seen weather patterns affecting our daily discourses, alternately, good or bad but rarely indifferent.

This month I've seen drenching rain, sunny days, freezing cold and wind storms and spring flowers. Sometimes Mother Nature has a lot to say and she changes her mind on a whim. It's the season of seasons and I guess I look forward to its wild ride to and fro. If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes, it'll change again.

If the changing seasons come and go, there appears to be a rhythm or frequency to it that makes it appear normal or regular in it's changes. There are similar rhythms to changes in human nature, both individually and socially/culturally. In human history it's the rise and fall of empires and cultures. In our national identities it's our self awareness and social conscious. Individually it's the life changes and goals of our minds. The changes of these values can be helpful or harmful, effective or ineffective. But like a pendulum, the swing is less amplified each time it reaches an arc. The center of the arc is where we are most secure and content. That is the furthest distance from our most radical and precipitous heights of the swing. So change is inevitable and we fly the fastest at the bottom of the swing. Anticipate the swings to each side and make yourself comfortable in the middle. That is the balance, knowing the limit of your heights and putting all your efforts through the arc in the middle.

February is that short month, hard to get everything done. Not enough time to get a full load of news items and we came up a little short on advertisers. The Herald did manage to make nice progress after a month of January of obstacles. We replaced our broken computer and, hallelujah, after blowing the motor in our delivery truck, we managed to replace it with a really nice Ford Explorer. Thanks Tony for working within our budget.

The Herald continues to grow and expand, just like the momentum of the pendulum swing, we're very close to, now, over 90 pickup locations from Roseburg to Albany and from Sutherlin out to Reedsport we expect to add another 10 locations this month. Bringing FREE local news and information to our readers is our mission and cause. Consider a donation to our ongoing delivery and publication efforts or perhaps help with our newspaper rack Gofundme to make our newspaper more visible and easy to find to all Oregonians.

## Climate Change Photo Exhibit

*Continued from Front Page*

*country. But it's more than just two-dimensional images; the project is enriched by stories behind the photos, especially the interactions among the landscape and people, which I try to bring out with the accompanying descriptions."*

O'Connor's documentation of Oregon's glaciers is profiled in the Winter 2013 issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly in the article, "Our Vanishing Glaciers": One Hundred Years of Glacier Retreat in the Three Sisters Area, Oregon Cascade Range." In the essay, O'Connor asserts that "glaciers exist by the grace of climate," and through a close examination of the history of the region's glaciers, he provides an intriguing glimpse into the history of geological surveys and glacial studies in the Pacific Northwest, including their connection to significant scientific advances of the nineteenth century.

For those unable to visit in person, the exhibition is accessible as both an audio tour and transcript (with built in translations) through OHS's free digital guide available through Bloomberg Connects.

To learn more about Oregon's changing climate, The Oregon Encyclopedia has curated a digital exhibit on Climate Change in Oregon that features entries by regional experts who have spent their careers researching and sharing their work on the effects of a warming planet.

The Oregon Historical Society's museum is open daily in downtown Portland, from 10am to 5pm Monday through Saturday and 12pm to 5pm on Sunday. Admission is free every day for youth 17 and under, OHS members, and residents of Multnomah County. Learn more and plan your visit at [ohs.org/visit](http://ohs.org/visit).



# Oregon Public Safety

**Yoncalla incident Ruled Murder/Suicide**  
**Yoncalla, OR** - DCSO has concluded its investigation into the apparent homicide/suicide in Yoncalla that was discovered on Friday, January 31, 2025. Deputies had 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 determined the incident was the result of a homicide/suicide domestic violence incident. During the course of the investigation it was determined 68-year-old Yoncalla resident Steven Curtis Bolin shot and killed his wife, 62-year-old Michelle Bolin before turning the gun on himself. There are no additional updates expected in this investigation. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Oregon State Police, Sutherlin Police Department and North Douglas County Fire & EMS.

