

# Port Orford *Today!*

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Vol. 18 Number 06

## Thursday, February 15, 2007

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### Downtown Fun Zone, Inc.

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# FREE



### Curry County at Crossroads By Evan Kramer

Last Wednesday night the Curry County Commissioners came to Port Orford and laid it on the line about the effects of not receiving the money from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. This money is also referred to as federal tax payments in lieu of timber harvests and O & C (for Oregon and California Railroad) money. The total loss to the counties in Oregon based on the 2006 payments is \$230,209,514. The loss to Curry County would be nearly \$4 million a year, which is over half their budget.

County Commissioner Chair Marlyn Schafer led off the meeting by saying "it was all of our issue" and that we needed to decide what we were going to do.

Schafer discussed efforts the county has made to save money from making the Brookings Airport and the Building Department self sufficient to hiring a financial consultant to review the situation.

Commissioner Lucie La Bonte gave an overview of the situation. Last year's Congress did not pass the 2006/07 budget. A Continuing Resolution keeps the federal government functioning. 10 of the 13 appropriating bills that fund various federal government activities were not passed.

Oregon Congressmen Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden have filed an amendment to the Continuing Resolution which would reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural School Act for one year. They have also introduced a bill that would reauthorize the county payments for seven years.

Shafer said the county pays equitable salaries to its employees and are working with the unions. County employees belong to two unions. 40 of them are in the Teamster's Union while 130 belong to the SEIU (Service Employees International Union). Shafer said the unions do not want cuts in wages and benefits but cutbacks in positions. The county is a "director reimbursing" of unemployment benefits so for every employee it lays off they will have to pay that person's full unemployment benefits.

County Assessor Jim Kolen as well as nearly every County department head attended the Wednesday meeting. Kolen said that Curry County collects \$20 million a year. Of every \$100 in tax collected 59.19% goes to the schools, 16.51% goes to the cities and 6.48% to the county. Other parts go to the many special districts from Ports to libraries. Kolen explained that Measure 50 which was passed by the voters in 1996 rolled back assessed values to the 1995/96 level less 10%. The value can only increase 3% a year. Kolen

said that for the 2006/07 tax year the assessed value is only 50% of the RMA or real market value.

Kolen said it would take the construction for 35,300 new houses in Curry County to add enough tax money to replace the lost O & C funds.

The county's total financial resources in their budget for 2006/07 include \$1,195,685 from property taxes, \$3,626,737 from Federal and O & C lands (known as money from the safety net), and it had a \$1,862,205 cash carryover. Including other lost revenues the county will be short \$4,094,177.

The county offers many services, some of which are state mandated and others which are not mandated. The programs to be cut first will be the non-mandated ones. Some of the mandated program are the board of commissioners, sheriff's department – running a jail and serving civil papers), surveyor and treasurer. Non-mandated programs include the building and maintenance department, computer services, home health and hospice, human services, veteran's services, and that part of the sheriff's department which includes criminal and deputy patrols. The county is mandated to run a jail but not provided deputy patrols.

**Continued on Page 2**

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### Tide Predictions For Port Orford - 42° 44.735 N 124° 30.832 W

Produced by "WXTide32" version 4.2 by Michael Hopper - <http://wxtide32.com>

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
02-15	02-16	New 02-17	02-18	02-19	02-20	02-21	02-22
L0325 3.8	L0417 3.3	L0506 2.6	H0022 7.0	H0054 7.5	H0127 7.9	H0203 8.1	H0241 8.2
H0920 8.0	H1011 8.2	H1101 8.3	L0555 1.9	L0645 1.3	L0736 0.8	L0831 0.4	L0930 0.3
L1637 -1.0	L1715 -1.3	L1752 -1.2	H1151 8.1	H1242 7.7	H1335 7.1	H1434 6.4	H1542 5.7
H2322 6.1	H2351 6.6		L1828 -0.9	L1904 -0.3	L1940 0.5	L2018 1.4	L2059 2.4

### Curry County at Crossroads Continued from Front Cover

Commissioner Schafer talked about the two ways for the County to go forward and not face bankruptcy. From July 1, 2007 to November 15, 2007 when the property taxes are due the county will need \$3,017,400. One proposal is a \$4 million – 5 year local option tax for the county. This would cost a property owner \$1.86 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation or \$186 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000. The other option is for a \$3 million – 5 year local option tax. This one would cost the homeowner \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation or \$140 a year. For the \$4 million option the yearly increase for a manufactured structure would be \$60 and for the \$3 million option it would be \$48.

One line item on your property tax bill is "total value" or real market value. Another line item is the assessed value. You pay taxes based on the assessed value.

Curry County Sheriff Mark Metcalf explained the effect of the \$3 million option, saying it would cost his department seven employees including four road deputies.

