

Ukiah Community Newsletter

March 2013

Volume 3, Issue 3



Ray Contreras and friends welcome visitors to the newly-built Ukiah Senior Center in 2004.

The Wildhorse Foundation has awarded the City of Ukiah a \$3645 grant for a roll-down door at the Senior Center.

This is not the first time Wildhorse has come through for Ukiah. Over the past 10 years the foundation has awarded the city \$18,645 for the Senior Center and \$15,000 to renovate the firehall. The community garden received \$2000 and the Ukiah Library and Ukiah School another \$30,000. That's a total is \$65,645 in 10 separate grants.

The Wildhorse Foundation was established in 2001 to formalize charitable giv-

Wildhorse Helps Fund Senior Center

ing by the Wildhorse Resort & Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Tiah DeGrofft administers the program. "Wildhorse contributes funding to our local communities for a couple of reasons," she wrote in an email. "First and foremost, we are continuing the traditions of our tribal culture which has always welcomed in our neighbors and shared our commodities with them. . . . Additionally, upon signing our gaming compact with the State of Oregon, we committed to always giving 3% of our net gaming revenues back into our surrounding communities."

The foundation awards grants for education, public health and safety, gambling addict and environmental programs, the arts, cultural activities, salmon restoration and historic preservation.

Eligible organizations include local or tribal governments and charities that benefit the public in Umatilla, Union, Morrow and Wallowa counties. The foundation does not make grants to individuals or to religious or lobbying groups.

In 2003 Wildhorse awarded \$10,000 for the newly-completed Senior Center. "That really came in handy," said City Planner Laura Foley. "I don't know how we would have furnished the Senior Center without it." An additional \$5000 in 2005 paid for landscaping around the building.

A roll-down door between the kitchen and the main room, included in the original project, was eliminated to reduce costs. Since then meetings have been conducted to the accompaniment of humming and groans from the refrigerator and freezer so loud that participants have trouble hearing one another.

The door will also reduce kitchen noise in the main room during meal preparation. The project involves some carpentry and two locks.

"The door will lock, but the kitchen will still be available when the building is rented," Foley said. "The main purpose is to reduce noise in the building."

The door will be installed sometime this summer.

Local Weather Station Up and Running

Ukiah residents can once again get accurate daily weather conditions on the National Weather Service website at <http://forecast.weather.gov>.

After the death of Ukiah resident Dave White last August, the NWS relied on data from Battle Mountain for current conditions and forecasts. White, an official weather and climate observer, made manual weather observations and also provided data from his own automated weather station.

Before that, the NWS data was manually collected from a facility at the fire office of the North Fork John Day Ranger District, but during the summer fire personnel were often gone, according to Dennis Hull, meteorologist at the Pendleton NWS office.

Last month Doug Stroud took over, using his own equipment mounted on his roof and a computer interface, or data logger, on loan from the NWS. A webcam at the school provides additional information on visibility, clouds and snow cover.

"This is my second or third weather station," Stroud said. "Dennis Hull was up here and saw the unit. He'll drive around



Doug Stroud monitors data from his weather station on a small display screen

town and look for weather stations, then see if he can get them interested in tying in with the weather service."

Stroud's unit is fully automated and provides data directly to the Pendleton NWS without manual reporting. Stroud also gets the readings on a display on his desk.

Location is important. The weather station must be above roof height and away from radio interference. The big trees around the school, for instance, make it unsuitable.

"And up here on the hill is ideal," Stroud said. "Temperatures will vary downtown and wind situation is different. You get a true reading of wind direction up here."

Right now Stroud and science teacher Laura Orr are raising \$200 to purchase a



Stroud's weather station runs on a small solar panel and transmits data by radio.

data logger to replace the one on loan from the NWS. At the end of February they had collected about half the amount. Donations can be made at Ukiah School.

The NWS does not have the funding to purchase full weather stations-- \$500 each--for public facilities. "We are trying to leverage suitable equipment that is already in place and create partnerships to provide that weather data to as many people as possible," Dennis Hull said.

Ukiah weather data is also available on NOAA's weather radio at 162.475 MHz.

"All of this hopefully will lead to better forecasts so people can plan their day and not get caught in any surprise weather," Hull said.

Meetings and Events

Ukiah City Council, Senior Center, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

Blood Pressure Clinic, Fri., March 8, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center.

Sunday Supper, March 10 and 24, 5 p.m. at the Senior Center. \$6, children free.

Ukiah School Board, Ukiah School, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. Technology Student Association students will give presentations on projects that took first and second places at the February TSA competition at BMCC.

Silent Auction and Raffle sponsored by Friends of Ukiah Library, Wed., March 20, 6 p.m. at the library. A quilt, an eight-piece china set and a wine basket will be raffled. Free soup and bread dinner. Proceeds go to purchase books, movies and audio books for the library.

Stitch & Chatter Quilters, Presbyterian Church, Wed. and Sat.

Senior lunch, Senior Center, 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Bingo! Wed. evenings, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Senior Lunch Menu

March 8--Fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, cabbage salad, fruit, biscuit, ice cream.

