

Port Orford Today!

Port Orford's most popular newspaper
Distributed from Bandon to Gold Beach

Thursday, January 18, 1996

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Evan & Valerie Kramer, Owners
832 Highway 101, P.O. Box 49
Port Orford, OR 97465

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Annual Weather Statistics
Insidel

History In The Making By Evan Kramer

The Point Orford Heritage Society held an open house at the Coast Guard lifeboat station this past Monday afternoon on a day that alternated between sunshine and rain every five minutes. Society board members Viola Cuatt and Martha Weaver-Britell welcomed me as I entered for my first visit inside the building. I often drive up to Port Orford Heads State Park on Coast Guard Hill and walk along the trail to the lookout point or out to the heads but this was the first time since I've been here that the lifeboat station building was open and the public was welcome.

There is a large display case with many photos of the building and other buildings on the site from back when it was an active Coast Guard installation. Viola pointed out to me one building which she referred to as the "dog house". She told me during World War II the Coast Guard used to patrol the area beaches with dogs.

Some of the more interesting photos for me were those of the boat house and the boats located at the base of Coast Guard Hill in Nellie's Cove. If an emergency response was needed, the men would rush down a flight of 500 steps to the boat house where the boats were stored under cover. The doors would be opened and the boats would be lowered into the water on railroad tracks.

Martha Weaver-Britell took me on a tour of the three story building which includes a full basement with a coal room, and two floors which were used for housing and feeding the men who were stationed there. She said the building would be restored as historically accurately as possible and that there were plans to increase the amount of parking which currently is limited. The Heritage Society recently received a \$3,000 bed tax grant from the City of Port Orford which will be used to pay for part of the plumbing restoration. That work has already begun.

The lifeboat station building was built in 1935 and was in use by the Coast Guard and other groups up until 7 or 8 years ago. Ownership of the buildings has been transferred to the Oregon State Parks. Area parks superintendent Frank Eckley told me the Federal Government transferred ownership to the State with the stipulation it be used for recreational purposes. Eckley is the interim state parks manager and he told me he has applied for the permanent position. He told me the state parks derive 93% of their operating funds from the revenues they generate and that will be going up to 100% as general fund money is completely phased out of the State Parks budget. He lives in the one of the other prominent buildings on Coast Guard Hill which was at one time the commander's cottage.

This summer Oregon State University, the U.S. Forest Service, B.L.M. and State Parks are sponsoring a Preservation Field School that will be held at the lifeboat station building. The faculty and students will be housed elsewhere. Besides classroom work, the students will conduct research including a site plan for the area and doing repairs on some historic buildings such as putting a new roof on the Hughes House.

The Heritage Society is in the second year of a two year contract with State Parks to develop plans for the building as an interpretive center. Their area of responsibility will be with the interior of the building while State Parks will work on the outside. They are attempting to get the buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The Heritage Society, in my opinion, publishes an excellent newsletter on a quarterly basis which is one of the benefits of being a member.

Public Meetings

Port Orford Chamber of Commerce holds a membership meeting on Monday, January 22, at noon, at the Wheelhouse Restaurant.

The Port Orford City Council holds a continuation of their January 8 meeting on Monday, January 22, at 7:00pm. The council will consider a series of ordi-

Continued on Back Cover

REAL ESTATE & RENTALS

FOR RENT: American Legion Hall. For information call 332-8445 or 332-7730.

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CHIROPRACTOR BEN MCMAKIN seeing patients Tuesdays at 535 - 12th St. (behind Chevron). Tuesdays call 332-5205 any other time call Gold Beach at (503)247-0503 to schedule an appointment.

BANKRUPTCY, DIVORCE, Wills, Trusts, Deeds, - Join our list of satisfied customers. For a low cost, sensible non-lawyer alternative, call Summer Rain Services, 347-9196.

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CARPETS DIRTY? Need Janitorial Services? Call Sunrise Carpet Cleaning! Residential and commercial, licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call Cliff at 347-3164.