Curry County District Attorney Everett Dial said the \$3 million option would leave him with two lawyers in his office including himself.

Commissioner Schafer discussed the possibility of the county residents forming a public safety district. She said they needed volunteers from the public to research and look into the idea. The target date for voting on a public safety district would be the November 2008 election.

Curry County Clerk Rene Kolen told the commissioners that they needed to file their proposed local tax option by March 15 to qualify for the May 15 special districts election. She said the ballots will be mailed out on April 27 and that a double majority is needed to pass the tax option. This means 50% of the eligible voters must vote plus it must be passed by 50% plus one of the voters.

A comment was made concerning the 26.60% of land in the county owned by timber interests that they need to pay a more equitable share of taxes. Commissioner Schafer said if the federal money comes in before July 1 the county would

not certify the local option tax if it is passed by the voters.

Commissioner La Bonte asked for a show of hands of support for either the \$3 million or the \$4 million option and a show of hands for those opposed to both. The majority of people raised their hands in support of the \$4 million option. There will be more public meetings about this proposed tax. The county has distributed several 14 minute long DVDs on the history of O & C funds. It is a free rental available at the Langlois and Port Orford Libraries and the Downtown Fun Zone.

### Heritage Society Meeting

The Point Orford Heritage Society will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, February 25 at 2:00pm at the Coast Guard Museum at Port Orford Heads. Election of officers will take place and plans for the future will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. Members are encouraged to attend and anyone interested in joining this group is welcome to join and become part of the goal to preserve local history. For further information, call 332 0865.



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### How At Risk Are You? By Valerie Jean Kramer

How often does someone attempt to break into your computer from the Internet? Are you safer because you live in a remote area or because your computer doesn't have anything valuable on it? Researchers at the University of Maryland recently came up with answers that may shock you.

To study such things, researchers set up a "honeypot" computer – a computer connected to the Internet that appears normal, but which is, in fact, monitored to record unauthorized access attempts. Actually most studies use a "honeynet" – a network of several, or many, "honeypot" computers.

In this case, the researchers found an average of 2,244 attacks per day per machine, or one attack every 39 seconds! They also note that "most of these attacks employ automated scripts that indiscriminately seek out thousands of computers at a time, looking for vulnerabilities." The perp doesn't know or care what computers are being attacked. Living in a rural area or having nothing of value on your computer has nothing to do with whether or not you are attacked.

The majority of attacks were relatively unsophisticated attempts to break in using lists of common usernames and passwords. Commonly tried usernames include the words root, test, guest, info, adm, mysql, user, administrator, and oracle; all of which are default names on some computer systems. The most often guessed passwords were simply a repetition of the username or the username followed by "123". Other commonly tested passwords included "123456", "password", "1234", "12345", "passwd", "123", "test" and "1.". While the report that I read didn't mention it, the next step a hacker usually tries is to run through a list of names such as would be found in a "baby names" book or a list of names for pets. They might then go on to run through all words in a dictionary. Such lists are readily available online. While this study seems to have focused on attempts to guess username/password pairs, there are many other forms of attack and the attackers keep learning new techniques.

Why do they do it? Each computer they crack gives them more power - one more machine they can use to pound away on other people's machines. Other researchers have identified networks of millions

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of zombie computers being used for such purposes. Compromised machines can be used to commit fraud, identity theft, and for various forms of corporate or government espionage or warfare. It all makes Nixon's Watergate break-in look like a kindergarten exercise.

There is no single, simple way to protect your computer. The most important factor is for you to understand the situation and the types of threats and what can be done about them. You also need to stay current as the situation keeps changing. There are any number of computer magazines and maillists that can help you in this area. Meanwhile, be sure you keep up to date with all security updates. Do not use Windows 95 or 98 on computers that access the Internet. Microsoft is no longer providing fixes for newly discovered vulnerabilities in them so they are wide open to hackers. Install and maintain a good Internet Security package (NOT just an antivirus program!) Choose a non-standard username and use a long (more than 8 character) password made up of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation so far as your system permits. One suggestion I recently saw was to form a long password by starting with a normal one of at least 8 characters then appending your name or some other easily remembered text. This lets you have a long password without making it too hard to remember.

Good luck and be safe!

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*Call for an appointment*

## Chamber News

By Jay Stoler

At their regular board meeting on Monday, February 12, the Port Orford and North Curry Chamber of Commerce voted to establish a Senior Hall of Fame.

Carol Berger suggested that the chamber pick a list of candidates for induction and then create a float for the Jubilee parade with the Hall of Fame inductees. President David Smith asked Berger and Mark Murray to come back with a list next month.

President David Smith announced that there was a position open on the chamber board as Cindi Hamby had resigned and would be relocating to Sacramento. Cindi was Secretary/Treasurer.

The board elected to have Chamber office volunteer Elaina Bailey take the minutes for the Chamber meetings. Bailey has been volunteering many hours at the Chamber office and Visitor's Center.

