

Looking back at the year 2025

Floods are top story, Myrtle Creek resignations check in second

The year of 2025 saw several oddities throughout the region and flooding was one that has not been seen since the 1990s.

The City of Myrtle Creek also saw changes ranging from the resignation of first, then Mayor Matthew Hald to City Administrator Lonnie Rainville to the on boarding of two new city councilors in the form of Rick Held and Kathy Wragg.

What follows are these top stories in their entirety as they were covered by Thew Douglas County Mail.

That is followed by a chronological look at the year.

There will also be a myriad of pictures included.

MARCH 20

South Douglas County reeling from storm

MYRTLE CREEK – The rains that hit the Pacific Northwest and California, and more specifically Douglas County, this last weekend wreaked havoc throughout the region with flooding occurring all over the county and state.

The rains began falling late last week with as much as over ¾ an inch on Thursday and a quarter-inch on Friday but they really began to intensify late Saturday evening and into the night as over an inch fell.

Sunday morning saw torrential downpours mixed with blizzard-like conditions and all waterways beginning to swell as almost 2 inches of precipitation fell on the area.

Myrtle Creek was still within its banks at around noon but by 2:30 it was flowing into the Ireland lot on South Main Street and into the businesses. The residents on Mill Street and Pete’s Street were given evacuation notices along with some residents on Broadway, Oak, Spruce, Maple, Howland, Short and others on Sunday afternoon as the water rose and filled Evergreen Park, Creekside Memorial Park, portions of Millsite Park, the RV Park and the Disc Golf Course.

According to reports, at one point the water level was about a foot below the drive-thru window at Justice’s Jav.

Myrtle Creek was not the only area impacted by the storm. Riddle saw Cow Creek overflowing its banks along Yocum Road and up to the city water treatment plant.

The walking path behind the high school was under water.

Over Canyonville – Riddle Road there was at one point as much as two inches of snow which created some hazardous driving conditions.

In Canyonville the storm drains could not handle the intensity of the run off and several businesses along Main Street were flooding.

The small creek running through Pioneer Park was just about to overflow its banks at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

The Douglas County Commis-

sioners did declare a State of Emergency on Sunday. The Douglas County Commissioners and Douglas County Emergency Management Department have teamed up with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to provide resource and information to local residents via the 211 Info Line. 211info is a free phone line that assists Oregon and Southwest Washington communities by helping people identify, navigate, and connect with the local resources they need. If you have questions about insurance, flood damage, resources, or housing call 211. If you have a non-emergent need for assistance, call the non-emergency line with the Douglas County 911 Communications Dispatch Center at (541) 440-4471. If you have a life-threatening situation, please call 911.

These flood waters are the highest seen in the area since 1996 when Millsite and the aforementioned areas were flooded. That year there were three separate, but linked incidents that saw flooding occur within the area. November 18-19, December 4-9 and January 1-2, 1997. There is more rain predicted for this week.

MARCH 27

State, county, city declare State of Emergency due to storms

MYRTLE CREEK – The State of Oregon, Douglas County and the City of Myrtle Creek have all declared a state of emergency due to the flooding and landslides that have occurred throughout the area since February 24 through March 18.

Th Douglas County commissioners were the first to make the declaration on March 16.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners Declared a State of Emergency on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. for the entire county due to the ”extreme conditions related to the severe winter storm that impacted our county causing extreme peril to the safety or person and/or the protection of property.” A declaration of emergency empowers authorities to take extraordinary measures to protect lives, property, and public health, including accessing emergency funds, and coordinating resources for rapid response and recovery.

Although floodwaters have receded in some parts of the county, many areas are still experiencing the impact of flooding, including high water, road closures, detours, mudslides, debris, downed trees, falling rocks, and damaged roadways. Please be aware that some areas may continue to experience elevated water levels for an unde-

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Douglas County Mail Courtesy photos/Facebook/Matthew Smith

Over the past weekend, especially on Sunday, March 16, Myrtle Creek saw flooding in the low lying areas along Myrtle Creek. (TOP) This photo of South Main Street was taken in the afternoon on Sunday as the water made the area impassable. (BELOW) This shot is of Oak Street as it runs along Creekside Memorial Park. Many other areas were hit also such as Riddle and Canyonville. In Riddle the Yocum Road area was hit pretty hard.



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terminated period of time and there is an increased risk of mudslides and falling rocks in areas with steep terrain.

On March 18, Governor Tina Kotek declared a state of emergency due to flooding and landslides from February 24 through March 18, 2025. “When emergencies hit, Oregon families and businesses need to know we have their back in every part of the state,” Governor Kotek said. “Recovery starts as soon as disaster strikes, and this declaration will help get Oregonians back to normal as soon as possible. I urge everyone to follow the instructions and evacuation levels issued by emergency officials, subscribe to emergency alerts on ORAlert.gov, have an evacuation plan, prepare a go-kit, and stay aware of changing conditions.” Following ORS 401.165, the Governor determined a potential threat to life, safety, property, and significant damage to infrastructure exists due to flooding and landslides that have caused and continue to cause a state of emergency in Clackamas, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Multnomah, and Malheur counties. At the time of this release, the Governor’s Office is closely monitoring a potential flood in the Burns area of Harney County and preemptively added Harney County to this declaration. Beginning on February 24, 2025, ongoing storms have caused significant flooding and landslides throughout Oregon, resulting in one fatality, critical transportation failures and loss of power and communications capabilities. This declaration directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide appropriate assistance and seek federal resources to repair and reconstruct the \$10 million dollars or more in damages and impact to the federal aid highway system in the impacted counties. This declaration is limited to the provision of assistance by the Oregon Department of Transportation to repair and reconstruct eligible roadways that are part of the federal aid highway system. This declaration is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. On March 17, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) activated the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to Level 3, which means the state is coordinating closely with local, Tribal, and state partners to share information and support local response and recovery operations as needed. To stay informed about current conditions and impacts, visit the Oregon Flood Dashboard: State of Oregon Flood Dashboard.

On March 21 the City of Myrtle Creek declared a state of emergency as well. According to City Administrator Lonnie Rainville, the city was protected under the county’s declaration and that was why the city had not made a declaration before Friday. However, after having conversations with several entities it was determined it would make things easier for those seeking relief from their insurance if the city made a declaration as well.

Urban renewal Agency creates grant program for business flood victims

MYRTLE CREEK – The City of Myrtle Creek’s Urban Renewal Agency on Thurs-

day evening, March 20, established a grant program for businesses within the urban renewal district that were affected by the floods. This initiative aims to provide financial relief and facilitate swift recovery efforts

Businesses can apply and receive up to \$10,000 through the Business Recovery Grant Program.

The money can be used for repairs to physical business structures; replacement of damaged equipment or inventory; temporary operational costs, including rent and utilities; and marketing efforts to restore customer engagement; and ther essential recovery-related expenses, subject to approval.

Business owners can apply at city hall.

To qualify for the Business Recovery Grant, applicants must: Operate within the designated Urban Renewal District; Demonstrate the direct impact from the recent flood through documentation (e.g., photos, insurance claims, or repair estimates); Be a registered business in good standing with the City of Myrtle Creek; Submit a recovery plan detailing how the grant funds will be used.