HELP WANTED

THE NORTH CURRY FAMILIES' & Children's Center (Port Orford is seeking qualified applicants for a Center Coordinator. This position is part time, \$14.10/hour, avg. 30 hr./week responsible for, coordinating interagency services, grant writing, board and community relations. Job description and application available at SCBEC, 1160 Newport, Coos Bay or North Curry County Annex, 1403 Oregon St., Port Orford. Send completed application, letter of interest, and resume to SCBEC, 1160 Newport (PO Box 1118), Coos Bay, OR 97420, phone 269-2013, FAX 267-0194. Closing date 1/19/96. EOE.

MISCELLANEOUS

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LEARN PUBLIC SPEAKING! Come to the Toastmasters Demonstration meeting at the Truculent Oyster Restaurant on 25 January 1996 at 6:30pm.

ART SUPPLIES - Hey, classes are starting! And BASS has a large supply of art supplies for every need... BASS 11th and Baltimore Bandon (near the Post Office) open Mon - Sat from 11 to 5.

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MAPLE BLOCK cutting board 2'x3'x1 1/2" \$25. Luggage 5 piece new \$135. Sony 3" liquid crystal color TV \$115, Polaroid SX-70 camera w/access \$35 OBO all 332-9039

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Classified Ads

\$2.75 for first 25 words

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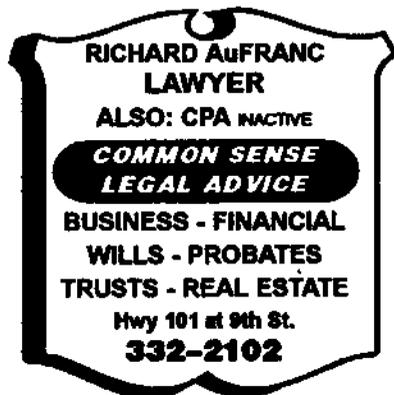
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Report on the Sewerage Spill

What Happened?

A pressure relief valve failed at the Wyoming street pump station causing an air lock to develop in the pipe between the pump and the destination treatment plant. The problem developed on the morning of January 8th. As a result of this failure, raw sewerage flowed from the manhole near the corner of Wyoming and Hamlet streets. The sewerage was a clear liquid with no solid content. City personnel estimated a total of one to two thousand gallons of liquid were lost. The entire quantity flowed down a short ditch into the City owned wetland just to the east of California Street.

The Chronology

The City public works was first made aware of the problem when a resident on Wyoming Street called City employee Keith Rowlings (who was on his lunch

break) at his home at about 12:20pm. Keith immediately went over to the pump station and started to work. The first call on the problem that was logged into the city hall was at about 12:30pm. Several more calls were recorded after this time. All of the public works staff were working on the problem before 1pm. The staff worked throughout the afternoon diagnosing and repairing the problem finally leaving about 6:30pm that night.

What is Happening Now?

Both the Oregon State Department of Health and the DEQ, Coos Bay Office were immediately notified and are following the remedial work. The City's main effort at this time is to make sure that no biological contamination exists in the affected areas, principally the wetland which received the great bulk of the effluent. Water samples are collected on a daily basis and analyzed for the presence of harmful bacteria.

What Steps Are Being Taken to Prevent a Reoccurrence?

There are ten sewerage pumping stations within the city limits. All but the Wyoming Street unit have worked for many years in the past without any problems. There have been similar problems on rare occasions in the past with this unit, but never of this magnitude. It is possible to provide an automatic, electronic warning system to provide early warning of system failures. It should be noted that all ten pumping units are inspected on a

daily basis by city personnel every working day. The failure occurred in spite of this inspection which must have been made just prior to the failure.

The Director of public works and the City manager are presently gathering cost information on an automated warning system for the Wyoming Street station. This information will be presented to the Council and public for their consideration.

Volunteers Needed

Port Orford-Langlois School District 2CJ is looking for volunteers to help form its annual budget. The budget process for 1996-97 is beginning and Port Orford-Langlois School District is looking to involve community and staff members in providing recommendations to the superintendent on how the budget evolves.

The District is inviting volunteers to serve on budget review teams. People who are interested in being on a budget review team have until February 23, 1996 to submit their names to the District Office. The first meeting will be held on March 6, 1996. People interested will be notified of the time and place.