The board discussed at length the TLT grant proposal and the way the TLT process works. The board and associates felt that perhaps the TLT committee didn't understand the original intent of the tax. It was decided to send as many representatives from the chamber board and business and organization membership to the council meeting to discuss the process with the council. Council liaison John Hewitt said he would see to it that it got on the agenda.

Jim Billings reported that the Visitor's Center was chosen as only the third

expanded season Whale Watch point on the Oregon Coast the other two are Depoe Bay and another North Coast location. This will be great advantage as it will mean additional promotion from the Oregon State Parks. January visitors were just over one thousand, somewhat lower than normal.

There will be an upcoming meeting to discuss the opportunities that exist with the massive amounts of tour buses coming through our area.

For more information about the chamber visit our website at [www.portorford-chamber.com](http://www.portorford-chamber.com) or visit us at the office in the Visitors Center in Battle Rock Park. 332-8055.

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## Rotary News

January Rotary Students of the month were 8th grader Peter Swenson who was selected for being an enthusiastic student, meticulous in his work, thoughtful in class discussions and an excellent soccer player. Peter was commended for being respected by other students and appreciated by staff. Senior at Pacific High School, Justin Simmons, was selected for his fine citizenship. He was also described as helpful, selfless, a good mentor, a hard worker, showing improvement, helps staff and peers with technology issues, and volunteers in the Student store. Justin enjoys cross country and track and plans to enter the military after high school.

Cara Roberts Murez, the Community Relations Director for the Oregon Pacific Chapter of the American Red Cross gave Rotarians a power point presentation that described the many programs of our local Red Cross. There are 900 chapters across the country and our chapter includes 7 counties in Oregon. Their motto is "Together we can save a life." They provide disaster services, Armed forces emergency services, Youth programs, health and safety training, and blood services. Cara explained that we can do the fol-

lowing to help: Be prepared, get trained, become a volunteer, make a donation of funds, goods, or services.

Light the Way! Rotarians applauded the unveiling of the beautiful new lighthouse painting by Elaine Roeman which was lettered by Sue Blount that will help us all keep track of reaching our goal of raising \$100,000 for the Rotary Scholarship Endowment Fund for graduating students from 2CJ school district. Rotarians have already raised over \$70,000 towards this goal.

To learn more about the Port Orford Rotary Club, check out the award winning web site at [www.portorfordrotary.org](http://www.portorfordrotary.org).

## City Council Meets

The Port Orford City Council meets on Tuesday, February 20, 7:00pm, in the city hall council chambers. City hall and other government offices, the post office, schools and the banks are closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

The city council will honor volunteer firefighter George Gehrke at the Tuesday night council meeting with a reception in honor of his 50 years of service with the fire department. The reception begins at 6:30pm in the council chambers. Refreshments will be served.

## Home & Garden Show

The 28th Oregon Coast Home and Garden Show will be held at the Lincoln County Fair Grounds in Newport March 2-4. This year's theme is "There's No Place Like Home." Admission to the event is free to the public.

"This year's show has a diverse selection of vendors who will offer demonstrations, displays, literature and hand-outs for those attending," said Show Chair Brent Stephenson.

The Small Woodlands Association, Lincoln County Master Gardeners and the Central Coast Orchid Society will also be exhibiting. The Master Gardeners will be conducting soil pH testing. Instructions for bringing soil samples to the show are on the show's website.



## Port Orford Senior Center

*Sweetheart Valentines Dinner*

Saturday, Feb. 17 • 5-6 p.m.

**Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy,  
green salad, butter corn,  
sweetheart cheese cake, coffee & tea**

**Cost \$6.50 adults, \$3.25 kids**

**Everyone welcome!**

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## Pruning Classes

God's Green Earth Nursery and local Professional Gardener Jennifer Ewing partnered for the first of seven gardening classes to be held at the Nursery, 551 19th St.. These classes are open to the public. Seventeen local gardeners attended the Pruning Class, which lasted for almost two hours. It consisted of a presentation and demonstration covering many aspects of pruning followed by a hands-on session of pruning.

The reviews from the class were very positive and everyone appeared to learn something new and enjoyed themselves. Future Saturday classes scheduled are: March 3 – Propagation, March 24 - Container and small space gardening, April 14 - Raised bed gardening, April 30 –Houseplants, June 2 - Compost, June 16 - Perennial plant care and selection.

Call God's Green Earth Nursery to register for classes and for class times. 332-0880

## ***THE CRAZY NORWEGIANS*** **Special 7-Course Dinner**

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### **Police Report by Chief Creighton Creighton@popd.org**

02-01 Police received a report of a semi-truck speeding down coast guard Hill Road almost hitting a person on a bicycle. The driver of the truck was contacted and warned for excessive speed and careless driving.

