

# Ukiah Community Newsletter



Chiara Arduini, Jack Hsieh, Alvin Fu and Paula Lo Sardo pose with Santa Casey Levi at the Christmas Program.



Chyanne Montee and Brooke Harrison wait to perform in "Santa Has a Sunburn" at the school Christmas Program.

## Ukiah Christmas Album



Elizabeth Enriquez and Nicole Edmonds share candy gifts.



Stephanie Picard ladles out hot chocolate for kids who helped hang Christmas lights at the park.



Colton Schock hands out candy canes at the park.



Left, Morgan Montee, Belle Orr, James Montee, Jordon Hartzog and Alex Knudson sing "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" at the school Christmas Program.

Right, students visit Smokey at the North Fork John Day Ranger Station. The kids listened to Christmas safety tips, hung handmade decorations on the Christmas tree and had cocoa and cookies.



## Council Okays Lift Station Upgrade

The Ukiah City Council has approved a \$263,000 DEQ loan and an agreement for engineering services with La Grande firm Anderson-Perry for upgrades to the sewer system lift station.

Council member Clint Barber emphasized the loan amount is an estimate. Anderson-Perry says similar projects in the area have been coming in below budget. The 20-year loan is at 2.71 percent interest.

Ukiah resident Walt Pettigrew spoke for many when he asked why the station needs an upgrade and why rates need to go up.

Council members described 34-year-old vacuum-primed pumps for which parts are no longer available. The project will replace those pumps with submersible units, replace the piping and build a 10x10-foot addition for an updated electrical system and a generator for backup power.

The city currently funds the sewer system with revenue from customers and money carried over from previous years. Higher rates will make the system financially self-sustaining and cover payments on the new loan. The old loan for the existing system will be paid off in five years.

Mayor Carole Picard said the city recently raised the base rate by \$3, the first increase in 10 years.

"We should have been raising rates all along to cover expenses and inflation. We got bit and suddenly the sewer fund was in deep trouble," Picard said, referring to large payments during the past year for deferred maintenance.

The council appointed a committee to recommend new rates at the February 7 meeting.

Work begins next summer and goes through the fall. The first loan payment is due in October 2014.

Rates, however, will probably go up before spring.

## Post Office Stays Open!

"Ukiah is no longer under study for discontinuance. Ukiah is out of that process and in okay shape," said Kerry Jeffrey, U.S. Postal Service customer relations coordinator in Portland.

Twenty regional post offices have been removed from the closure list. This action is separate from a recent six-month nationwide delay in closures. The decision was made because the post offices, which include Crane, Harper, Imnaha, Seneca and Unity, are all in remote areas.

**Meetings and Events**

Ukiah City Council meets in the Senior Center at 7 p.m. on the first Tues. of the month. January's meeting is set for the 10th.

Ukiah School Board meets in the school at 7 p.m. on the second Wed. or Thurs. of the month.

Stitch & Chatter Quilters meet in the Presbyterian Church on Wed. and Sat.

Lunch is served at the Senior Center every Fri. at 11:30 a.m.

The Ukiah Food Pantry is open once a month at the Presbyterian Church from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Check the church reader board for dates.

**January Senior Lunch Menu**

Jan. 6--Meatloaf, baked potato with butter and sour cream, mixed vegetables, cabbage salad, fruit cup, dinner roll, ice cream.

Jan. 13--Chicken Alfredo over noodles, peas/carrots, grilled bread, cottage cheese, fruit, banana cream pie.

Jan. 20--Salisbury steak, brown gravy, mushrooms and onions, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuit, fruit, cake.

Jan. 27--Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit cup, brownie.

Suggested donation - Seniors \$3.50 all others pay \$6.00

**Numbers to Know**

Ukiah Library	541-427-3735
Ukiah Post Office	541-427-3332
Ukiah School	541-427-3731
Ukiah Senior Center	541-427-3012
NFJD Ranger Station	541-427-3231
Oregon State Police	541-276-2121
Umatilla Sheriff	541-966-3650
To report a wildfire	911

**Ukiah's Newest Residents**



Some people move to Ukiah to work, some to retire. And some are just lucky enough to be born here. Jodi Page Cunningham, left, was born on May 6, 2011 to Jayson and Joanna Cunningham. Ian Kinney, right, was born on June 19, 2011 (Father's Day) to Andy and Sara (Gilliland) Kinney. Ian's proud grandfather, Wayne Gilliland, notes that the boy is a 9th generation Ukiahan. Photo by Sara Kinney.

**City Council Notes**

The council approved lift station improvements after public discussion at its December meeting. Story on page 1.

The water system's chlorination pump has been down since February. The city's insurance company is checking to see if the damage is covered. Council member Clint Barber criticized the public works department for lack of maintenance. Barber removed the pump and is looking for parts.