Once an application has been received with all the needed documentation it then will be reviewed by the Urban Renewal Agency Board of Directors, which will assess applications on impact and need. Approved applicants will be notified within five business days of the board’s decision and funds will be disbursed accordingly.

Following the approval and subsequent granting recipients must submit a brief report within 90 dys detailing the usage of the funds and the recovery progress.

The Business Recovery Grant Program, according to the Board, is a critical step in sustaining the economic stability of Myrtle Creek. By providing direct financial assistance, this initiative will help businesses resume operations, contributing to the overall economic vitality of the community. The maximum grant amount of \$10,000 ensures that funding is distributed equitably while making a meaningful impact on recovery efforts.

JULY 24 Rainville tenders resignation

Mayor submits letter formally resigning

MYRTLE CREEK – At the Myrtle Creek City Council meeting on Tuesday, July 17, City Administrator Lonnie Rainville submitted his letter of resignation effective July 14.



Douglas County Mail Courtesy photo/Jonathan Brewster Myrtle Creek Mayor Matthew Hald announced at the July 1 council meeting he was resigning with the meeting on July 15 being his last. At the July 15 meeting the city presented Hald with a plaque denoting its appreciation for his service. (ABOVE) Council President Bob Chaney, Sr. (LEFT) presents the plaque to Hald during the public presentations portion of the meeting.



LONNIE RAINVILLE
This resignation on the heels of the recent verbal resignation and subsequent letter from Mayor Matthew Hald has the city council scrambling a bit.

The procedure for filling the Mayor position actually comes from an appointment from the remaining city councilors and not from application as was reported earlier this month.

Once the new mayor is appointed then the council will open up the application process to those citizens who are registered voters and have lived within the city for more than one year.

In the interim the council will begin a search for a new city administrator. There is not a set procedure for this recruitment. It is strictly up to the council how they wish to proceed.

Until there is a new mayor appointed the Council President will serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

Once the Mayor is in place they will serve as the city administrator until a new person is hired.

What follows are both letter in their entirety.

“Dear Mayor Hald and Honorable Members of the City Council

After careful consideration, I am formally submitting my resignation as City Administrator for the City of Myrtle Creek, effective 60 days from the date of this letter, with my last working day being September 12, 2025.

This decision has not come easily, as it has been a privilege to serve the City of Myrtle Creek and work alongside such a dedicated team of elected officials, staff and community partners. Over the past six (6) years, I have been honored to lead and support initiatives aimed at improving city operations, strengthening community development, enhancing public services and advancing long-term strategic goals. Together, we have made significant strides in improving the quality of life for our residents and laying a strong foundation for the future.

It has been a great honor to serve this community, and I will always remain proud of the work we accomplished to-

gether. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything further I can do to support the City of Myrtle Creek during this transition.

With gratitude and respect, sincerely
Lonnie Rainville”

And the Mayor’s letter.
“Dear Members of the City Council, City Staff and Citizens of Myrtle Creek

After careful consideration, I am submitting my resignation as Mayor of Myrtle Creek effective August 4, 2025.

This decision comes as a result of my family’s upcoming relocation out of state. While this move presents new opportunities and is the right choice for us at this time, it also means stepping away from a role and a community that I dearly love.

Serving as your mayor has been a profound honor. The strength, kindness and civic spirit of Myrtle Creek is truly special. I would like to thank the dedicated elected officials, city staff, volunteers and engaged citizens that I have worked with that are all committed to the well-being of our community.

Together we have accomplished much. I’m proud of the work that has been done to support local families and businesses and improve infrastructure that strengthens the fabric of our hometown. I have full confidence that the city will continue to move forward with strong leadership and shared purpose.

To the people of Myrtle Creek, thank you for the trust you placed in me. I will always carry this community in my heart and remain grateful for the privilege to have served.

I am committed to assisting in a smooth transition and

will remain available in the coming weeks to help however I can.

With sincere gratitude and respect,
Matthew J. Hald”

AUGUST 7 Rainville leaves post early

MYRTLE CREEK – Myrtle Creek City Administrator Lonnie Rainville and the City Council came to a mutual agreement on Friday, August 1, to waive the 60 day notice clause of his contract allowing him to resign immediately.

Rainville had tendered his resignation with the city on July 14. With the provisions of the contract his last day would have been September 12.

The city council held a work session last Thursday, July 31, to discuss the city administrator contract and job description.

At that meeting a number of city employees voiced their displeasure with the current working conditions and said that they didn’t feel anything would change unless the council addressed certain parameters within the job description.

It was pointed out by members of the council that if the council and the city administrator mutually agreed then the city administrator could resign early waiving the 60 days.

It was the tenor of the employees that they didn’t feel comfortable continuing to work under the current situation and they even stated that they had someone from within the city employees who they felt would be a good interim city administrator.

Following this disclosure and discussion Council Pres-

AUGUST 14 THERE’S A NEW MARSHAL (MAYOR) IN TOWN



Douglas County Mail photo by Bob Chaney, Sr. The City of Myrtle Creek got a new mayor last Tuesday, August 5, as Councilor Luke Dillon (RIGHT) was sworn in by City Recorder Joanna Bilbrey (LEFT). The position became open in July with the resignation of Matthew Hald who was moving. The city charter states that the position must be filled by one of the seated city councilors. If no councilor steps forward then it must go to a special election. Dillon, after some contemplation and discussion agreed to step forward. Dillon will fill the position for the remainder of the current term which ends December 31, 2026. He can run for election to the position in the 2026 election. Now his spot on the council must be filled. That happens through application from the public. Any registered voter who has resided in the city limits for at least one year is eligible. Once the applications are received from the public then the council will hold interviews and appoint someone to fill the position. Dillon was elected to the Myrtle Creek City Council in 2022 and whoever is appointed will be filling the position for the remainder of that term which also expires December 31, 2026. They too have the opportunity to run for the position in the 2026 election. Anyone interested in applying can contact city hall or go on the city website for information on how to apply..

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and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement and financing, and strategic planning.

SEPTEMBER 18
City fills vacancy on council

MYRTLE CREEK -- The Myrtle Creek City Council on Monday evening, September 15, filled the vacancy on the council with the appointment of Jamie McElmurry.

McElmurry was selected from a pool of three applicants following interviews held during the council meeting.

The two other applicants were Gail Black and Jessica

Sharon.

The vacancy on the council came about when then Councilor Luke Dillon was appointed by council to fill the vacant Mayor position. That vacancy was created with the resignation of Matt Hald who moved out of state.

Per the city charter the mayoral vacancy must be filled by the appointment of one of the seated councilors.

Dillon came forward as the only councilor interested in the position,thus creating a vacancy on the council. That position was then put out to all registered voters residing in city limits to apply. The results of that call for applicants were the three that were interviewed.

portunities for all residents, business owners and land-owners to not only contribute but to take an active roll in helping Myrtle Creek realize the potential of this wonderful town. As they say, ‘It takes a Village’ and we are asking our entire community to unite so we can build a real plan for success,” stated Myrtle Creek Mayor Matthew Hald.