02-02 Police received a report of a drug deal in progress on Lakeshore Drive. Po-

lice contacted the subjects and determined they were handing our church information to someone on a bicycle.

02-02 Police received a complaint from a male subject who was seeing strange objects in his toilet that could extract DNA from his bodily fluids and report the information to the feds. Police decided not to check the object. No further action taken.

**Continued on Next Page**



**New Listing!** Cute storybook cottage for sale. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath, extra bedroom attached to garage. Large living room with high ceiling and wood stove that keeps the whole house warm and cozy. Bright bedrooms and a large laundry room attached to the galley kitchen. Court yard off of living room. Backyard is fenced. This house is close to town, but not in town, no water bill here! To schedule a showing, call Norma at All Oregon Real Estate (541) 332-1130 RMLS 7010537



**New Listing!** Beautiful Elk River view from this well maintained manufactured home. Over 1 acre of land about 4 1/2 miles up Elk River Rd. 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom with laundry room. House has a deck in back and a covered porch in front. Detached garage with a work area. New roof in 2006 on house and garage. All kitchen appliances included with sale. Home warranty included! To schedule a showing, call Norma at All Oregon Real Estate (541) 332-1130 RMLS 7007490 \$319,000



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- Soup •

### Police Report Continued from Prior Page

02-02 Police assisted Port Orford Ambulance at 101 and Knapp Road with a subject in a vehicle that had a broken foot. The subject was transported by ambulance.

02-02 Police received a complaint from a subject that the Apollo Space Mission had placed a GPS unit in their vehicle to track their activity. The case is currently under investigation.

02-02 Police assisted Oregon State Police, and the Oregon State Parks Department on a complaint of a vehicle in the surf at Battle Rock Beach. It was determined that no one had been injured in the incident. The investigation concluded that someone had let another person use their vehicle and it was taken to the beach where it apparently ran out of gas. While the driver went to find fuel, the tide came in, and of course we all know the rest of the story.

02-02 Police were notified that a female was walking down the highway into traffic and yelling at vehicles. Several concerned citizens were in fear that she would be hit by a vehicle. Police responded but did not locate the subject.

02-02 Police received another call of two subjects fighting. Police responded and made contact with the male half of the dispute. It was determined to be a domestic argument with the female from the earlier call. The female walked away

## Southcoast Woodcarvers 16th Annual Show & Sale

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when police tried to contact her and she was later found trying to buy ice cream at one of the RV parks?? She was advised the Gold Beach area had an even warmer climate than Port Orford. The subject left south on Highway 101.

02-02 A red ten speed bike was found at Driftwood Elementary School. If you are missing one and can identify it call or come to the Port Orford Police Department at 332-9013.

02-02 Police responded to Arizona Street on a report of a fight in progress. Police investigated the incident and two subjects were issued citations to appear for Assault IV.

02-02 During a contact it was determined that Edward Mario Vieira had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was arrested and transported to the Curry County Jail for a charge of failure to appear for Harassment and Criminal Mischief III.

02-05 Police responded to a residence on Port Orford Loop Road in regard to a call of strange noises coming from the kitchen area. Police responded and checked the kitchen but did not locate anything.

02-05 Police took a report of a criminal mischief that occurred on 02-02 at Arizona Street Apartments. If anyone has any information please contact the police Department at 332-9013.

02-03 Police received a report of a possible drunk driver and attempted to locate the

vehicle. The vehicle was later stopped and police determined the driver was just tired from a long trip. He was warned for erratic driving and police suggested he get some rest before continuing on.

02-05 In the early morning hour's police responded to a report of an intoxicated male subject beating on business windows and causing a disturbance. The subject was located, warned for disorderly conduct and given a stern warning to re-locate and keep quiet.

02-05 Police were dispatched to Jackson Street on a shots fired call. Police arrived and investigated the incident. It was determined that a female subject had fired a bullet from a high power rifle through the ceiling and roof of the residence causing some concern by occupants. No one was injured from the incident. Police confiscated the weapons, and the case is pending review by the Curry County District Attorney.

02-06 Police responded to the area of Madrona Street where it was reported that an intoxicated male subject got upset and drove from the area almost striking another vehicle. Police located the male subject at a residence north of Port Orford. Steven Merrick was arrested and lodged in the Curry County Jail for Driving While under the Influence of Intoxicants.

CHIEFS NOTE: GO PIRATES

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### New BLM Email Address

The Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management has a new email address. Community members, visitors, and anyone else from the public wishing to contact the Coos Bay District via email should now send their inquiries to [or\\_coosbay\\_mail@blm.gov](mailto:or_coosbay_mail@blm.gov).

The District's planning documents, webpage and other materials will be updated to contain the new email address. For any questions or additional information, contact Megan Harper at (541) 756-0100.