The volunteer fire department reported three fires this year, one in the park and two grass fires. Firefighters responded to one of the grass fires by parking the truck at the city limits in case the flames turned toward Ukiah. The VFD does not respond to fires outside the city.

The city will accept wastewater from septic pumping and portable toilets at rates comparable to those of other communities.

Vehicles, equipment and piles of fire-

wood are blocking water meters and manholes on South Mill and the west end of Waid streets, as well as restricting access for emergency vehicles. The city will send a letter to the residents asking them to remove their property from the street right-of-ways.

The next council meeting is set for January 10 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

**School Board Meets**

*By Jun Heo and Paula Lo Sardo*

All exchange students attended and helped decorate the Senior Center for Thanksgiving dinner.

For the Christmas Program the kids made banners of their counties and gave speeches about their Christmas traditions. Pine cone wreaths were handed out as door prizes.

School resumes after Christmas break on Tuesday, January 3.

The student who broke into the school and damaged the safe has been suspended, with possible expulsion.

The next school board meeting is Thursday, January 12 at 7 p.m. at the school.

**Correction**

In the December issue the community members contributing to the Thanksgiving Dinner also included Becky and Ken Billings, Anne Coote, Laura Orr and Ruth Smith. The school purchased two turkeys and a ham.

**City of Ukiah**

PO Box 265  
Ukiah, OR 97880  
Phone 541-427-3900  
Fax 541-427-3902

email [CityofUkiah@centurytel.net](mailto:CityofUkiah@centurytel.net)

Carole Picard, Mayor  
Council members Clint Barber, Rose Gatens, Linda Kerr and Randy Scarlett

Cabins - R.V. Spaces  
Bunk Houses - Tent Spots  
Shower House and  
Bikers Always Welcome

503 E. Main  
P.O. Box 127  
Ukiah, Oregon 97880

**541-427-3352**



Dan and Louise  
McKinnon

Camas Creek Bible Fellowship  
Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
Everyone invited!

Sunday School for children 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for adults 9 a.m.

Weekly Home Bible Studies  
6 p.m. Thursdays

For more information call  
Pastor Ray Contreras  
541-427-3720



Ukiah Profile

# Dan Korber, Keeping the School Open



"People in the community are always welcome here," says Ukiah School Superintendent Dan Korber. "If they have any questions please come up and talk."

What does the administrator of a very small school district do all day?

"Whatever comes up," says Ukiah School Superintendent Dan Korber. "You've got to know something about all these different areas. If the toilets are plugged and maintenance is gone on a trip with the kids, you go fix the toilet."

His big job, though, is simply keeping the school open.

"That's been the school board's goal since I've been here, but with all the cuts the legislature is talking about it is harder and harder to do in rural Oregon," Dan says.

Faced with only a handful of local students and low staff turnover, Dan sees nowhere left to cut the budget. That leaves two choices--bring in more students through international programs or consolidate with another district. So far the board has opted for the first.

"The school board is a liaison with the community. They're my bosses, and I do what they want," Dan says.

Dan came to Ukiah in 1995 after working as a middle school principal in Bend/La Pine. He wanted to get back to a small district like the ones where he taught social studies and P.E. for 17 years in Montana and Alaska.

"You get to meet all the people and know everyone. It's easier to get things done," Dan says.

Dan grew up in Billings, Mont., studied education at Eastern Montana College and started teaching in 1972. He holds a master's in administration from the University of Alaska.

"I originally went into teaching because I enjoyed coaching, and I've been lucky enough to coach just about everything," Dan says. "But now I'm getting pretty old for coaching and we've got good people to do it."

His philosophy is to hire good people and get out of their way. "I've always been more of a stand back and be a cheerleader," he says. "Give credit where credit is due. The kids and the teachers, they are the ones doing the work."



Barb McCormack and Ruth Smith are regulars at Ukiah's Wednesday night bingo games.

### Get Ready for Bingo!

Bingo starts on Wednesday, January 4 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center and continues on Wednesday evenings until March.

The Battle Mountain AmVets Auxiliary puts the games on as a community fundraiser. Money goes to the Ukiah Food Pantry, scholarships and help for individuals and families in need.

Cards are 50 cents each per game, with the final game of blackout at \$1 per card. Ten games plus blackout are played each evening. Tom Gatens calls, with help from Barb McCormack.

Many people bring food, but that's not required says Ruth Smith. The crowd of 25 to 30 players usually includes seniors, families and teens.



The Lady Cougars. Front row--Brittni Gulden, Falica Steelman. Middle row--Toni Dong, Paula Lo Sardo, Elise Bjornstad, Pim Deewong, Chiara Arduini, Gun Wiriyasajja, Marie Remmen, Phuan Thai-nguan, Kate Tatiyaruagnkij. Back row--Sylwester Ciba--team mascot? Photo by Andreas Moreno.