Myrtle Creek is located in southern Oregon and has a current population of 3,500 residents.

The following listening session dates and times have been scheduled. All will be held at the Myrtle Creek Community Center located at 245 NW Second Ave.

Wednesday, February 19, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, February 20, at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturday, February 22, at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, March 5, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, March 6, at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Saturday, March 8, at 6 p.m.

The Website for the venture is: <https://imaginemyrtlecreek.com>

MARCH 6
Myrtle Creek listening sessions continue

MYRTLE CREEK – The City of Myrtle Creek recently announced a community driven revitalization effort aimed at developing a long term vision and strategic success plan for the City.

“We are seeking input from residents, business and land-owners as well as embarking on a first impressions element that involves other municipalities working together for a greater good.

“The Lotus Media Group will be assisting us with research, promotion and facilitation.“ said City Administrator Lonnie Rainville.

The initiative has adopted the name Imagine Myrtle Creek as a project theme. The first order of business is to conduct research by listening to citizens, business and land-owners as well as researching the City’s current brand reputation on-line, and through other information gathering activities using the foundational work from the University of New Hampshire’s First Impressions program.

“There will be ample opportunities for all residents, business owners and land-owners to not only contribute but to take an active roll in helping Myrtle Creek realize the potential of this wonderful town. As they say, ‘It takes a Village’ and we are asking our entire community to unite so we can build a real plan for success,” stated Myrtle Creek Mayor Matthew Hald.

Myrtle Creek is located in southern Oregon and has a current population of 3,500 residents.

The listening sessions continue this week at the Myrtle Creek Community Center located at 245 NW Second Ave. on Thursday, March 6, at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Saturday, March 8, at 6 p.m.

The Website for the venture is: <https://imaginemyrtlecreek.com>

Summer Festival turning 40

MYRTLE CREEK -- The Myrtle Creek Lions’ annual Summer Festival is turning 40 this year and according to all the reports the 40th anniversary is rubies. So the committee in staying with that vein decided to play off the Wizard of Oz ruby slippers There’s No Place Like Home theme as they try to bring back some of the music and activities from 1986. Myrtle Creek Lions Club Secretary Joanna Bilbrey holds up a draft of the

logo the committee plans to use for this year. There may be some more tweaking to it but for the most part this is it. Again Summer Festival is Thursday, July 24, through Sunday, July 27, with the ever popular fireworks at 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 26.



APRIL 3
Bilbrey, Kelly, Sutch and Richwine receive the roses

MYRTLE CREEK – The wine was flowing freely leading up to the handing out of the roses to Shane Kelly and Joanna Bilbrey as they were named Man and Woman of the Year, respectively, at the 67th Annual Myrtle Creek~Tri City Area Chamber of Commerce’s Citizen of the Year Banquet.

The event, held Saturday night at the Richwine Vineyards, also saw Barbara Sutch, longtime volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul’s Food Pantry,was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

President Susan Harris formally opened the evening’s proceedings.

She spoke about how last year was a pretty good year for businesses in the area.

Harris spoke about a lot of new things that were already going on in Myrtle Creek this year with the Imagine Myrtle Creek program.

“This is a community driven revitalization effort aimed at developing a long-term vision and strategic success plan for the city,” said Harris

The first awards of the evening were of a solemn note, those being inductions into the Legacy Circle.

The Legacy Circle was established by the chamber board in 2003, representing a continuum that can never be broken. It honors business and civic leaders who have passed away within the last year.

Those inducted this year were Dean Bloemendaal, Ken Brouillard and Roland Theiss.

Bloemendaal was a 36 year member of the Myrtle Creek Elks Lodge. He was a Past Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Auditor. During his many years as a member he made significant contributions the the lodge the the local communities. Many people remember him for his storytelling.

He worked as an accountant and a tax preparer most of his life and early on was employed by CBS.

He loved to talk about his time rubbing elbows with the stars and having been kissed by Lucille Ball.

Brouillard came to Myrtle Creek in 1989 to be the new Postmaster. He started working for the postal service in 1965. After moving to Myrtle Creek he served as Postmaster until retirement in 2001.

Brouillard served on city council twice and also as Mayor of Myrtle Creek for four years. He was also on the planning commission and the budget committee. He also spent 10 years volunteering with the Douglas County

Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue. He loved to four wheel, especially in his Rubiken Jeep and was the driving force behind the creation of the Rock Crawl. He and his wife, Marilyn, were awarded the Chamber’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Theiss started out working in the logging industry but eventually transitioned to other areas. He purchased two gas stations in the area, on in Myrtle Creek and one in Winston and operated them for several years. He then transitioned into real estate becoming a broker for Village Realty, which he later purchased and continued to operate until his retirement.

He also built, owned and operated storage units in Myrtle Creek, Canyonville and Riddle up until selling the businesses in the early 2000 teens.

He was a 59 year member of the Myrtle Creek Elks and was also co-founder, chairman and co-chair of the South Douglas Rodeo. He loved white water rafting and was most at home on the Rogue River. Over the years he came to be known as Roland on the River.

He was named the Chamber’s Man of the Year in 2006.

Trevor and Jessica Sharon of The Regal Raptor presented the Business of the Year award, having received the award in 2024.

“We couldn’t be more excited to pass along the title of Business of the Year to a much deserving new business in Myrtle Creek,

“This young family embarked on a entrepreneurial journey, taking a leap of faith in this town, just as we did two years ago,” said Jessica. “The owners of this business took on a project to save a prop0erty and in turn is helping bring back a diversity of business into Myrtle Creek. This gorgeous business sits

just outside of town overlooking the river. They have put their love and attention into creating a wonderful space for events and have already hosted many including weddings, reunions and this lovely event tonight,” added Sharon as she tried to describe the business without giving it away.

However, it was too late. “Congratulations to Richwine Vineyards our 2025 Business of the Year,” concluded the Sharons.

The person being honored tonight, although not native to the area, has been here for some time,” said Jerrie Thomas as she presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Barbara Sutch.

She volunteered at Cof-fenberry Middle School for several years and is still remembered as a “grandparent figure” noted Thomas. “But, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry was blessed with her volunteer service for over 15 years including helping with the Angel Tree project and distributing gifts to local students. She was honored as our Chamber Woman of the Year in 2017,”

Ted Romas presented the Man of the Year award

“Our 2025 Man of the Year is relatively new to our community. Many say he just kind of showed up and started doing stuff and has since been involved in many ways. Some of you here tonight may not know this accomplished and multi-talented man. At the risk of him knowing before I announce his name here are a few hints,” said Romas. “He’s a flower child, he’s a fundraiser, he loves kids and silent disco, he recently co-authored a very kewl book, he was recently appointed to the City of Myrtle Creek Planning Commission, he’s the project engineer for the exciting Riddle Roots Activity Center and, if that doesn’t give it

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Douglas County Mail photo by Bob Chaney, Sr. Myrtle Creek City Council filled the vacant position Monday evening with the appointment of Jamie McElmurry. (ABOVE) McElmurry (LEFT) is sworn in as she takes the Oath of Office from City Recorder Joanna Bilbrey.