Anyone interested may contact the Port Orford-Langlois School District office at 348-2337.

The budget review process is being patterned on one that received national recognition for the Lincoln County School District in Newport, Oregon.



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Remembrance

Remembering her 20th birthday on January 18th. Please donate to the *Porshia Roe Scholarship Fund*, U.S. Bank, Coquille.

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Port Orford Library News

Don't forget the Friends of the Library are having their book sale on January 20, 1996 from 9am till 4pm. It will be held in the Council Chambers. You can bring your donations of books, books on cassette, videos and phonograph records to the library until January 18th.

The Oregon State and most of the Federal Tax forms have arrived. We do not have the reproducible State forms yet.

Several new books have arrived: *Intensity* by Dean Koontz, *Contagion*, by Robin Cook, *Trial by Fire* by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg, *Prisoners of the Japanese*, by Gavan Daws, and *Finding Money for College*, 1996.

Video Available

A video tape was made of the special Port Orford/Langlois 2CJ public meeting on Tuesday, January 9. It is available at the Port Orford Library.

A "Thank You" to the loyal, fun loving, efficient staff of the Paradise Cafe that have made our endeavor so successful.

**Cooks: Christy Phillips
Gloria Grooton
Rita Wolfe
Kim Corvinus**

**Waitresses: Samie Leitch
Sherrill Smith
Pam Thomas
Kim Corvinus**

Dishroom: Jim "Always Ready" Kelly

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Meeting Notice

The monthly meeting of the Curry County Public Health Advisory Board will be held January 23, 1996 at 5pm in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the County Annex Building in Gold Beach. Any interested citizens are invited to attend.

Seagull Tax Service

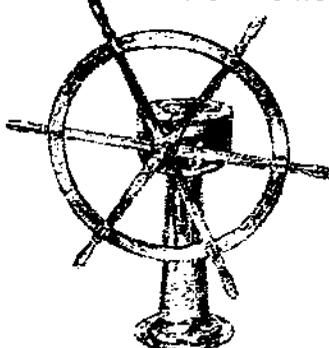
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Hours:

Mon.-Sat. 6:00am-8:00pm
Sun. 7:00am-7:00pm

News From Langlois Library by Tobe Porter, Library Director

We're starting the New Year off with a new program called "Fourth Friday," a monthly series of programs designed especially around topics of interest to adults. Kicking off this new program on Friday, January 26 at 7:00 pm, is Langlois resident Jeff Kerker who is Chef at Christophe at Face Rock. Jeff's presentation, "The Versatile Crepe," will sharpen your culinary skills and tempt your taste buds. In February (on the Fourth Friday) Financial Consultant Donna Stolle from Smith Barney Shearson, Inc. in Coos Bay will present the finer points of financial planning and investing. In March, let's go surfing...on the Internet. Yes, Langlois Public Library also received a State grant that will bring the Internet to our Library. Imagine, the world wide web in North Curry County!

Our children's programs are back on their regular schedules now. After school story time on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm; pre-school story time Thursdays at 10:00 am; Recreation Program Saturdays from 3-5:00 pm and our teen Read and Review Club on alternate Thursdays at 3:15 pm (beginning 1/11/96).

The Library will be closed on Friday and Saturday, January 19 and 20 for inventory. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause our patrons, but just think how nice it will be when it's completed.

1996 rings in many activities at the Langlois Public Library. We hope you will come check out all of them. Happy New Year, yes indeed!

Letter to the Editor,

With the election upon us and the two main parties getting all the media attention, we sometimes forget there are other choices. The Socialist Party has always stood for working people and human rights.

Jack Pruitt

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Letter to the Editor,

Much has been made, by the Republicans, of the push for smaller government and a balanced budget. I doubt if any of us would argue that waste should be eliminated in any context. In their righteous zeal to show they mean business, the Republicans have caused working folks who are federal employees to face personal financial crisis and are holding the elderly and the poor as sacrifices to cut spending.