**Pedestrians stuck by Vehicle, 1 dead, 1 Injured**  
**Salem, OR** - The Salem Police Traffic Team is investigating a deadly crash resulting in one person deceased and one person hospitalized. Just after 2 a.m. on March 1, two adult pedestrians were struck by a pickup truck on Silverton Rd NE near Highway Ave NE. Both were transported to Salem Health where Raymond Dale, 77, died from his injuries. The second pedestrian, Ephraim Dale, 49 of Salem, remains hospitalized with critical injuries. A third pedestrian, a 17-year-old female, was traveling with them and witnessed the crash.

Emergency personnel from both Salem Police and Salem Fire were heavily involved in managing this incident and the road remained closed for several hours. The driver of the truck, Eugene Ensinger, 63 of Salem, stayed at the scene and the circumstances of the crash remain under investigation. This is Salem's third traffic fatality of 2025.

**Fatality on Rural HWY 138**  
**Douglas County, OR** - On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 4:58 a.m., Oregon State Police responded to a

two-vehicle crash on Highway 138W, near milepost 6, in Douglas County. The preliminary investigation indicated an eastbound Ford Escape, operated by Carl Gregory Miller (38) of Eagle Point, veered into the westbound lane of travel and struck a Kenworth Commercial Motor Vehicle, operated by Grant Crossgrove (34) of Sisters, head-on. The Ford Escape burst into flames on impact. Motorists on scene extricated Miller from the burning vehicle.

The operator of the Ford (Miller) was declared deceased at the scene. The operator of the Kenworth (Crossgrove) was reportedly uninjured.

The highway was impacted for approximately five hours during the on-scene investigation. Fatigue is believed to be a possible factor in the crash. OSP was assisted by the Kellogg Rural Fire, Elkton Rural Fire, North Douglas Fire and EMS, Bay City Ambulance and ODOT.

**Structure Fire in Mobile Home**  
**Roseburg, OR** - At 12:23 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/27/25, Central Douglas Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a structure fire on Berry Loop in the Green community of Roseburg. Initial reports indicated that there was a fire in the ceiling of the residence and flames were visible.

A quick response from Central Douglas Fire & Rescue is credited to the fire being contained to a single room and its contents, stopping it from rapidly spreading throughout the residence or adjacent structures. Although the house suffered damage to the area of origin, the most important thing is the occupant of the residence was able to escape from the home safely. No injuries were reported by the occupant or the firefighters working on the scene.

CDF&R responded to this incident with three fire engines and two command units, totaling 12 personnel. Pacific Power, Douglas County Sherrifs office and Umpqua Valley Ambulance aided in the response.

Battalion Chief Ryan Felker, with Central Douglas Fire & Rescue emphasized the importance of working smoke detectors in your home. He stated, " Sometimes there's an annoyance when smoke detectors give false

notifications but the importance of their functional operation surpass the inconvenience they sometimes bring." He also commended the work of the responding engines stating," These are well trained professionals who do what they do well. Not for accolades, but because the safety of the public means so much to them. The results of this incident, from what could have been, confirms their dedication to the service they provide."

**House Fire near Jasper spurs Warrant Arrest**  
**Lane County, OR** - On February 26th at about 3:30 a.m., LCSO deputies responded with fire personnel to a house fire in the 85900 block of Edenvale Road, west of Jasper. Fire personnel determined no one was inside.

Deputies contacted a person associated with the residence, Fred Lemuel Bunge, 54, walking away from the area. Deputies determined there was a Lane County Circuit Court warrant for Bunge's arrest for Attempt to Elude by Vehicle and Reckless Driving. Bunge was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail without incident.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is investigating the cause of the fire. Thanks to the multiple fire agencies who responded to the incident and prevented the fire from spreading to nearby residences. LCSO Case #25-0960

**Down Power Line causes 5th Wheel Fire**  
**Douglas County, OR** - At 12:32 Monday afternoon, Central Douglas Fire & Rescue (CDF&R) was dispatched to a power pole transformer blown from a down tree. Crews responded and were updated that a 5th-wheel trailer was now on fire. A tree had fallen through power lines onto the trailer. The first arriving engine reported a fully involved travel trailer with multiple structures threatened. Heavy winds were reported, along with additional hazards from overhead power lines.