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## Public Safety Report By Jay Stoler

In his monthly report to the Public Safety subcommittee of the Port Orford City Council, Police Chief Mark Creighton explained how the 55 foot long trucks that unload in the back of Ray's market may be causing a safety hazard.

Creighton said that the trucks have been virtually blocking Idaho Street when they unload their products. There is not sufficient room behind Ray's to have an adequate truck dock, at least, not at the moment.

Creighton said he understood how this practice has been going on for 50 years, but there was a traffic hazard and he was going to speak with some Ray's people and see what could be worked out.

While there is sometimes a very small piece of street left when the trucks are parked, the Chief said if two cars tried to come through at the same time there would likely be a problem.

Claudia Meeks, resident and volunteer school bus driver, was present to point out the increasing congestion problems at Driftwood school in the morning when the school buses were trying to park and drop children off, as well as the parents that are driving their children to school.

Chief Creighton said he had thought about this and felt that 13th Street should become one-way, heading in to the school and then

looping left on Tichenor to 14th. Meeks also said that the bushes on the north side of the school need to be removed, as they are causing a visual problem to motorists heading north and turning right on 13th. The bushes are so high they completely block the view of the parking area and sidewalk used by children.

There was also a recommendation from Administrator Murphy to revisit the idea of putting another stop sign at Deady and Cemetery Loop Road. He felt it might be too confusing, as there would be three stop signs for the motorists to contend with.

The subcommittee of Councilors Jim Campbell, chairperson, Steve Abbott, and John Hewitt seemed to be in agreement with the Chief. They will propose some of the changes at the next Council meeting.

Other items in the Chief's report included:

- Officer Halse and Reservist Forgatsch will take an Evidence identification and preservation class.
- Both Police Chief Creighton and Fire Chief Wilcox are now certified First Responders.
- Chief Creighton and Administrator Murphy attended a Bonds and Ballots seminar in Salem to learn how to put levies together.
- The department received a \$5,000 ODOT Traffic Safety grant.

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## Letter to the Editor,

To my knowledge no one under the We Own Coos Curry Electric banner has ever made references for or against General Service Class modest increase in their kilowatt rates. The fact is that when the reduction in meter rate, which the Board of Directors looked favorably upon, was approved, We Own Coos Curry Electric were not aware that there would be any change in the rate status of the General Service Class.

This clarification is being made to inform the member/owners that Dale Thomas has been ranting about the "unfair treatment" being administered to small businesses and non-profit organizations and alluding to We Own Coos Curry Electric as endorsing CCEC's decision to increase such rates, which is simply false and misleading. To begin with, his vague reference doesn't pinpoint any specific person or article to corroborate his allegations. He has been on a vendetta against the Board of Directors to rescind the rate increase.

Evidently he has delusions that as a former Board Director he still commands an imposing presence in determining CCEC policy.

Louis Mincer, President  
We Own Coos Curry Electric

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### Public Works

The Public Works subcommittee of the City Council met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 7 at City Hall. They did not meet last month so they had some catching up to do.

Subcommittee chairperson Carl Eskelson and Councilors Steve Abbott and John Hewitt listened to Administrator Mike Murphy give his report and assessment of the department and various situations.

Mike said he was involved in a self-guided water rate study showing cities how to charge for their water services. He said there were several different options and he was looking at them all. The self-guided study is available on the net.

Murphy said that the latest reports show that the local Port Orford water is "top drawer" as far as testing and drinkability. Murphy said there is very low turbidity and he wanted to do some kind of PR campaign to let residents know that the water is "very good."

The city does issue an annual report on the drinkability, but Murphy hoped to get the word out that there is nothing wrong with the quality of Port Orford water.

In a series of questions from the Councilors, Murphy said that the real solution to the water and sewer problems boiled down to money. At approximately \$100 per foot, it would take nearly 7.5 million

## Blow-Out Sale Island Relics

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to install a new system, something not likely to happen in the near future.

Murphy said he disagreed with the part of the Water Master plan that calls for a larger impoundment area for the Hubbards Creek water source. Instead, Murphy wants to continue to look at Garrison Lake and see if it can't be brought back to a drinkable state with reverse osmosis. This would cost about one million.

The leak detection company is still trying to find a window to get to Port Orford to test the pipes and find the leaks. Their sensitive sound equipment needs a calm ocean day to work effectively.

Murphy said there were eight applicants for the worker position in Public Works and that he felt there were some good candidates. He will be conducting interviews in the coming days. The department is really short two positions. Murphy said he would like to see a qualified Public Works Director to lead the department, but budget constraints are a problem.

Murphy was concerned about the aging of the equipment and lack of reserve funding or back up equipment. He advised the committee to consider this at the upcoming budget planning for next year.