## Basketball Season in Full Swing

*By Jun Heo and Tyler Lynch*

On Friday, December 16, the Ukiah Cougars had a game in Helix. The girls' junior varsity game was first. They played better than before. At first they got 6 points but then they were reversed.

They almost caught up with Helix's score, but at the last Helix concentrated in the game and won with 28 points to Ukiah's 24. The cougar boys also played and won a good game.



Ukiah Cougar Jack Hsieh, blocked by Helix Grizzlies, looks for an opening to pass to Ricardo Maciel or Chad Billings during a recent game. Ukiah has three home games in January 2012. Photo by Elise Bjornstad.

### January Home Basketball Games

- January. 6, Fri., Ukiah plays Huntington 6 p.m.
- January. 20, Fri., Ukiah plays Long Creek 6 p.m.
- January. 21, Sat., Ukiah plays Monument/Dayville 2 p.m.

The Ukiah Community Newsletter is published monthly by the City of Ukiah. Suggestions, comments, complaints, upcoming events? Contact Lee Farren, 541-427-3047 or [leefarren@centurytel.net](mailto:leefarren@centurytel.net). Ads are \$30 and \$15. To place an ad contact Linda Kerr at 541-427-3109 or [happyplane22@hotmail.com](mailto:happyplane22@hotmail.com)

# In Memoriam



Ted Corley

## Theodore "Ted" Corley, 1922-2011

Theodore Wilford "Ted" Corley died Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at his home in Pendleton, at the age of 89.

Mr. Corley was born to Wilford and Frances Corley October 27, 1922 in Albee, Oregon. He lived in the Albee and Ukiah areas most of his life. He graduated from Ukiah High School in 1940 and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. After the war he owned and operated a cattle ranch in Albee, worked for the State Forestry and then for the Oregon State Highway Department. In June 1953 he married Ruth Lawhead Helmick. They were married for 58 1/2 years.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, son Mike Helmick and daughter Patti Graham, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Wayne Corley and his daughter Kathy Corley.

Memorial services will be held at a later date in Ukiah..

## School break-in

Ukiah School was broken into three times in late November and early December. Two attempts were made to open the office safe and money and candy were taken from a classroom.

One student has been suspended with a possible expulsion. Charges have not yet been filed and the investigation by the county sheriff's office is ongoing.

"We have one definite suspect, a juvenile, but we don't believe he was alone," said Sergeant Tawin Compton.

The 1940's-era safe, which contained cash, travelers checks and passports belonging to international students, was badly damaged and needs to be replaced. Property damage is estimated at \$2700.

## Fire Fines

The Umatilla County Court has imposed \$154 fines on Ron Fagg and on Edward Shank for grass fires that escaped from their properties in October.



Dan Wortman

## Daniel Ray Wortman, 1947-2011

Daniel Ray Wortman, 64, of Ukiah, died Friday, December 16, 2011 at the home of his sister in Union. He was buried at the Ukiah Cemetery on December 20 after funeral services at Camas Creek Bible Church.

Daniel was born January 3, 1947 in La Grande to Raymond Ansel Wortman and Susan Eula Brown Wortman. He was raised in Ukiah and graduated from Ukiah High School. Daniel served in the U.S. Army as a Green Beret in the Special Forces. He was employed as a timber faller until his retirement. He was a generous man who helped many people.

Daniel is survived by his son and wife, Tony and Mary Lou Clark of Portland, Oregon; his sister and her spouse, Becky and Tim Jordan of Union, his nephews, Hoss and Colt Haney.



**UKIAH THICKET**  
FULL SERVICE CAFE AND BAR

108 E. MAIN ST. HWY 244  
UKIAH, OREGON

541-427-3089

Open 7 days a week  
Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
*Kid's Menu Available*

Try our Elk Burgers!

DON'T MISS  
TACO  
TUESDAY



**Raffle**

Thanksgiving Raffle tickets available until they sell out

**TRADITIONAL AND VIDEO LOTTERY**

Check our website for more information and specials - [www.ukiahthicket.com](http://www.ukiahthicket.com) and friend us on Facebook.





**Rocky Mikesell**  
PRINCIPAL BROKER

Ph: 541.379.8690  
Fx: 866.858.8491

2239 SW Ladow Ave.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

[rockymikesell@msn.com](mailto:rockymikesell@msn.com)

**GRANNY'S**  
UKIAH ♦ OREGON

Forest & Kim Rhinehart  
541-427-3449  
202 Main Street  
Ukiah, Oregon



Hot Deli Food  
ATV Permits  
Christmas Tree Permits