An efficient response contained the fire to the fifth wheel and prevented it from spreading to multiple exposures. The fifth wheel suffered significant damage and is considered a total loss. No injuries were reported by the resident or the firefighters working at the scene. CDF&R responded to this incident with three fire engines and one command unit, totaling eight personnel. Winston

Police Department, Umpqua Valley Ambulance, Pacific Power, and Red Cross assisted crews and resident at the scene.

**Pedestrian Killed on HWY 99**  
**Lane County, OR** - On Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 8:28 p.m., Oregon State Police responded to a vehicle versus pedestrian crash on Highway 99, near milepost 3, in Lane County. The preliminary investigation indicated a southbound Acura MDX, operated by Jaidene Raie Torgison (18) of Creswell, struck a pedestrian, Gary Dale Obert (54) of Eugene, who was in the roadway.

The pedestrian (Obert) was declared deceased at the scene. The operator of the Acura (Torgison) and passenger, a juvenile male (17), were reportedly uninjured. The highway was impacted for approximately four hours during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by ODOT.

**Mohawk Valley Double Murder**  
**Mohawk Valley, OR** - Lane County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the deaths of two adults found inside a residence on McGowan Creek Road on Sunday afternoon.

According to the Lane County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to a home in the 36000 block of McGowan Creek Road, northeast of Springfield, shortly after 3 p.m. on February 23 when a caller reported discovering individuals believed to be deceased. Emergency crews arrived on the scene and confirmed the deaths of Paul Allan Turner, 89, and Beverly Jean Turner, 84. Both were found deceased with gunshot wounds.

Their son, 59-year-old Christopher Allan Turner, was also located on scene and detained. Throughout the course of the investigation probable cause was established that Christopher Turner was responsible for the deaths. Turner was taken into custody and is facing two charges of Murder in the First Degree. This investigation is ongoing and no further information is available at this time. More details will be released as they become available. This investigation is in its early stages. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 opt. 1. LCSO Case #25-0923

## Community Matters

### Where is the New Drain City Hall?

*Story by Rusty Savage*

The city of Drain has been in need of a new City Hall for quite some time, having now spent over 3 years at it's temporary location. The old City Hall, at 129 West C Ave, was dedicated in September of 1954. Originally designed to house City Hall, Sheriff's dept, Library and Civic Center but by 2019 the building had seen it's course when the city found black mold, asbestos and bulging floors and structural problems. Shortly afterwards, after some talk of using the Civic Center, the City Hall was eventually set up at 431 Payton Ave. That current location is on ND County Fire district property under a temporary agreement with the fire district and city. That agreement has been expired for at least 6 months but there, currently, appears to be no urgency to vacate. City council meetings and public functions have been comfortably accommodated at the Drain City Civic Center.

Back to the original building, it was formerly condemned in 2022 and was demolished in February of 2024. Once the building was demolished and the lot cleared, the talks by the City seemed to pick up momentum towards the construction of a new City Hall at the old location on West C Avenue. The city began to budget towards that eventuality and gave numerous reports as to the progress with design and funding. In the 2024 budget there was at least \$300,000 and the implication that more funds were possible and progress seemed to be in full swing for making it a reality.

Late last year and earlier this year the City Council began to make progress reports on the design options and asked for public input as to some more specific criteria and needs for the City Hall. The discussions centered on parking, spaces needed for county and city services as well as potential commercial spaces as well. At the beginning of 2025, by all appearances, the next steps would be architectural and design in nature. According to previous City Administrator, Jeni Stephens, there were no real obstacles in the funding aspects and now it was just a matter of logistics.