Sending block grants to the states is not the answer because it does not come with any national standards for service delivery and some states will undoubtedly do better than others in meeting citizen needs. Corporations are being held harmless in the cutting and balancing game and continue to downsize in order to upgrade the profits and salaries at the top.

The Oregon Republicans would have us all vote Gordon Smith, a wealthy businessman who supports the Republican agenda to weigh the working class down with the burdens and save the tax benefits for those like Mr. Smith. Gordon Smith says he stands for family values, but he must mean the values of other



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millionaire families because his track record certainly doesn't show that he values paying wages that support working families or that he even knows what working for wages entails.

I switched from Republican to Democrat many years ago, after becoming disenchanting and disgusted with the narrow thinking, and lack of empathy for the working person the Republicans continue to display to this day. I urge everyone to vote, to vote Democrat and to vote for Ron Wyden for US Senate.

Barbara Eells, Chair

Chamber Elects New Officers

The Port Orford Chamber of Commerce met at noon on Monday at the Port and Starboard Restaurant. The first order of business was electing new officers for 1996. The Chamber Board of Directors unanimously elected the following people: Frank Smith, President; Ron Culbertson, Vice-President; Pat Campbell, Treasurer; Evan Kramer, Secretary. Lance Cox took his place on the Board of Directors having been elected as the newest member along with returning board members Al Luis, Pat Campbell and Dick Wold.

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Weather Data

Here are some additional weather facts that didn't fit our tables.

1995 Rainfall

Brookings/Harbor	95.48"
Gold Beach	87.97"
Port Orford	83.31"

Record Rainfall Amounts

Entire Year..... 1909 - 118.64"

Individual Months:

January	1909 ... 25.91"
February	1909 ... 20.29"
March	1938 ... 21.77"
April	1948 ... 13.85"
May	1963 ... 10.04"
June	1937 ... 10.56"
July	1968 7.29"
August	1953 4.45"
September	1914 ... 10.21"
October	1950 ... 20.94"
November	1909 ... 31.88"
December	1907 ... 25.32"

The annual Chamber awards dinner will be held on Saturday, February 3, at the American Legion Hall. The price of the tickets for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. There will be a choice of two main courses, those being prime rib or halibut. There will be a no-host bar starting at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm. The citizen of the year, business of the year and civic organization of the year will be announced at the dinner. Tickets will be sold in advance and can be purchased at the Chamber office located in Battle Rock Park. The phone number at the office is 332-8055.

28,800 External Modems	\$159.95
60watt Computer Speakers w/ power supply	\$34.95
7watt Computer Speakers	\$19.95
3.5" 1.44Mb DSHD preformatted Floppy Disks, box of 25	\$12.50
Sega Genesis control pads (how'd that get in here?)	\$14.95
1Mb, 30-pin, 3-chip SIMM's	\$39.95
Speed up your CD-ROM by a factor of 10! d-Time 10	\$39.95
By one Get one free CD-ROM's (buy one at regular price, get one of equal or lower price free!)	

Pentium 100 computer system \$2,149

Complete system including Intel Triton chipset motherboard, 16Mb RAM, 1.26Gb EIDE hard disk, Trident 9440 PCI SVGA video card (1Mb), Teac 1.44Mb floppy drive, 14" .28dp NI monitor, Mid-tower case, DOS 6.2, Windows 3.1, 101 key keyboard, mouse, Creative Labs 4x value multimedia Sound Blaster, CD-ROM, speakers and 11 titles. FCC Class B and Novell certified.

Upgrade your existing 386 or 486 computer!

Pentium 75	\$575
Pentium 90	\$630
Pentium 100	\$675
Pentium 120	\$720
Pentium 133	\$888

Price includes new Mid-tower case with 250 watt UL power supply, motherboard (Intel Triton chipset, 256k pipeline cache, Award BIOS, built-in 2-channel EIDE controller, 4 PCI / 4 ISA slots), CPU and fan. Price does not include installation (typically \$80.) Note: your existing RAM may not be compatible with the new motherboard.