JANUARY 9
OATH OF OFFICE



Doglas County Mail photos by Bob Chaney, Sr. Newly elected Myrtle Creek City Councilors Cathey Wragg, Position #3, and Rick Held, Position #5, were sworn into office on Tuesday evening, January 7, at the first Myrtle Creek City Council meeting of the new year. (ABOVE) Wragg and (BELOW) Held are administered the Oath of Office by Myrtle Creek City Recorder Joanna Bilbrey. Also taking the Oath of Office but not pictured was incumbent City Councilor Bob Chaney, Sr. Position #1.

FEBRUARY 13
City plans for future success

MYRTLE CREEK – The City of Myrtle Creek is announcing a community driven revitalization effort aimed at developing a long term vision and strategic success plan for the City.

“We are seeking input from residents, business and land-owners as well as embarking on a first impressions element that involves other municipalities working together for a greater good. The Lotus Media Group will be assisting us

with research, promotion and facilitation.“ said City Administrator Lonnie Rainville.

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“There will be ample op-



MAN OF THE YEAR
SHANE KELLY



WOMAN OF THE YEAR
JOANNA BILBREY



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
RICHWINE VINEYARDS



PRESIDENT’S AWARD
TERRI DAY



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
BARBARA SUTCH



SPECIAL RECOGNITION
MIKE FARNWORTH



SPECIAL RECOGNITION
MYRTLE CREEK FIRE TRI CITY FIRE

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away he was solely responsible for bringing a Moon Tree from the Artemis Project to Myrtle Creek.

“It is my distinct pleasure to present our 2025 Man of the Year award to Shane Kelly.”

Angie Criss in presenting the Woman of the Year award to Joanna Bilbrey quoted some of the text turned in with the nominations for her.

“I have been a part of this community for five years now and Joanna is always showing up for our little town. She has the brightest and most welcoming aura that would make anyone feel welcome. She is the first person you see when walking into city hall. She is also so helpful and has been a God send as a new resident and business owner of Myrtle Creek. Aside from her work at the city she is a member of the Lions Club, volunteering her time and weekends to help the residents of Myrtle Creek. She can be seen at local events representing the Lions Club and advocating for local programs. She is the woman personally delivering the collection tins for the Summer Festival. When she isn’t delivering, she is supporting local business. Even in situations of high stress I have never seen her smile or character waiver. When I think of a woman that is Myrtle Creek and what we want to embody I think of Joanna,”

There were two Special Recognition Awards given out as well.

The first went to Mike Farnworth for his tireless efforts in organizing and operating the Fly-in Pig Barbeque.

The second award was given to the Myrtle Creek Fire Department and the Tri City Fire Department for the continued help in any situation.

The final award of the evening was the President’s award.

President Harris asked Criss to join her at the podium because Criss was actually elected President but had to resign during the year due to personal reasons.

Together the two presented the award to Terri Day.

“The President’s Award is given to someone who we feel has gone above and beyond for their community,” said Harris.

Harris gave a list of reasons but she concluded with “They grew up right here in Myrtle Creek. They proudly served their country. They were a member of the Chamber Board from 2017 to 2024. they have been the driving force in making sure no child in our community goes hungry during the summer. We proudly present this year’s President’s Award to our friend, Terri Sutch Day.”

In her closing remarks Harris thanked everyone for helping out and attending.

“These past couple of weeks have been tough on everyone. When things like this happen it’s not ‘what are you going to do?’ it’s ‘what can we do to help you?’ these are the kinds of things that make this community great,” concluded Harris.

APRIL 17 Kids take to the skies of Myrtle Creek

MYRTLE CREEK – Saturday morning, April 12, the skies around Myrtle Creek were alive with the sounds of small prop planes flying all over the place.

The reason for the “invasion” was the National Experimental Aircraft Association local Chapter 495 of Roseburg was holding a Young Eagles event at the Myrtle Creek

Airport.

The Young Eagles program is an aviation/educational program that provides multiple opportunities for students interested in aviation as a possible hobby or career. They register kids aged 8-17 for a free airplane ride

According to Young Eagles Coordinator Ken Nichols, they have been hosting these events in Roseburg where we have flown over 250 kids in the last two years.

Nichols, who likes to fly down the Myrtle Creek during the fly-in breakfast events or the fly-in BBQ, said back in February when it was cold, calm and clear he flew down to the Myrtle Creek airport and talked with Bruce Harlow who is caretaker of the field. They talked about the Young Eagles and the possibility of hosting an event here and it quickly became a possibility and with the blessing from the city and help from Bruce and Kevin Weaver from the South Umpqua School District they scheduled this event and possibly will hold another one here this year

They were hoping to field four aircraft with a colorful bi-plane, a vintage 1947 Er-coupe plus a Experimental home built Glasstar as well as a Oregon produced kit a Vans RV-6 but got lucky and had five show up which included Douglas County Commissioner Chris Boice with his 205 Cessna. Boice had flown over 50 missions for this program.

Nichols said their hope was to host around 30 kids for the day. All kids being from the Myrtle Creek Tri-City area.

The event ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and had very good weather

APRIL 24 Five charged in crime spree

MYRTLE CREEK – On March 28 at approximately 7:54 a.m., an officer from the Myrtle Creek Police Department was dispatched to the skate park/swimming pool area at 200 Rice Street for a report of criminal mischief. When the officer arrived, he discovered the skate park area was heavily spray painted with vulgar words.

While the officer was on scene, he also discovered two custom made picnic benches had been tipped over causing the seats to be broken.

During the officer’s investigation, the officer learned areas at Millsite Park had also been spray painted.

The officer continued to investigate the incident and developed leads that several juveniles and one adult were responsible for the damage. The officer also discovered during his investigation that three of the juveniles on the same day had gone into a local store and stole several bottles of alcoholic beverages and other items.

On March 29 the officer made contact with the four juveniles ages 14 to 17. After the officer conducted interviews, the juveniles were ultimately cited and released to their parents for criminal mischief in the second degree. Three of the juveniles were also cited for theft in the third degree.

On April 15 the officer was finally able to make contact with 20-year-old Katherine Doolittle of Canyonville who was a suspect.

After the officer interviewed Doolittle, she was taken into custody and lodged at the Douglas County Jail for criminal mischief in the second degree.

Dora Dyer turns 95 years young



MYRTLE CREEK – Lifelong area resident and Myrtle Creek matriarch Dora Dyer turned 95 on Easter Sunday.

Her family chronicled the event with a great big party for family and friends at her son Gordy’s place.

Bud, Teresa and Gordy were there with their mother.

Dora has been involved in many things over her lifetime here in the Myrtle Creek area and it has always been done with professionalism, respect and enthusiasm

Dora and my family have always had a friendship and a relationship that is cherished.

In the article by Margaret Hampton entitled Dora Dyer: Life and Rattlesnakes, which ran in the 2024 publication of Pioneer Days in the South Umpqua Valley she mentions that Dora’s best friends on South Myrtle were Patty Hensley, Jane Pate and Opal Chaney. Well Opal Chaney was my aunt.