During this time, members of the public have requested updates on the progress and information relating to the design and funding, for which their answer was to wait and see. So it was with some surprise, at the February City Council meeting that the city was looking at a commercial property, basically a warehouse, away from downtown, even further than the Payton Ave location. The building is at 649 Fir St and at that meeting, the owner spoke to the council and expressed the price of the building was 1 million dollars. When asked about some specifics, there seemed to be some question as to a current tenant's term of lease and the exact nature of recent or prior inspections of the building. When investigating the neighborhood and input from some of the city residents, there are some questions as to the real feasibility of this location as a viable City Hall. Basically, residents who have been following this development feel removed from the discussions taking place and are looking for some transparency.

In a recent post on North Douglas Community Internet forum, the question was asked if residents thought City Hall should be located Downtown. First of all the responses were overwhelming for a downtown location. A variety of reasons were given, all worth noting - historical, convenient, logical choice, and due to the preparations made to date. The second most reactions were for cost concerns. Some were of the notion that a new City Hall would increase their taxes and be cost prohibitive. It's clear that information on plans to date, currently held funds and funding was not readily known to many residents responding. Some of those felt that cost alone should dictate remaining as it is.

The situation at hand is that something will have to be done, the City Hall can not remain indefinitely at it's current location. A solution is needed and up to the present, efforts

*Continued on Page 7*

## Veterans Corner

### Veterans Administration dismisses more than 1,000 employees

*Story by Scooter Brown*

The Department of Veterans Affairs fired 1,000 probationary workers and approximately 60 diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) staffers, as ordered by Trump's Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Those dismissed include non-bargaining unit probationary employees who have served less than a year in a competitive service appointment or who have served less than two years in an excepted service appointment.

The dismissals were effective immediately and communicated directly to each employee. As an additional safeguard to ensure VA benefits and services are not impacted, the first Senior Executive Service (SES) or SES-equivalent leader in a dismissed employee's chain of command can request that the employee be exempted from removal.

The dismissals are part of the Trump Administration's effort to make agencies more efficient, effective and responsive to the American People. To that end, VA is refocusing on its core mission: providing the best possible care and benefits to Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

The federal budget cuts targeting the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have sparked concern across the nation, particularly in Oregon, where state officials and advocacy groups are actively working to mitigate the impact on veterans. These cuts, which have led to staffing reductions and financial strain on essential services, threaten to disrupt healthcare access, research funding, and support programs that veterans rely on. In response, Oregon leaders have taken decisive action to safeguard these vital resources.

One of the most significant moves by Oregon has been its participation in a multi-state lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's freeze on federal payments. State officials argue that this sudden funding halt

### ODVA Concerned, Takes Action & Reassesses Budget

endangers essential programs, including those serving veterans, by blocking reimbursements critical to their continued operation. By joining the lawsuit, Oregon aims to prevent further financial instability and protect veterans from the fallout of abrupt budgetary changes.

The cuts have also placed Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) at risk of losing approximately \$80 million in federal funding. This loss would threaten critical medical research and clinical trials, many of which directly benefit veterans. Recognizing the potential damage, a federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order to halt the cuts, ensuring that ongoing research efforts—and the veterans who depend on them—are not immediately impacted.

Beyond legal action, Oregon's Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is reassessing its budget to address the funding shortfall. With the potential for reduced federal support, state officials may need to prioritize essential services and seek alternative funding sources to maintain veterans' healthcare, housing, and employment assistance programs. Additionally, concerns over staffing shortages at the Portland VA Medical Center highlight the risks posed by the cuts, with possible reductions in access to medical care for veterans.

While the full consequences of these budget reductions are still unfolding, Oregon's proactive approach demonstrates a commitment to protecting its veterans. Through legal challenges, strategic financial planning, and advocacy for sustained funding, the state is working to ensure that those who served their country receive the care and support they deserve. In the face of uncertainty, Oregon's response serves as a critical reminder that veterans' well-being must remain a top priority, regardless of political or fiscal changes at the federal level.

## Yoncalla Polar Plunge

*Continued from Front Page*

Yoncalla Junior Bella Sybrant, who is in her third year of involvement in Unified Sports and Special Olympics, stated that "The Polar Plunge is great because it gets students who are not normally interested in school activities, to participate. Being involved in Special Olympics has helped to bring

our school together, make friends with people you do not normally hang out with, and meet a ton of new people."