The Downtown Fun Zone

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	High Temp		Low Temp		Avg High	Avg Low	Inches Rain	# Days Rain	Rainy Period		
	Month(s)	Temp	Month(s)	Temp					Month	Days	Inches
1995	Aug	77	Dec	32	60.9	47.5	83.31	164	Jan/Dec	27/24	19.47 / 16.25
1994	Sep	89	Nov	27	60.0	45.4	66.46	143	Nov / Dec	22 / 20	11.24 / 11.19
1993	Oct	82	Nov	27	61.0	45.7	72.61	165	Apr / Dec	27 / 16	13.04 / 14.78
1992	Aug	86	Dec	30	62.7	47.2	55.56	141	Dec	26	14.54
1991	Oct	88	Jan	27	61.4	45.5	55.53	127	Nov	23	7.61
1990	Sep	84	Dec	13	60.1	45.7	67.36	151	Jan	23	14.65
1989	Sep	86	Feb	19	60.6	45.0	57.46	136	Mar	30	16.03
1988	Sep	85	Jan	28	60.8	45.6	61.20	145	Nov	27	16.17
1987	Oct	89	Jan	27	62.3	46.3	70.66	126	Dec	23	22.77
1986	Oct	85	Dec	29	61.8	46.3	87.27	144	Jan	22	13.57
1985	Jul & Oct	81	Nov-Dec	27	60.5	43.6	45.89	122	Mar	18	8.60

	Temp High	Temp Low	Avg High	Avg Low	# Days Rain	Rain for Month	Most In 24hrs	Cumulative Rain For Year		1995
								Days	Inches	
Jan	63	35	55.5	44.7	27	19.47	2.05	27	19.47	
Feb	69	34	56.6	44.3	8	3.27	1.50	35	22.74	
Mar	68	33	57.7	42.0	19	12.87	1.68	54	35.61	
Apr	68	35	56.5	42.5	21	8.52	1.20	75	44.13	
May	66	42	60.0	47.7	10	2.41	.72	85	46.54	
Jun	76	43	62.4	49.7	12	4.75	1.12	97	51.29	
Jul	76	49	68.3	54.8	2	.12	.08	99	51.41	
Aug	77	44	68.8	52.5	4	.91	.35	103	52.32	
Sep	76	49	66.8	53.5	7	1.14	.61	110	53.46	
Oct	74	38	64.9	46.8	10	3.33	1.40	120	56.79	
Nov	65	34	57.1	47.0	20	10.27	2.11	140	67.06	
Dec	63	32	56.6	44.6	24	16.25	2.65	164	83.31	
Total '95	77	32	60.9	47.5						

	Number of Days in Temperature Range ('95)										1995
	(Highs)					(Lows)					
	80	70	60	50	40	50	40	30	20		
Jan			2	28		7	19	5			
Feb			9	15	4	3	21	4			
Mar			6	23	2	4	18	9			
Apr			6	24		1	22	7			
May			18	13		9	22				
Jun		2	17	11		18	12				
Jul		15	16			30	1				
Aug		13	18			28	3				
Sep		10	19	1		28	2				
Oct		7	20	4		5	25	1			
Nov			7	23		13	11	6			
Dec			5	26		7	17	7			
Total	0	47	143	168	7	153	173	39			

Port Orford
Weather Statistics 1995
 Courtesy of Gene Traglio
 owner of
Bonnie's Ice Cream Parlor

Compiled from:
 Data furnished by the City of Port Orford
 Public Utilities Department,
 Climatological Station Location: City
 Water Plant, north side Buffington Park
 Time of Observation: 8:30am daily

A Chorus of Cats by John Kinney

Over the past 30 years, our family has included cats named Kasey, Jamie, Lucy, Millie (registered as Millicent), Codie Classycat, and Framis (officially Framistan the Wyon).

No particular reason for the names, although we generally used names ending in "eee" sounds, since we weren't likely to give those names to human children, not liking the sound of name combinations like "Jenny Kinney."

Framis was a huge yellow part-Persian who got his second name when a friend's toddler-age daughter, Amber, first saw him, ran for cover behind my wife and shouted, pointing, "Wook! A Wyon!"