My dad, Lyle Chaney, and Dora’s brother, Loren (Sambo), were best friends. My dad was the reason he go the nickname Sambo.

Finally, when I bought the newspaper and returned to the area Dora was the first person to really make me feel welcomed. It was Thursday night Music in the Park and as I was walking across in front of the bandshell I heard someone yelling, “Mr. Chaney, Mr. Chaney” I looked around and Dora was standing up waving to me to come over to her. Once I did she said “I am Dora Dyer and I knew your dad growing up on South Myrtle and he was just about the smartest person I ever met. I just wanted to say hi to you and welcome you home.”

I have never forgot that and I never will.

Dora also spent several years doing a column for the newspaper called Asked on the Street.

People were always happy to talk to her but pictures were tough.

Happy birthday Dora may you enjoy this and may there be many more in your future.

MAY 15 Riddle man busted for making, dealing fentanyl

GLENDALE – Thursday afternoon, May 8, detectives with the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) arrested a Riddle man, Bobby Hogue, on several fentanyl related charges.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. detectives, with assistance from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling northbound on I-5 near milepost 83, which is in the Glendale area. A search of the vehicle revealed approximately 115 grams of suspected fentanyl, along with a small amount of suspected methamphetamine. Hogue, 34, of Riddle, was detained at the scene.

A short time later, a search of Hogue’s residence in the 3,000 block of Canyonville-Riddle Road revealed a small amount of suspected methamphetamine as well as a firearm. Previously convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hogue was arrested and lodged at the Douglas County Jail on suspicion of Possession, Delivery, and Manufacture of a Schedule II Controlled Substance, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

The Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force that identifies, disrupts, and dismantles local, multi-state, and international drug trafficking organizations using an intelligence-driven, multi-agency prosecutor-supported approach. DINT is supported by the Oregon-Idaho High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and is composed of members from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Roseburg Police Department, Oregon State Police, Douglas County District Attorney’s Office, and the Bureau of Land Management.

The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA program is an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) sponsored counterdrug grant program that coordinates with and provides funding resources to multi-agency drug enforcement initiatives, including DINT.

MAY 22 Barbecue, planes and beer, oh my

MYRTLE CREEK -- The Second Annual Fly-In Pig Barbecue was held this past weekend at the Myrtle Creek Municipal Airport. This brain child of Mike Farnworth, brought approximately 25 cooks to the competition which had a \$10,000 purse. There was also breweries, wineries, ciders and Oregon spirits vendors at the event along with lemonade, cotton candy, pickles, popcorn, smoked fish, jerky and fried bread. There was also live-fire cooking with whole hog, alligator and more. Attendees also enjoyed live bluegrass music as they sampled the fares and voted for their favorite foods and beverages. This year there was also be a Kids Activity Center sponsored by Riddle Roots and other family activities including axe throwing, a mechanical bull, a climbing wall and live camel rides. According to organizers, the crowds surpassed last year despite some inclement weather.

MAY 29 Community 101 gives donations to non-profits

RIDDLE -- Thursday evening, May 22, the Riddle High School chapter of Community 101 held their awards ceremony in the high school library.

The Community 101, which at Riddle is the leadershipclass, procures donations from businesses to distribute to non-profit organizations through school programs.

The students of the class are the ones who decide what group of people they would like to help. This year they wanted to help people that are victims of violent crime or victims of child abuse.

The Community 101 group was able to collect \$5,000 from Lilja Family Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation as teh sources for the awards.

The class, made up of Jesse Parmer, Lanae Rainwater, Shyann McKown, Carlos-Sanderson-Perez, Waylon Baker, and Sharla Wise, decided to divid the monies as follows: Casa of Douglas County, \$1,176.34; Kids First, \$1,176.33; Klamath Advocacy, \$1,176.33; Peace at Home, \$750; Riddle Jr/Sr. High School library, \$161; Riddle High School on Track

to Graduate Program, \$140; high school band program, \$140; high school positive behavior support program, \$140; and the high school world and cutural art program, \$140.

Casa of Douglas County is an organization that helps children up to 21 years of age who are in the child welfare

system and are wards of the state.

Kids First serves children for cocerns of sexual or physical abuse as well as children who have witnessed a violent crime.

Klamath Advocacy offers safe spaces and inclusive services to people who have experienced trafficking.

JUNE 12 All choked up



Douglas County Mail photos by Bob Chaney, Sr. Riddle High School held its graduation this past Saturday, June 7, and it was a moving experience as evidenced by these students. (ABOVE) Felicity Clayton lets out a huge sigh of relief while (BELOW) Jaddyn Tebo (LEFT) and Brie Bosse (RIGHT) get a little choked up. Rory Chaney (CENTER BACK) flashes a nervous smile knowing its time. This was one of the largest classes in recent years for Riddle High as 34 students earned their diplomas.



JUNE 19 Reaching down deep

CANYONVILLE -- The 43rd installment of the South Douglas Rodeo was held Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15, at the Tri City Horsemen Arena in Myrtle Creek. The event saw cooler temperatures than were present earlier

in the week and the fans reacted with good turnouts each day. (BELOW) This bareback rider take a bumpy ride but goes the distance for a score during the competition on Sunday.

See YIR 2025 Page 6



A LOOK AT LOCAL WEATHER

Thursday, January 1

Overcast. A 40 percent chance of precipitation.
High 52. Low 40.

Friday, January 2

Overcast. A 60 percent chance of precipitation.
High 51. Low 41.

Saturday, January 3

Overcast. A 60 percent chance of precipitation.
High 51. Low 42.

Sunday, January 4

Overcast. A 60 percent chance of precipitation.
High 52. Low 42.

Monday, January 5

Overcast. A 60 percent chance of precipitation.
High 50. Low 42.

Tuesday, January 6

Overcast. A 50 percent chance of precipitation.
High 51. Low 41.

Wednesday, January 7

Overcast. A 60 percent chance of precipitation.
High 52. Low 40.

LAST WEEK'S TEMPERATURES

		Lo	High	Precp
Wednesday,	December 24	40	51	--
Thursday,	December 25	39	53	--
Friday,	December 26	36	48	--
Saturday,	December 27	31	48	--
Sunday	December 28	33	49	--
Monday,	December 29	36	51	--
Tuesday,	December 30	38	52	--

A LOOK BACK AT LAST YEAR

Winter was entrenched as low temperatures ranged from a frosty 33 to a cool 49 and the high temperatures rose from a chilly 45 to a blustery 59. The valley took on .74 inches of precipitation.

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The Douglas County Mail

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JUNE 26

On the job

MYRTLE CREEK -- The Myrtle Creek Police Department recently hired another officer to bring the department to full staff. The new officer, Arthur Maldonado, grew up in Douglas County and is a 2003 graduate of Roseburg High School. He has over five years law enforcement experience and has also been an active member of the Army National Guard for the past 18 years.



JULY 10

Changes coming to Douglas County Mail

MYRTLE CREEK – There are some major changes on the horizon for The Douglas County Mail over the next few weeks.