The Public Works subcommittee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm in City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

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### Letter to the Editor,

If it's a nature trail, let it be natural. And a forest is not natural without a few dead trees. They make home to woodpeckers and a whole host of birds that we need because they eat bugs—including carpenter ants and powder-post beetles—in your back yard and mine.

I'm reluctant to criticize any work coming from any citizens who give freely of their time in public service, as our parks commission admirably does. I appreciate and respect them, and certainly don't fault anyone personally. But I think that the decision to cut down all the dead trees along Port Orford's "nature trail" is unnecessary. It might be prudent to cut off dead and overhanging limbs at the tennis courts, or over a picnic table, or over your garage. But to cut nature out of a nature trail just because a tree is going to fall over someday is being way too worrisome.

A professional forester says the trees are not hazardous. The care-taker of our nature trail says the dead trees should remain, and is willing to route the trail around them. If a tree blows over out there in the middle of the woods someday when our fearsome winter winds blow and we're all huddled up inside, **SO WHAT!**

A forest is not a forest without a few dead trees. They show us what the cycle of life is all about. Let them stay.

Tim Palmer

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### **Update on Dial A Ride**

Port Orford's Dial A Ride had been written out of the Curry County Transit budget for 07-08. Senior Center President Owen Miller made a presentation before the Transit Board on January 29 asserting our need for the service, and, as a result, we have been written back into the proposal! In addition, both Owen and Duane Byers have become members of the Transit Board, ensuring that Port Orford's needs will continue to be represented.

As of now, we are waiting for the Director of Curry County Transit to finalize scheduling, costs, and other paperwork. We anticipate that the Dial A Ride program will resume as early as March 1. All dispatching will be done from the Senior Center, and the drivers will be volunteers who are registered to provide this service. Please stay tuned for updates!

## **Dock Tackle**

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On another note, we've done a preliminary review of the responses we've received that were sent out with the February calendar. So far, 21 responses have been received, representing 29 individuals. 11 of the 21 responders are regular at the POSC breakfast, with those who aren't citing dietary restrictions or preferences as their reason for not attending. We'd like to look into that issue. Dinner fares lower with 9 of 21 attending.

As far as activities are concerned, 11 of the 21 who responded said they'd like Field Trips, with the same number citing interest in education in history/geology/local issues. Book clubs and movies were the next areas of interest. In the games area, Canasta received 6 votes, and Pinochle 5.

A more extensive report will appear in March.

We thank all those who have responded, but we like to hear from the rest of you! If you'd like a questionnaire and do not have one, call the Center at 332-5771, or just drop by at 1536 Jackson Street and pick one up.



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### **Letter to the Editor,**

Tuesday night I attended the Parks Commission meeting and discovered there was a plan to cut down two "dangerous" trees on the Buffington Park Nature Trail. Jake Marshall had received a number of letters from citizens protesting this. He and Joanne Ruoff had come up with a plan to reroute the trail away from the trees, creating a win-win situation where the trees could be kept, and the public would be safe. It would be easy and quick to implement, and cost little or nothing. I was very disappointed that the commission emphatically rejected this compromise. They seemed more concerned with the city being sued in the highly unlikely event that a tree fell on someone. As far as safety goes, I used to do a lot of hiking, and I knew that the responsibility for my safety was my own. By their very natures, nature and life itself are not always safe. Government cannot and should not protect us against all risks just because someone may sue. I have no problem with trying to make things safer, but sacrificing the habitat of the Nature Trail - Port Orford's last untouched wooded area - and ignoring the concerns of citizens wishing to save the trees, when there IS a win-win scenario, is just plain wrong. I urge you to support Jake and Joanne in their endeavor to get the decision reversed by the City Council. I urge the City Council to implement the win-win solution.

Carol Berger



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**Letter to the Editor,**

Some of us remember the newspaper adds run by defeated Coos Curry Electric Co-op board member Dale Thomas before the last CCEC board election. He warned of the impending sinking of the CCEC ship if challengers Robison, Schlottmann, and Herzog were elected and lowered rates. Well, rates were lowered, costs were cut, and happily the CCEC ship not only didn't sink, but it sails on in much safer waters than before. Mr. Thomas was only partially correct in predicting an impending maritime disaster, in that he and two of his fellow incumbent board members were thrown overboard by the CCEC voters, who then proceeded to take over the ship.

Mr. Thomas survived, although a little wet, and can now be heard wailing from the shoreline about the pitifully unfair rate reduction given to the residential users at the expense of the commercial

CCEC members. He is now advocating a rate reduction for business. What happened to the "sink the ship" theory? I happen to be one of the commercial users who- according to Mr. Thomas- has been treated unfairly. Somehow, I feel much more comfortable seeing each of my twenty employees enjoying the extra \$10.25 every month in their pocket than I would with the small impact of a \$10.25 reduction in my commercial meter rate. I am sure any employer would agree. That is not to say that I don't believe a commercial rate rollback isn't justified. While good progress has been made by the new board, there is still a lot of fat to be trimmed at CCEC. Thanks to the new board, I am confident further rate reductions will be forthcoming. The upcoming election will see even more owner/members who overwhelmingly dumped all of the board incumbents running for re-election in 2006, voting in a CCEC board in 2007 that is an even better representation of the CCEC

owner/members. This will result in a still more efficient, better managed co-op. Take what you will continue to be hearing from the defeated "old guard" for what it is-plain old sour grapes.