March 15--Corned beef and cabbage, red potatoes and carrots, roll, fruit, green cake.

March 22--Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, tossed salad, fruit cup, garlic bread, pudding delight.

March 29--Easter Dinner--Ham, potatoes au gratin, mixed vegetables, cottage cheese/fruit, roll, apple crisp.

April 5--German sausage, sauerkraut, scalloped potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese/fruit, toasted bread, ice cream.

Seniors--suggested donation \$3.50
All others \$6.00



Ukiah School students visited the Elkhorn Wildlife Area near North Powder in January. The ODFW operates 10 sites at the area to feed 1,400 elk and 800 deer during the winter months in an effort to keep them from feeding on agricultural lands. The trip was a reward for students who took part in the schools annual reading challenge. "The kids are very proud that they know everything about elk now," teacher Norma Barber said. Photo by Anne Coote.

March City Council

The City Council hired Stephanie Picard to read water meters. She will take up her new duties on April 8.

Citycounty Insurance Services (CCI) is raising Ukiah's rates 8.9 percent, due to statewide increases in workers compensation claims. The increase is not related to the city's fire protection ranking.

A \$300 risk management incentive from CCI will pay for Clint Barber to attend the wastewater management school.

Wildhorse funding for the pull-down door at the Senior Center has been received. The council approved a contract for Mike Becker General Contractor to install the door.

A plate on the lift station water meter froze and water to the lift station is turned off until it can be replaced.

The grate at the fireplace in the park will be removed. The city is investigating how best to manage the fireplace.

City resident Ted Alford asked about the status of ditch cleanouts on Despain and Main streets. Barber said he would talk to Umatilla County Roads and ODOT.

Stephanie Picard proposed a joint city-Forest Service cleanup in May. The council tabled discussion until April, when it will know more about available funds.

February School Board

On February 4 32 students attended a Portland Opera To Go performance of "The Magic Flute. On March 13 high school students will attend a Leadership Conference at BMCC where engineers will talk about careers in their field.

Kylie McClintock of Cockburn & McClintock, presented an unqualified audit opinion--"The best we can issue," she said. She recommended that ASB fund records be computerized and that the superintendent review and initial bank statements and financial reports monthly. Missing certificates noted in the audit have been added to the files of two teachers.

Current funding for the district is down by about \$2400, but expenses are up with a big adjustment for PERS.

A move is afoot to consolidate the state's educational service districts and possibly to shift the portion of their funding that comes from the state to the school districts they serve.

The school board seats held by Dee Croteau, Walt Pettigrew and Ed Farren are up for election in May.

The Salem Heights church group will rent the building again this June.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 13.

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Ukiah Profile

Linda Kerr: "I can't see living anywhere else."



Linda Kerr moved back to Ukiah after an absence of 45 years.

Linda Kerr came back to Ukiah in 2009 and has no plans to leave again.

Linda's family, the Jordans, owned the Battle Mountain Service Station and Café before moving to Ukiah 1962. After two years helping her mother, Marguerite Jor-

dan, run the Trail Room café, Linda graduated from Ukiah High School in 1964.

That year she met Richard Kerr, an Alaska resident visiting his grandmother in Ukiah. Determined to marry him, Linda worked her last cattle drive for Owen Ranch that spring in order to get enough money to go to Alaska.

"I got married in Alaska and rode up with my future brother-in-law and my mother. She didn't want to let me go but at 17 I was very independent," Linda says.

Linda lived in Anchorage for 28 years. She raised two children and began an extensive career in the travel and airline industries that eventually led her to London, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Spain, Switzerland, Austria and Mexico. Then, in 1997, feeling homesick and concerned about her mother's health, she swung almost full circle back to Pendleton.

Key Bank, her employer at the time, set her up with a home office, a new concept at the time. She lived and worked there for 12 years, until her stepfather died.

"Mom wanted to go home," Linda says. "I thought she would live with me in Pendleton, but she was just so lost."

Marguerite Jordan had lived on a ranch in Long Creek and at Ritter. Linda guessed one of those might be the home her mother wanted to return to, but traveling

so far was too much for her frail condition.

So Linda started bringing her up to Ukiah. When Bud Martin's house came up for sale Marguerite bought it and Linda transferred her home office to the remodeled back porch.

"What I found out is that my mother had Alzheimers," Linda says. "You can't bargain with that sort of thing."

In 2011 Linda bought a lot in the Van Doren subdivision and put up a modular house, hoping that the view would remind her mother of her beloved Long Creek.

"But again, I didn't realize that she wasn't there," Linda says. "Moving to Ukiah didn't make her happy but I found out in the long run that I like it."

Marguerite Jordan died in 2012.

Linda was appointed to the city council three years ago. She was interested because she remembered the town the way it was when she was a teenager, and she no longer saw some of the things that had made it a good place to grow up.

She has pushed to develop tourism in Ukiah by joining the Umatilla Tourism Board. She also chair of the Area Agency on Aging and a member of the Friends of Ukiah Library.