This week will mark the last week of printing in Roseburg with The News Review. Due to costs The News Review is moving their publication to a virtual (online) product four days a week and one print version on Fridays to be printed out of house.

The Douglas County Mail has been printing with The News Review for over 40 years and that is now changing. The Douglas County Mail, as of the July 17 edition, will become a one section, 12 page publication with fewer opportunities for color on a regular basis unless paid for.

It will also be printing on a stricter schedule on Tuesday afternoons which will limit the ability to fit in late arriving news or ads so deadlines will have to be adhered to in order to make this work smoothly.

Other changes that make come within the next couple of months will be the creation of a online presence to work in tandem with the print version.

The Douglas County Mail recognizes and is cognizant of the ever increasing cost of printing but it is the continued mantra of The Douglas County Mail to remain a print product throughout its existence.

It may be necessary to increase cost in order to continue to maintain this philosophy so please remember to be sympathetic to that cause and The Douglas County Mail will continue to provide the best possible print product in Douglas County.

JULY 17

Myrtle Creek man arrested on sundry of weapons charges

MYRTLE CREEK – On July 7 at approximately 7:25 a.m. Myrtle Creek Police Department Officers responded to the 700 block of Cedar Avenue for a report regarding damage found on a residence from gun shots. The person making the report believed his neighbor from 726 Cedar Avenue had shot his residence with a firearm sometime during the night. Officers arrived on scene and found evidence that someone had shot the residence at least twice with a shotgun or a firearm that shoots shotgun pellets.

While officers were on scene investigating, Jay Wilson, who lives at 726 Cedar Avenue, began yelling at officers from inside his residence.

Officers had prior knowledge that Wilson was possibly heavily armed, and his behavior has recently become more erratic.

Officers began setting up a perimeter while a search warrant was being written for Wilson’s residence. During that time, Myrtle Creek Police Department contacted the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office and requested they have their Tactical Response Team (TRT) respond to execute the warrant, due to the high risk.

The Myrtle Creek Police Department also requested Douglas County Communications alert residents in the surrounding area to shelter in place and avoid the area.

While Officers were waiting for the search warrant, Wilson fired at least two rounds from inside his residence. No one was hit and no officers returned fire.

Crisis negotiators from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office began trying to communicate with Wilson, but Wilson continued to remain agitated.

At approximately 10:07 a.m. Wilson exited his residence and began walking down the street. Officers rushed in and were able to take Wilson into custody without any further incident.

Wilson was transported to the Douglas County Jail where he was lodged on 21 counts of unlawful use of a weapon, 21 counts of recklessly endangering another person, and two counts of criminal mischief in the second degree.

Later in the evening, a search warrant was executed on Wilson’s residence where 67 firearms were seized along with large amounts of ammunition. During the search warrant, officers found evidence of Wilson firing several rounds from a shotgun and handgun through his front door, windows, and the wall towards his neighbor’s house.

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Winston Police Department, and Oregon State Police assisted with the incident.

JULY 24
Myrtle Creek is one of the chosen

MYRTLE CREEK – The City of Myrtle Creek became one of 50 last week and more specifically number 24, as artist Cheyenne Renee selected the city for her mural project.

Renee, a young artist from Covington, Virginia, has a goal to paint 50 murals, one in a small town in each state before the end of 2025, thus the name of her project 50 in 50.

The way that Myrtle Creek got involved in the project was due to McKenzie Strong. Strong, one of the new owners of Homestead Furniture, found Renee’s project online and submitted an application to the project.



Douglas County Mail photo by Bob Chaney, Sr.
The City of Myrtle Creek was chosen to be the representative of the state of Oregon in artist Cheyenne Renee’s 50 in 50 project, a painting project to paint a mural in each of the 50 states by the end of 2025. (ABOVE) Renee (LEFT) stands with McKenzie Strong (CENTER) co-owner of Homestead Furniture and the one who submitted the application to Renee to use Myrtle Creek as the Oregon representative, and Byron Magillo (RIGHT) owner of the Rose Motel, the building on which Renee painted the mural. The trio is flanked by the finished mural.

According to Renee, one of the things that intrigued her the most about the Myrtle Creek application was that the city recently announced that it was establishing a mural committee to solicit and encourage artists to come paint murals in Myrtle Creek.

Once she accepted the application Strong quickly began to look for a wall to use for the mural. That’s when she made contact with Byron Magillo who recently purchased the old Rose Motel.

It just so happened that the wall facing Main Street was blank and he was more that willing to be a part of the project.

“It was refreshing and exciting to find a small town willing to move forward and be very progressive in an effort to encourage tourism,” said Renee.

The project started in April of 2022 in her hometown and has since reached 24. Renee says that she has all but eight states booked.

She has accepted applications from towns ranging in size from 200 to 60,000 residents.

It doesn’t take her long to complete the task either.

She rolled into town on Friday, July 11, stated work on the mural on Monday, July 14, and completed the project on Thursday, July 17, and was on her way to her next project in Washington Thursday night.

In addition to the murals she is also putting together a documentary that highlights each community and the people that are doing amazing things for those around them.

She had the opportunity to interview a local Myrtle Creek icon, Dora Dyer, during her time here.

Her goal with the documentary is to provide a copy or access to it when completed and have each community do a viewing party as part of the unveiling of the video.

She also wants to bring representatives from all 50 communities together in one location as a celebration of the entire project.

According to Renee, the main goal of the 50 in 50 project is to take travelers off the beaten path, to create awareness for small town tourism, and to connect 50 communities to each other.

Renee says that her work is led by her passion for small towns and communities. People that value their relationship to nature and each other. Feeling strongly that art and the landscape around us are both only as beautiful as those who take the time to appreciate them.

Pubic art can be used as a spotlight shining on those who might otherwise be unseen just as it can be used as a megaphone amplifying voices that deserve to be heard, writes Renee on her website.

JULY 31

It’s all about the food and fireworks



Douglas County Mail photos by Reo Chaney
The Myrtle Creek Lions held their 40th annual Myrtle Creek Summer Festival last weekend and the turnout was fantastic, according to organizers. The weather was cooperative and festival goers were treated to what most claim is the best fireworks display in all of Douglas County. As usual the festival food was abundant and delicious. This year patrons had a few more choices as the festival packed in over 75 vendors of which 20 or more were food and drink. This is the most booths the festival has ever had and a special added bonus this year was a wine garden which was a big hit with all those thirsty after walking around the grounds. All in all there was something for everyone from entertainment to information with arm wrestling and rock crawling sandwiched in and don’t forget about the softball. (TOP) These kids couldn’t seem to get enough of the doughnuts. There were more than 12 kids for each age group of the contest. (MIDDLE AND BOTTOM) The fireworks show was as advertised. An estimated over 3,000 people were on hand to watch the show and many more throughout the city.



AUGUST 21

Queen’s Court returns to Pioneer Days along with other favorites

CANYONVILLE – The South Umpqua Historical Society along with the Canyonville Pioneer Days Committee decided to bring back the Queen’s Court feature to the annual celebration.