George Welch

**Port Orford Weather Report**

The City of Port Orford public works department recorded 5.82 inches of rain in the month of January. The largest amount of rainfall came on January 3 with 2.64 inches. The high temperature for the month was 59 degrees and the low temperature was 25 degrees on January 15.



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## Literary Lite Nite

At 8:00pm this Saturday night, February 17, the Biscuit Showroom at Gold Beach Books will host "Literary Lite Nite," an evening billed as "comedic and dramatic renderings of classic and not-so-classic literature." The free event, which is open to the public, is an adjunct activity of the South Coast Writers Conference.

The program features Earl Mohr as "The Reading Wizard of Od'," who will read from the Conference authors' own works. Carl Rovainen and The Jefferson State Boondock Band will also perform.

Mohr, a long-time invited reader to south coast school children, also performs regularly for adults at several venues, including the weekly Open Microphone Night at Gold Beach Books, where he is in his fourth year as host. According to bookstore owner Ted Watkins, "Earl's annual recital at our Literary Lite Nite is, for many visiting authors, the first time they've heard their own works read aloud; they almost always come away very pleased and flattered." Watkins adds, "Our audiences enjoy the range of Earl's selections, from dramatic renditions to comedic send-ups."

Rovainen and his band will alternate on the stage with Mohr, performing many popular bluegrass and folk standards, including some audience-participation tunes. In addition to Rovainen, band

members are Michael Mavris, George Layton, Bob Petzold and Terry Alloway, who will be playing guitars, a mandolin, an autoharp and a Greek bouzouki, among other acoustic instruments.

Admission to the show is free. Gold Beach Books is located on Pacific Highway 101 and First Streets in Gold Beach.

## Letter to the Editor,

As a resident whose property backs into the Nature Trail wetlands north of Hamlet Street, one of the best parts of my daily life is seeing the wild life which this unspoiled wetland supports: beaver, otters, raccoons, deer, turtles, etc., as they wander onto my property. I strongly object to plans by the city to allow thinning of trees in this area which supports so many wonderful creatures. If we want a Nature Trail, let's keep it natural.

It is my understanding that the person who will do the chopping down of trees is neither an arborist or even a professional tree cutter, but rather a volunteer who likes to cut trees. It is my further understanding that professional arborists have recommended against this cutting.

Is our city reduced to accepting any service because it is free? Perhaps we need to remember that there is no such thing as a free lunch....

Erna Barnett

## Health Screening

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## State Park Openings

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department in the Cape Blanco Region will be accepting applications for Seasonal Ranger Aide positions. There are positions available for the 2007 summer season in Port Orford. The salary range is \$1,751-\$2,420 per month.

Primary position duties include: Visitor Services, Visitor Safety/Rule Enforcement and Park Maintenance Service.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license, an acceptable driving record and pass a criminal background check.

Application forms are available at the Humbug Mountain State Park office between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday or online at [www.oregon-stateparks.org](http://www.oregon-stateparks.org).

Application materials must arrive in Salem by 5:00pm on May 31, 2007.

## Port Commission Meets

The Port of Port Orford Commission meets on Tuesday, February 20, 5:00pm, in the city hall council chambers.

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### Pacific High Pirates Tie

The Pacific High School Pirate's boy's basketball team tied for the Skyline League title with Days Creek High School. Days Creek defeated Pacific on Saturday by a score of 48-44 in a game that went into overtime. Days Creek and Pacific finished the season with 10-2 records. The two teams will play again at Oakland High School on Friday on to determine the league's top seed in the state playoffs.

The varsity girl's team at Pacific lost to Days Creek on Saturday by a score of 52-35. There is a three way tie in the Skyline League and the Pirates girl's team plays

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Elkton on Tuesday at Marshfield High School in Coos Bay. Thanks to the World Newspaper.

### Artists Showcase

The Port Orford Arts Council will present its second Artists Showcase on Sunday, February 25th from 2-5 PM at the Arts Council Office at Seaside Plaza, 1320 Oregon St. (Hwy 101), Suite E.

Featured artists will be Joanne Ruoff, photographer; June Sabin, painter; and Dawn Ferrari, multi-media artist.

Our first Showcase was a great success. Come see a whole new show, and join us for refreshments.