If you would like to donate to the Yoncalla Unified Sports or Special Olympics Oregon, please contact Matt Sybrant at Yoncalla High School at matt.sybrant@yoncalla.k12.or.us or 541-849-2175.







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## Oregon Employment Department Braces for Unemployment Claims for Federal Workers

Story by Milo Banks

Though the Oregon Employment Department does not have a count of how many federal workers have applied for unemployment benefits so far, they're tracking — and preparing.

In Oregon, there are more than 29,000 people in the state who work for the federal government — including 7,000 in the U.S. Postal Service; 6,400 in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and 3,400 in the U.S. Forest Service. Department leaders say they are ready to help, no matter how Oregonians lose their jobs.

"We're here with not only unemployment insurance, but we have the work source employment centers that are across the state that can help people find a new job, do some retraining and resume building, and all sorts of things like that," said Lindsy Leahy, director of Oregon Employment Department's unemployment insurance division.

"It is possible to see effects of changes at the federal government level occurring in other sectors of Oregon's economy as well, so we're doing our best to keep an eye on what's publicly announced as we get jobs reports in," added Gail Krumenauer, the department's state employment economist. The earliest the department thinks it will see those numbers will be in late March.

The Oregon Employment Department will also be looking for other workers affected by funding cuts in groups that rely on federal dollars, like researchers at universities and other organizations. But specifically for federal workers, there is a page on the Oregon Employment Department website meant to help them go through the process if they lose their jobs.

Oregon has tens of thousands of federal jobs across the state, and state economists are shedding light on what areas will be hit the hardest amid federal layoffs. While it remains unclear how many jobs and which agencies would see cuts due to the Trump administration's efforts to scale back government spending, impacts of job revenue loss may be felt more heavily in rural areas according to a report from Oregon State Employment Economist.

"In the first quarter of 2024, the top 10 counties by share of all jobs in federal government were rural areas.

Nearly 14% of all jobs in Sherman County were in federal government. The next-largest shares were in Grant (9%), Harney (8%), and Lake (7%) counties," notes the report released Wednesday by economists Anna Johnson and Gail Krumenauer.

The report notes that across Oregon, federal jobs pay 36% more than the average wages, but the gap is even more pronounced in rural areas.

A memo sent by senior officials in the Trump Administration, directs federal agency heads to develop plans for eliminating employee positions and consolidating programs. Thousands of probationary employees have already been fired, and now the Republican administration is turning its attention to career officials with civil service protection.

"The federal government is costly, inefficient, and deeply in debt. At the same time, it is not producing results for the American public. Instead, tax dollars are being siphoned off to fund unproductive and unnecessary programs that benefit radical interest groups while hurting hard-working American citizens," said the memo from Russell Vought, director of the White House's Office of Management and Budget, and Charles Ezell, acting director of the Office of Personnel Management, which functions as a human resources agency.

Vought was an author of Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for Trump's second term, and he has advocated for centralizing power under the presidency and dismantling federal bureaucracy and sets the stage for large-scale federal worker layoffs in the memo. It directs agencies to submit their plans for a reduction in force, which includes layoffs and position eliminations, by March 13. It directs agency heads to implement the plans no later than April 14 and to be completed no later than Sept 30th.

It is unclear which agencies would be impacted, the memo excludes the US Postal Service (among Oregon's largest federal employers), the Military and Federal Law Enforcement. It directs agencies or components that provide direct services to citizens (such as Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' health care) to delay implementation of staff cuts until the plans are approved.

# Schools' in Session

North Douglas Elementary School  
February Student of the Month:  
Juliette Short



Juliette is new to our district this year and is an excellent addition to the class. She is kind to the other students and respectful to the adults. She is energetic with a strong desire to help out and learn. I'm so glad to have Juliette in second grade.