This features highlights princesses from the surrounding communities to include Myrtle Creek, Days Creek, Riddle, Azalea/Glendale and Canyonville and brings them together on Thursday evening for the coronation of this year’s Queen.

That distinction is determined by lot and announced that evening. The princesses and the queen will also be riding in the parade on Saturday.

Another favorite of yesterday making its return is the Canyonville Lions barbecue dinner on Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m.

This was a sought after favorite for many years but has been on hiatus for the last several years.

This year’s menu includes ribs, chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon and either water or lemonade all for just \$20 per person and only \$15 for senior and children under 12. All proceeds from the event will go to the local sight and hearing which helps to provide glasses and hearing aids for those who can’t afford them. So be sure to get out for the dinner and the coronation.

AUGUST 28

Commissioners issue statement on UPTD

DOUGLAS COUNTY – Douglas County Commissioners Tim Freeman, Tom Kress, and Chris Boice issued a statement after a discussion held during their weekly business meeting on Wednesday, August 20, regarding the Umpqua Public Transportation District (UPTD). The discussion, brought forward as an off-agenda item by Board Chair Commissioner Freeman, was in response to numerous false rumors currently being circulated by other local elected officials.

“We recognize that UPTD is currently undergoing a period of transition, including a possible delay in funding. However, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners are not involved in any aspect of the district, nor would it be appropriate for us to be involved. We wish UPTD the best during this time. We continue to believe that the most effective government is that which remains closest to the people. A dedicated transportation district, focused solely on managing local transit services, represents a strong and responsive model for meeting community needs,” stated Commissioner Freeman on behalf of the board.

Commissioner Freeman began the discussion by correcting misinformation regarding the formation of the independent transportation district. In 2017, the Board of Commissioners was ap-

proached by representatives from several local agencies, along with community members, who advocated for the creation of a separate transportation district in Douglas County. They believed that establishing an independent district, separate from county government, would better serve the community’s interests. One key reason cited was the expectation that a stand-alone district would have greater leverage in securing additional grant funding. On August 15, 2018, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners held the first public hearing and signed an order initiating the formation of an independent Douglas County Transportation District. A follow-up public hearing was held on September 12, 2018, to consider finalizing the district’s creation. After hearing public testimony, the Commissioners unanimously approved an order officially establishing the district, with boundaries generally aligned with those of Douglas County.

The newly formed Douglas County Transportation District was established as an independent, non-taxing entity, meaning it would not collect local tax dollars. Instead, funding would be allocated directly to the district and would not come through the county.

Governance of the district was assigned to an elected board, responsible for managing and overseeing the use of millions in funding. The next step in the process was the election of the board of directors. In November 2018, Douglas County voters elected seven board members from a field of 16 candidates. Following the election, the legal transition of the transportation program began, with all actions carried out in accordance with state statutes to formally transfer operations to the newly independent district.

The final responsibility of Douglas County Government in this process was to oversee the initial board meeting in January 2019, during which board positions and term lengths were determined. Since that time, the district, now known as the Umpqua Public Transportation District, has operated independently of county government.

To help set the record straight and address the misinformation being circulated, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners issued the following key points

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners were NOT involved in the last election of officers for UPTD.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners are NOT involved in the current issues involving UPTD.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners DO NOT want to take over managing UPTD.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners want to make it clear that if for some reason the current UPTD district fails, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners will NOT take the local transportation program back under county authority or management.

Citizens can watch a recording of the Wednesday, August 20, 2025, Weekly Business Meeting containing the discussion about UPTD on Douglas County Government’s YouTube Channel for meeting broadcasts at <https://www.youtube.com/@douglascountyoregonov>.

Looking back at sports in 2025

Lady Lancers softball, Days Creek boys basketball, Riddle football, Lancer boys soccer top list

MYRTLE CREEK -- The year of 2025 in sport marked accomplishments for several teams that hand not been done in a number of years.

The South Umpqua Lady Lancers softball team made another deep run into the semifinals before falling.

The Riddle footbaqll team made the playoffs for the first time in nearly 30 years.

The South Umpqua boys soccer team made a run to the playoffs that included a undefeated divisional season and only two losses on the year with one coming in the second round of the playoffs.

The Days Creek boys basketball team led off the year with a run to the Elite Eight in Baker City.

What follows are these stories as they were covered followed by a chronological look at the year in sports.

MAY 1 Lady Lancers rounding into form

TRI CITY -- The South Umpqua softball team is starting to take on some resemblance to last year’s championship team as they continued to roll through the Far West League remaining undefeated in league play and in a tie for first place with both Douglas and Glide at 6-0.

South Umpqua last week completed a three game home-and-home sweep of Sutherlin.

On Tuesday the Lancers beat the Lady Bulldogs 16-0 in a three-inning, Mercy Rule shortened game. Mady Pratt went 3-for-3 with three RBIs while Haley Twyman was 2-for-2 with one RBI. Danika Richardson chipped in going 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

Reaghan Gilbert was on the hill and got the victory.

On Friday the Lancers traveled to Sutherlin for a double dip which they took 15-0 in three innings and 19-2 in five innings.

In the first contest Tessa Beam had a good game going

2-for-2 with three RBIs while scoring twice. Twyman was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and she scored three times while Pratt went 2-for-3 and Regan Ireland had three RBIs.

Gilbert was the starter again and came away with the win.

In the night cap Twyman went 4-for-5 with two RBIs while Ireland was 3-for-4 with four RBIs. Richardson got in on the hit parade going 3-for-3 which included a home run. She had three RBIs. Gilbert also had a dinger and three RBIs.

Ireland was on the mound and went the distance for the victory striking out four over the five innings while allowing just two hits.

MAY 8 Lancer Lumber Company still rolling

TRI CITY – The Lancer Lumber Company, better known as the South Umpqua High School softball team, continued its dominance over all opponents last week adding three more notches to the proverbial belt.

Since suffering a 2-0 non-league loss to North Valley on April 5 the Lady Lancers have been on a roll winning 10 in a row, all of them by shortened contests by the Mercy Rule.

This last week this string continued as they whipped Coquille 15-0 on Tuesday, April 29 in three innings.

South Umpqua plated nine runs in the first inning and never looked back. They added two more in the second and four in the third when the game was called.

Leading the charge for the Lumber Company was Mady Pratt going 2-for-2 with a double and five RBIs.

Haley Twyman walked three times and came around to score twice.

Also scoring two runs each were Brooklyn Sharp, Gracie Richardson and Dakota Gallego.

Reaghan Gilbert was on

the hill and didn’t allow a single hit over the three innings while striking out six to earn the victory.

On Friday in the double header portion of the home-and-home series it was pretty much the same.

In the first game the Lancers scored three in the first and followed that up with five in the second before erupting for 10 runs in the third inning giving them a 18-0 mercy rule victory.

In that game Danika Richardson led the Lumber company with a 4-for-4 performance scoring four runs and driving in two.

Regan Ireland was 3-for-3 with two doubles and four RBIs while Gracie Richardson went 2-for-3 with four RBIs. Gilbert, who started on the hill, helped her own cause going 2-for-2 with two RBIs. She also allowed just one hit over the three innings and struck out four batters.