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### Letter to the Editor,

I'd like to correct a typo in the "Write a Nice Letter to Vinny Contest info". It should have read; "write about yourself, your family, or friend, your animals or hobbies, etc." We'd like to hear about you.

Thanks a bunch,

Carlene Armi

### Letter to the Editor,

Thank you to Jay Stoler for the informative coverage on the plans for the proposed Port Orford Skatepark addition. Great website - [www.northcurrynews.com](http://www.northcurrynews.com). Thanks for the keeping the public informed.

Sincerely,

The Skateboard Community

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**CLASSIFIED ADS** are \$3.50 for the first 25 words or less, and 10¢ each for any additional words. Normal deadline for submission is 3:00pm Tuesday. Downtown Fun Zone, Inc., 832 Hwy 101, Box 49, Port Orford, OR 97465 (541) 332-6565.

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**Continued on Back Cover**

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## **Classified Ads** **Continued from Inside**

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**WANTED:** Cock-eyed optimists to celebrate St. Pat's Day at the Sixes Grange. Sat. 3/17, 5:30pm. "Corned beef, Cabbage and Karaoke." Info. Linda 332-1581.

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**SILVER COINS**, Buy, sell, paying 6 times face value. Pre-1964. Sell silver dollars from \$11.00 and up. Call (541) 297-1275.

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### **Parks Commission News** **By Jay Stoler**

The upgrading of the features in Buffington Park were the core issues of the regular monthly Parks Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 6th.

There was mostly good news as Commissioner Jodi Bulaich stated that the horse association, Pacific Wind Riders, is now an official non-profit corporation and that the grants that were in progress to upgrade the public horse arena would go through the Pacific Wind Riders 501 (c) (3) organization. The upgrades are numerous and the City Council has given the group permission to pursue all and every grant, as there was no city money available.

Jodi also showed the Commission and audience photos of the mold on the roof of

the A-frame in Buffington Park. The roof is over 30 years old and is leaking.

Chairman Jim Billings said he had met with Gary Carter about presenting a marketplace with vendor in cooperation with the Parks Department as a fundraiser idea.

Mark Murray reported that there will be a work day in Buffington Park on March 17th in conjunction with a SOLV grant.

Zack McKenzie, a local skateboarder, made a concise presentation to apply for a Tony Hawk \$25,000 grant to upgrade the skatepark. City Council liaison Jake Marshall said he was impressed with the skateboarders and he said, "you got my vote." McKenzie said the deadline is March 1, 2007, so Marshall will seek Council approval at the next meeting.

Carol Berger representing the Port Orford Arts Council officially asked for permission to use the Community Building and Legion Hall free of charge for the Memorial Day Cedar Expo 2007. Berger also requested that the City be a co-sponsor so that the insurance was covered. The Commission said they would recommend the request. The City was a co-sponsor last year.

Commissioner Joanne Ruoff said that when Garrison Lake was at a low level in the coming weeks, it might be the perfect time to put in the new boat ramps. There would be work done at both Pinehurst and 12th Street.

There was a request from the father of Josh Northcutt, a fisherman recently lost at sea, to put a memorial bench at the Overlook. Artist Cheryl Morse, who did the mosaics that are on the current slab, will also design and create the bench art at no charge so it will coordinate with the existing works.

There was a long discussion on the removal of several trees on the Nature Trail that is next to Buffington Park. Commissioner Joanne Ruoff does not want the dead Myrtlewood tree cut down as she

feels it is not a hazard and is part of the beauty of a Nature Trail. Even though the Commission had voted to remove the tree and had been OK'd by the Council, Ruoff and Jake Marshall tried to convince the Commission to move the trail, so the tree would not pose a safety hazard, something the majority of the Commission and Administrator felt it did. Finally a vote was called to move the trail, but failed. The situation will be dealt with by the City Administrator.

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### **Woodcarvers Show**

The Southcoast Woodcarvers Sixteenth Annual Show and Sale will be held on February 24 and 25 at the North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway between Virginia Avenue and Newmark. The show is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday and Sunday. Families are welcome and admission is free.

The show will host 50 woodcarvers from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including some nationally recognized artists. Demonstrations by carving experts will be given throughout both days. The raffle table will include a wide variety of carvings, books, tools, with the drawing held Sunday afternoon. You need not be present to win! A portion of the raffle proceeds will be donated to the Coquille Valley Art Center's handicap access project fund.

Local artist, Jerry Stoope of Port Orford and Robin and Bill Hanna of Langlois will be exhibiting their carvings along with 40 Northwest carvers. You will enjoy meeting all of these talented artists!

Need carving tools, supplies or books? A wood carving supply company will offer a complete selection of carving tools and instructional books. Several of the exhibitors will offer carving wood for sale.

Come share the magical world of carving with us. Don't miss this great annual event. For additional information, contact Bill Hanna at 541-348-2371 or Rick Miller at 541-260-5328.