North Douglas Middle School  
February Student of the Month:  
Chase Cyr



Chase is a genuinely good-hearted person and does not have a mean bone in his body. It takes a lot to be yourself and be kind as a teenage boy, and Chase should be commended for the young man he is

## Career and Technical Education at Yoncalla HS

Story by Chelsea Ross

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide skills to students that can lead them to jobs in the future. At YHS, we have one official program of study registered with the state and that is Natural Resources. We have two other programs, as well, Culinary and Shop (a catch-all name for Woods, Metals-Welding, small engines) where valuable skills are learned and can hopefully take a student into the job force.

CTE classes embrace education, passion, and curiosity to fuel the future for Oregon students. CTE programs use 21st century technology to support students in acquiring technical skills, professional practices, and academic knowledge critical for career success in high-wage, in-demand careers. Some students will go on to college and some will go directly into the workforce and get their post-secondary education through apprenticeships, journeyman programs, and on-the-job training.

Students that participate in CTE classes graduate at about a 10% higher percentage (93%)



rate than the national graduation average. These classes also result in a higher percentage of students going to college and persisting through graduation. Students taking both academic and technical courses have lower dropout rates and better achievement gains than other students. CTE has been found to increase school connectedness,



reduce behavioral problems related to suspensions and expulsions, and reduce dropout rates among all student groups — especially among students most at risk of dropping out.

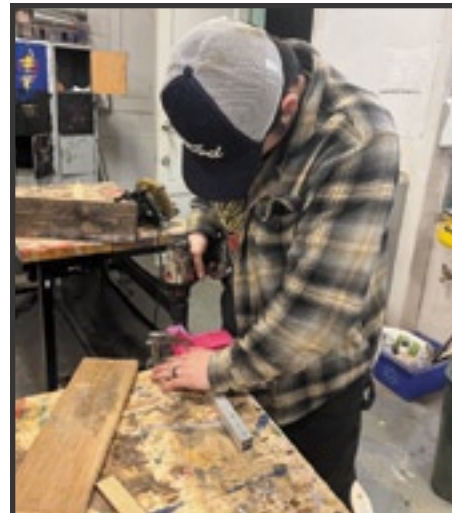
Janelle Wilde is the teacher for natural resources at Yoncalla High School. She's been teaching the program for 13 years, she enjoys getting to go outside and enjoy nature, and loves going on field labs.

Matt Sybrant is the culinary arts teacher at YHS. He has been teaching for a total of four years. Mr. Sybrant loves the fact that culinary is 100% project based learning.

Jessie McHaffie has been teaching since 2019. When YHS offered him the job as a shop teacher, he jumped at the opportunity. Shop is the



basic name for the program, but includes welding, wood working, and working on engines.



This month is national CTE month and showcases the skills and know-how our students are learning at YHS. Students have the opportunity to do a lot of hands-on learning with CTE classes and these classes are proving to be among the most popular at YHS.

## In Memoriam

**Eldon John Letsom**, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away of natural causes on February 20, 2025, he was 94.



Born on January 20, 1931, in the quaint town of Drain, Oregon, Eldon was the cherished son of John R. and Evea M. (Thiel) Letsom. On June 2, 1951, at the Methodist Church in Drain, he married his beloved Barbara Anderson. Their wedding was the first in that church. Eldon's love story with Barbara

was one of true partnership, lasting until her passing in 2016.

A devoted family man, Eldon's legacy is lovingly carried on by his children, Cynthia (Tony) McDonald, Linda (Mike) Bradley, Tim, and Jon Letsom. He found joy and laughter in the growth of his family, which includes 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Eldon cherished the moments spent with his family, instilling in them the values of kindness and generosity that he himself embodied. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, and his twin brothers, Roland and Richard.

Eldon's contributions to his community began with his industrious spirit, first emerging during his education at Drain Union High School. His career initially revolved around radio servicing, but he quickly found his niche as a business owner. Eldon revolutionized the local cable television scene, starting with Drain Cable and TV Appliance. He was the pioneer who brought the wonder of cable TV to Drain and later expanded his services to the communities of Yoncalla, Oakland, and Sutherlin. His commitment and on-call dedication ensured his neighbors were always connected.