"I can't see living anywhere else," she says. "This location, on top of the hill, if you like the wind blowing and storms and rain, this is a great location. It offers me the peace and the freedom I'm searching for."

Get a Head Start on College at Ukiah High School

by Tyanna Billings, Ryan Wong and Minji Koo

Students at Ukiah High School can earn a full year of college credits before they even graduate.

Teachers Teresa Veach and Norma Barber offer 12 dual credit classes in math, business, writing, literature and speech. Dual credit classes count for both high school graduation and college credit at the same time. The college credits are currently offered through BMCC and EOU.

Veach finds that what works best for her is to teach the dual-credit classes at the college level and offer interested students the college credits for BMCC's \$10 fee.

Dual-credit students in Barber's classes have additional, higher-level assignments, some graded by teachers in other schools.

Speech students give a final speech at EOU.

"It's just a little tougher, because it is a college credit," Barber said.

The colleges' agreements with teachers ensure that they are as qualified as adjunct professors and teach to college standards.



Ukiah High School students Brittni Gulden and Tyanna Billings are earning college credits with dual-credit business classes while still in high school. Photo by Ryan Wong and Minji Koo.

Most Oregon public colleges will accept the credits. They could lead to any degree. Most degree programs, for instance, require speech and writing classes.

"A lot of the kids do go on to college and use the credits, but in the past there has not been much tracking," said Jackie Bartron, dual credit specialist at BMCC.

The dual credit program, which has been around for about 20 years, fits neatly into Oregon's 40-40-20 plan to have 80 percent of high school graduates go on to college by 2025.

"The way to get there is to have them gain credits for what they want to do while they are in high school," Barber said.

Senior Brittni Gulden has taken a dual credit keyboarding class and is now working on one in calculating machines.

"Since I'm a senior and need college credits, it's easiest to do it right now. It's cheaper and I'll need less in college," Gulden said.

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In Memoriam

Arlene and Ethan Pugsley

Arlene and Ethan Pugsley died within two weeks of each other in February. They will be buried together in the Ukiah Cemetery later in March.

Arlene (Golden) Pugsley, 87, died on Feb. 11 in Pendleton. A memorial service was held on Feb. 15.

Mrs. Pugsley was born Dec. 14, 1925 in Crawford, Neb. In 1935 the family moved to a ranch in Wyoming, then to Layton, Utah, where Arlene's father worked at Hill Air Force Base. Arlene graduated from Davis HS in Layton in 1945 and worked at Hill AFD until she married her longtime friend Ethan Pugsley later than year.

Ethan Allen Pugsley, 90, died on Feb. 28 in Pendleton. He was born in Franklin County, Neb. on June 17, 1922 and served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during WWII.

The Pugsleys moved to Pendleton in 1945 and lived there for 28 years. Ethan worked for the school district. Arlene, an excellent seamstress, did alterations for many local clothing stores.

In 1973, they bought their 17-acre dream plot on Albee Road near Ukiah. They built a home and spent the most enjoyable years of their lives raising cattle and watching the wildlife in their meadow. They lived there until health issues forced them to move closer to family in Grants Pass and then Pendleton.

Ethan loved fishing and spending time in the mountains and raising his livestock. Both Arlene and Ethan were members of the Battle Mountain AmVets Auxiliary.

The Pugsleys are survived by daughter and son-in-law Janet and Bob Bostwick of Helix, son and daughter-in-law Robert and Nancy Pugsley of Grants Pass, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.



Signs of Spring

- Robins and blackbirds are back.
- Pussy willows showing along Camas Creek.
- Crocus and daffodil spears poking up in gardens.
- Horses are shedding.
- Dinner in daylight.



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 To receive the newsletter by email, contact Linda Kerr at happylane22@hotmail.com. The newsletter is also available online at www.ukiahoregon.org

Ukiah History

From The Memoirs of William Dwight Sellers

Dwight Sellers was born in Pleasant Hill, Ore., in 1889. Because he was "a sorter puny little cuss," the doctor recommended the family take him to a high, dry climate. His grandfather had moved to Ukiah, Ore., with others from Ukiah, Calif., so Dwight's family relocated "to this new county" as well.

"Some of the people coming to Ukiah, Oregon from Ukiah, California, were four Sturdivant brothers and Jim Huston. Each settled down in this large valley between two large mountains covered with lush wild camas meadows. Cable and Owens Creeks were running through the valley emptying into the John Day River. There was lots of timber: fir, pine, and tamarack galore. The hills were covered with bunch grass. This grass had the strength of steel. Horses raised there were tough, wild and wicked. The hills were lousy with wild cayuses. The snow would get deep in winter but those little cayuses would paw their way to the grass and climb around the rocks for feed where angels feared to tread.

"There were lots of rattlesnakes along the creeks. There were four of us boys the same age. At all times, you would see at least two of us together, generally getting into mischief. We would saunter down the creeks fishing, killing snakes and catching frogs.

"I have been told one reason it was known as Camas Prairie, was because the Indians would come there to dig camas a sorter onion plant, which they were very fond of. The Indians would come in droves to dig, dry, make a powder, and mix it with their grub. They would do the same with kouse."

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