Amber's fierce insistence on Framis' wyonhood later sparked the following lyric:

Amber's Wyonsong

The wyon is a fearful beast;
He shows up where you want him least,
And makes a dreadful purring sound
And tiptoes all around.

He's king of his entire backyard;
You'll never catch him off his guard.
His claws can shred the toughest bark;
He pounces in the dark.

And when you'r walking, please beware,
Don't ever think he isn't there.
The clock can tick and he'll appear,
Now here, now there, now there, now here!

He chases dogs and other cats;
He chases squirrels and birds and rats.
He'll chase and catch you if you're slow.
Don't go where wyons go.

Oh, no! Don't go where wyons go!



Millie was notable for her personality,
and likewise inspired a lyric:

Millie The Grump

I knew a cat, she was sassy and fat,
And she growled and yowled and prowled
around the house all day.

She was fuzzy and gray, but she never
would play.

She preferred to sit around and grump!

(Chorus)

Millie the grump, Millie the grump,
Grumpy, grumpy, grumpy, grumpy,
Hisssssssssssss!

Millie the grump, Millie the grump,
Grumpy, grumpy, grumpy, grumpy,
Hisssssssssssss!

What do you say when a kitty won't play,
But prefers to sit around the house and
grump all day,

Tell her life is alright if you don't fuss
and fight,

But you've got to be a sweetie, not a
grump!

(Chorus)

Millie the grump, Millie the grump,
Grumpy, grumpy, grumpy, grumpy,
Hisssssssssssss!

Meow, meow, Meow, Hisssssssss!



Rotary Club Donation

Port Orford Rotary Club President Al Affonso presented a check for \$746.00 to the Pacific High School Booster Club. The Rotary Club raised this money from holiday season sales of Sees Candy. The money received by the Booster Club is specifically earmarked for school sports programs. The Rotary Club thanks Chetco Federal Credit Union, Port and Starboard Restaurant and Port Orford RV Village for their part in helping sell the candy.

Bartlett's Cafe

DAILY SPECIALS!

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School Board Report by Valerie Jean Kramer

The Port Orford-Langlois 2CJ School Board met in regular session on Tuesday evening.

The main item of business was to decide on the school reorganization plan. Marc Farmer moved to adopt the plan with grades 1-5 at Driftwood and 1-8 at Blanco. He was seconded and the board voted without discussion. It was approved 6-1 with Valerie Kramer the lone opposed vote. According to the administration's figures this will result in a loss of funds of at least \$14,000. (The example used previously shows a likely loss of \$33,000.) Cost to implement these changes are estimated at between \$0.00 and \$80,000.

The superintendent reported that \$1,800 has been saved by the transportation department so far this year and that we may be able to have baseball this spring after all. Nothing definite yet but it looks promising.

Public Television Station WQED is in our district documenting our School-To-Work program. The segment is scheduled to air on public TV channels sometime in April.

Superintendent Dick Wold presented his annual *State of the Schools* report. He gave a rosy picture saying we are in compliance with all state requirements. We received a very positive audit report. Our drop-out rate remains low at 3-6%.

He stated, "Again our students scored well on the statewide assessment testing." He went on to add that he was preparing a booklet to show how our school compares academically with others.

The full report is supposed to be printed in the Port Orford News (scheduled date not stated.)

Curry Breast Health Network

The North Curry County Breast Cancer Support Group will meet at Rod N Reel restaurant on Thursday, January 18th at noon. All women who have had, or currently have breast cancer are invited to attend. Studies show that people experience less pain, anxiety and depression related to their cancer if they receive emotional support during this difficult time. Please contact Kathy Comer at 1-800-247-6621 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Cape Blanco to Elk River Hike

There will be hike on Saturday, January 20th at 1:30pm sponsored by the Kalmiopsis Audubon. Meet at the gate to the lighthouse. Frank and Jane Cramer will lead the hike on the trail south along the cliff top past the campground and down on to the beach, and continue to Elk River. The return will be by the horse trail to the campground and then back along the cliff to the starting point. Bring water, snacks (optional) and binoculars. The hike will proceed, rain or shine! If you want to tour the lighthouse prior to the hike, plan to arrive by 12:30. For more information call the Cramers at (541)332-2113.