After selling his cable business, Eldon ventured into other entrepreneurial pursuits, including owning Safelock Storage in Cottage Grove and later purchased a storage unit in Junction City where he expanded more storage units in town. His innovative spirit never waned, and he even took to the seas with a stint in commercial fishing. Eldon also owned several rentals in Eugene.

A man of varied interests, whether fishing, planting

Continued on Page 7

**Glenn Leroy Shaw**, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend was born on April 2, 1942,



to Arthur Glenn and Norella May (Hickethier) Shaw in Drain, Oregon, and it was here that he peacefully passed on February 5, 2025, with his family by his side.

Glenn married Linda Swearingen on May 5, 2001, celebrating 23 years together. Linda and

Glenn loved to travel and went on two Alaskan cruises and flew to Israel, Italy, and Brazil.

Glenn began his career at Smith River Lumber Company before moving to Weyerhaeuser. He went on to own and operate a successful landscaping business in Drain. He tended to the gardens, trees and hearts of his community until he decided to semi-retire at 62.

Glenn's generosity was legendary. He became synonymous with the spirit of giving at the North Douglas County fair, where his enthusiastic participation in pie auctions was a highlight, famously spending a thousand dollars during a spirited bidding war for a pie. He enjoyed the Drain quilting clubs, where, the ladies, touched by his support, crafted a special quilt for him. As a member of the Drain Assembly of God, he sought joy in serving his church, extending his helping hand to meet its needs, reflecting his faith-filled nature. Glenn's fondness for the outdoors was a part of his adventurous spirit. Fisherman, hunter, camper, and hiker, he exemplified vigor and vitality. Each year, he would lead his children and grandchildren into the serene retreat of Fawn Lake, creating lasting memories under open skies. His passion for adventure was matched only by his fervent support for his children and grandchildren's sporting events, a permanent fixture in the stands, cheering them on at every game.

Generosity, thoughtfulness, and a faith-filled character are the words that best describe Glenn Leroy Shaw. He is remembered with deep affection by his wife Linda, and daughters, Carol (Doug) Douglass, Melinda (Bill Nash) Cooper, Mary Adkisson, Lucinda (Joe)

Continued on Page 7



March Crossword Puzzle Sponsored by Studio Tattoo

February Crossword Solution

Across

1. Diner dish
5. Altar area
9. Nevada's Great \_\_\_\_ National Park
14. Enough, for some
15. Soft French cheese
16. Dwelling place
17. Storybook monster
18. Captain, e.g.
19. Layered rock
20. Wrestling hold
22. Preserved, in a way
23. Austrian peak
24. Horse's tidbit
25. Letter opener
26. Send the wrong way
29. Fourposter, e.g.
32. Glasses, briefly
34. Classic Atari game of the 1980's
36. Graph or mobile starter
37. Give it \_\_\_\_
38. Marine growth
39. Four-run homer
42. Drunk as a skunk
43. Moray, e.g.
44. Without reluctance
46. Minuscule
47. Score of zero
48. Apply gently
51. Packing a punch
54. Tear
56. Pitcher's place
57. Cast a ballot
58. "Nay" sayer

59. Cantilevered window
60. Revered one
61. Heroin, slangily
62. Netflix category
63. Eagle's roost (var.)
64. Roll-call response
- Down
1. Bit of an uproar
2. California slugger
3. Recycling material
4. Pay attention to
5. Overseas
6. Almost
7. Make, as a putt
8. Cartoonish squeal
9. Fragrant rice

10. Find despicable
11. Linger in the tub
12. Doing nothing
13. Call for
21. Red ink amount
22. Religious offshoot
25. Part of LCD, in math
27. Computer symbol
28. Buick model
29. Greek restaurant performance
30. Drop-off point
31. Out of juice
32. Herb in stuffing
33. Squeaky clean
35. Sandbox toy

40. Taper off
41. Croon a tune
42. Look up and down
45. " \_\_\_\_ done!"
46. Printer need
49. Perfume base
50. Carpet color
51. E.P.A. concern
52. Hightailed it
53. Make a mess of
54. Prospector's find
55. Poison ivy woe
57. By way of



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Event Calendar on Page 7

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 ☁️ 57° 42°
2 ☁️ 54° 38°	3 ☁️ 58° 37°	4 ☁️ 56° 36°	5 ☁️ 57° 39°	6 ☁️ 58° 41°	7 ☁️ 59° 42°	8 ☁️ 54° 41°
9 ☁️ 54° 40°	10 ☁️ 53° 41°	11 ☁️ 56° 36°	12 ☁️ 50° 40°	13 ☁️ 51° 35°	14 ☁️ 56° 38°	15 ☁️ 58° 40°
16 ☁️ 52° 36°	17 ☁️ 55° 38°	18 ☁️ 51° 40°	19 ☁️ 52° 40°	20 ☁️ 52° 34°	21 ☁️ 51° 33°	22 ☁️ 51° 39°
23 ☁️ 52° 38°	24 ☁️ 53° 35°	25 ☁️ 52° 34°	26 ☁️ 51° 35°	27 ☁️ 52° 38°	28 ☁️ 53° 41°	29 ☁️ 54° 36°
30 ☁️ 53° 34°	31 ☁️ 52° 33°					



413 Umpqua HWY38, Drain Oregon



Continued from Page 5

fruit trees on his ranch, camping at Crescent Lake, or adventuring on his tote goat, nature was Eldon's haven. He possessed incredible skill as an organ player, filling gatherings with melody and warmth.

Described as kind, friendly, and handy, Eldon's kindness extended beyond his family, touching all who knew him through his helping hands and kindness.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and interment to follow at East Drain Cemetery.

Continued from Page 5

Hatfield; stepsons Jon (Cassie) Neil, Brian Levenhagen; stepdaughter Shauna Ashley; his sister, Dora Skiles; and a legacy that includes 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He now joins his brother Donny Shaw and grandson Trevor Metz, who had preceded him in death. A private graveside service will be held at Drain City Cemetery. There will be a memorial service at the Drain Assembly of God, February 15, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Continued from Page 3

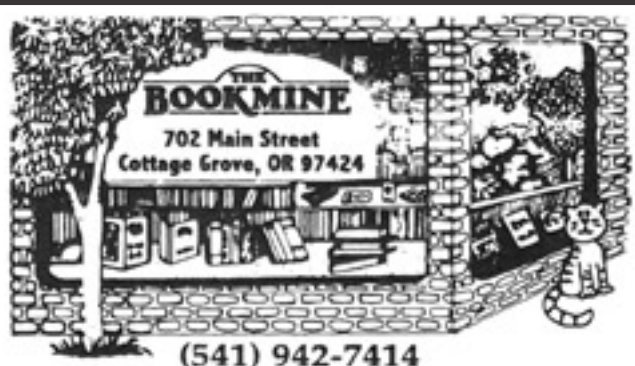
have been hit and miss and miss again. Residents and city officials deserve an appropriate and functional municipal hall to reflect the needs and requirements of residents and citizens of the city. City officials should be transparent, forthcoming and forthright in their efforts and intentions in regard to this as with any public infrastructure project. If citizens are not included, then they should step forward and inquire as to what, where, why and how much? Drain city Council meetings are the second Monday of the month, 6 o'clock at the Civic Center, one is March 10th, residents can speak during Public comment.

Continued from Front Page

include SB 916, which would make striking workers eligible for unemployment benefits (for which employers pay); HB 3062, which would make developing industrial land within UGBs nearly impossible; and HB 2640, which would decriminalize certain types of theft, trespass and criminal mischief.

Oregon needs businesses to create jobs, support philanthropy and generate tax revenue. Dismissing their well-founded concerns about potentially damaging legislation is a surefire way to erode the conditions they need to thrive, harm the people they employ, chase private investment to other states and erode financial support for public services.

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