Red: What animal are you hunting, Reg?
Reg: Well, it's an animal that makes a sound like this: Awooooo!
Red: Yes, but what kind of animal is that?
Reg: I dunno, but I betcha I can put a bullet in it."

"If there's a higher power at work here he either has a weird sense of humor or way too much time on his hands."
- Red Green

"A screw is just a nail with a thread."
- Red Green

"Uh, this is only temporary.....unless it works."
- Red Green

"Harold, it's amazing the things you say to me when I'm holding an axe."
- Red Green

"And remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy."
- Red Green

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Breast Health Network

Members of the Curry Breast Health Network Advisory Council will meet at 1:30pm Thursday, January 18th, in the Rod N Reel restaurant in Wedderburn.

The Curry Breast Health Network - in partnership with Curry General Hospital - was formed last year to protect and educate Curry County women, and to help reduce the area's mortality rate from

breast cancer. It is funded in part through a \$150,000 grant by the US Health Care Financing Administration.

During six years - from 1987 to 1992 - statistics show that the rate of deaths from breast cancer in Curry County far exceeded the state's average.

"Deaths from breast cancer can be reduced by catching it in its earliest stages," says Kathy Comer, RN, coordinator of the Curry Breast Health Network. To

catch malignancies early, women can do three things: "Breast self-exam, yearly physician exam, and regularly scheduled mammograms," Comer adds.

"If we can reach women not currently receiving those three basic services, deaths from breast cancer can be reduced," she says.

Coastal Riders

Tune your bike and body for July 6th

There is a newly formed mountain bike club in Port Orford called the "Coastal Riders". They will be putting on a "N.O.R.B.A." (National off road Bicycle Association) sanctioned Mountain Bike Race. Cash prizes and merchandise will be given to winners of all classes - ages from 6 to 100+, young, old, or pros.

Interested persons and volunteers should contact Mirleen at 332-2725 or Julie at 332-7635. All pedal pushers are very welcome.



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Christmas Bird Count

An annual census of the birds in the Port Orford area has been conducted in late December since 1979. The census area is a 15 mile diameter circle centered at Sixes and spanning the area from Rocky Point north to Langlois, east to the Plum Trees area up Sixes River, and west to the Orford and Blanco reefs. Hundreds of similar counts are conducted throughout the country. While only a rough tally of the total number of species and individuals is possible, the CBC does illustrate trends in the annual abundance of the various species. The Port Orford count circle is divided into approximately 10 areas and each is explored by a small team of knowledgeable birders.

The 20 or so birders who conducted this year's count found 107 species and 7,262 individuals which was the lowest species tally to date. Dense fog limited visibility over the ocean while wind and rain kept the birds inactive. By contrast, the record high count was 136 species. Among the more unusual sightings were the tally of 968 Pintails. There were undoubtedly thousands out over the ocean that were invisible in the fog. Normally, only a dozen or so of this duck species are seen, indicating a great recovery in their population. The 43 American Wigeons found was also a great improvement. However, only 6 Harlequin Ducks were found - the lowest ever for this species whose numbers have been declining throughout their range. Seven Marbled Murrelets were

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located. These sea birds nest in old-growth trees within 20 miles of the ocean and are in serious decline due to the loss of most of their nesting habitat. The logging of another 300 acres of prime murrelet habitat on Forest Service land in Elk River this year will likely bring the scant local population closer to extinction. The 384 American Robins tallied was quite low for this area. Normally well over 1,000 are found in the pastures around Langlois and the lower Elk. Perhaps the unusually warm winter weather

has allowed some to stay in their summer habitat further inland.

The 1996 Port Orford Christmas Bird Count will be conducted on December 28th. So start working on your bird identification skills and join the crew.

Here's my [name withheld by request] site for the week (or day) as I'm spending far too much time playing on the internet!!

<http://www.telephonebook.com/index.html>

This is a super yellow page directory to look up either by name or type of business. I'm finding most of the local businesses in this site.

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