The second game of the double dip saw South Umpqua trailing 2-1 after the first inning but in the second they played four followed by five in the third to take a commanding 10-2 lead after three.

In the fourth the Lumber Company got busy and broke it open scoring 11 times to take a 21-2 lead.

The defense held Coquille scoreless in the bottom half of the fourth and the game was called due to the mercy rule

In the nightcap G. Richardson continued to be a spark plug on offense going 3-for-3 which included two doubles.

She also scored four times. Pratt got in on the act as she went 2-for-3 with two doubles and three RBIs.

Twyman was 2-for-2 with two doubles and three RBIs and Shilo Gilbert was 2-for-3 scoring three times.

Ireland started on the mound and R. Gilbert came on in relief in the third inning. Together they gave up just two hits and two runs. Gilbert struck out seven. Ireland came away with the victory.

The victory kept South Umpqua’s Far west League record perfect at 9-0 and it also kept them tied with Douglas for first place.

The two teams will meet in the final home-and-home series of the regular season set for May 13 and 16.

Douglas is currently 15-2 overall, 9-0 in league and ranked No. 6 in the O.S.A.A. 3A polls.

South Umpqua is 15-4 overall, 9-0 in league and ranked No. 9 in the O.S.A.A. 3A polls.

MAY 15 Lancers lock down league title with sweep of Glide

TRI CITY – The South Umpqua baseball squad completed a home-and-home series sweep of Glide on Friday, May 9, and in the process locked down the Far west League regular season title.

The Lancers lead Douglas by four games going into the final series of the season, which is three games.

In the first game on Friday the Lancers didn’t take long to get on the board as they scored two runs in the home half of the first inning.

They added two more in the second to lead 4-0.

In the third the Glide bats came to life a bit as they plated one run but in the bottom

of the inning South Umpqua quickly got that back and then some as they scored three runs to take a commanding 7-1 lead.

The two each added a run in the fourth.

South Umpqua added another run in the fifth to take a 9-3 lead.

Glide mounted a bit of a rally in the seventh but could only plate one run and the Lancers came away wit a 9-4 victory.

Kaden Graf started on the hill for the Lancers and went six innings for the victory. He gave way to Logan Schwerdt who pitched the seventh inning.

Offensively the Lancers were led by Talen Lamm going 2-for-2 with an RBI. Braxton Hamilton was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and Brock Wells was 2-for-4.

In the nightcap South Umpqua scored one in the first and four in the second to take a 5-0 lead. Not to be outdone Glide turned around in the top half of the third and plated four as well to cut it to 5-4.

The Lancers added one in the bottom of the third to make it 6-4 and that was how it stayed until the bottom of the fifth when they added one more.

Glide also added one in the sixth as did South Umpqua and going into the seventh the Wildcats trailed 8-5.

Glide was able to plated just one run in the seventh and again the Lancers came away with a close victory and their first regular season Far West League crown since 2012.

Although they won the 3A state championship in 2022 they didn’t win the regular season league title, finishing second to Cascade Christian in then Special District 4. It returned to Far West League in 2022-23.

Camden Black went six innings on the mound for the victory.

Hamilton went 3-for-3 with two RBIs while Trace Esterbrook was 3-for-4 with an RBI.

The victory brought South Umpqua’s overall record to 14-7 while remaining perfect in league at 9-0.

MAY 22 Lancer Lumber Company takes the broom to Douglas

TRI CITY -- The South Umpqua softball team continued their rampage through the Far West League last week as they took the broom to arch rival Douglas and swept the Trojans to take the regular season league title and secure themselves a first round bye in the playoffs.

The two teams, which were tied atop the league at 12-0 going into the final home-and-home series, met for a single game on Tuesday, May 13.

In that game South Umpqua had an early 1-0 lead which was short-lived as Douglas came back in the home half of the inning and tied it up.

The Lancers broke it open in the fourth scoring four and going on top 5-2 as they took the 6-4 victory.

Reaghan Gilbert had a home run and also got the win on the hill.

Gracie Richardson, Haley Twyman, Mady Pratt, Regan Ireln and Dakota Gallego all

had hits on the afternoon. Shilo Gilbert went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

The two teams came back together on Friday to paly a double header at South Umpqua.

In the first game Gilbert took to the hill and allowed just one hit over seven innings while striking out 12 batters.

She did give up one run in the first inning but the Lancer Lumber Compnay got it back in the bottom of the frame.

The game remained tied with the two pitchers going back and forth until the bottom of the fifth when south Umpqua plated three runs to take a commanding 4-1 lead.

With three runs in tow Gilbert took care of the rest as the Lancer nailed down the 4-1 victory and a gauaranteee of the league title.

In that game Dakota Gallego went 2-for-2 and scored once while Danika Richardson had a triple driving in two RBIs.

The nightcap was gravy but it still meant something to the athletes.

Douglas didn’t want to end on a losing note and they jumped on regan Ireland in the first inning as they plated four runs.

South Umpqua chipped away at the lead scoring one run in the second and one in the third.

as they went into the home half of the fifth they trailed 4-2 but the Lumber Company got busy and scored three times to take a 5-4 lead.

Douglas scored once in the sixth to tie it at 5-5 but South Umpqua erupted in the bottom of the inning scoring five to lead 10-5, which was the final score.

Ireland got the victory but she was also the offensive star as she sroked two homers.

Pratt and D. Richardson were both 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

The victory brought the Lancers winning streak to 16 in a row with a overall record of 21-4.

They open the playoffs on May 28 at home.

JUNE 5 South Umpqua slams their way into semifinals

TRI CITY – Two play-off games in three days and two Mercy Rule victories in the process landed the South Umpqua softball team in the 3A semifinals against a familiar foe, Scio.

In their first playoff action

on Wednesday, May 28, the Lancers hosted North Valley.

The Knights got off to a good start as they plated one run in the first but not to be outdone South Umpqua answered in the home half of the inning with two of their own to take a lead they never relinquished.

North Valley tied it in the top of the third but South Umpqua would have none of that and put a five spot on the board to go up 7-2. They added two more in the fourth.

North Valley tried to come back in the fifth as they scored three times to bring it to 9-5 but in the bottom of the inning the Lancer Lumber Company came to life as they loaded the bases for Danika Richardson who promptly slammed it over the center field fence. They followed that with Haley Twyman driving in a run and Dakota Gallegto putting an end to things with a RBI double that brought the score to 15-5 and the Mercy rule was invoked.

Richardson finished 3-for-4 and five RBIs. Mady Pratt went b2-for-2 scoring four times. Shilo Gilbert Gallego and Reaghan Gilbert all had two hits each. R. Gilbert’s included a home run. She also got the victory on the hill allowing just five hits.

On Friday, May 30, the Lancer hosted another familiar foe in the form of league rival Glide.

The Lancer Lumber Company got rolling right out the gate as Pratt and Richardson both singled which was followed by a two RBI double by R. Gilbert. S. Gilbert got in the act as well with a two run triple and then Gallego capped off the first inning scoring with a RBI ground out.

The Lancers led 5-0 and in the second added one more and then plated five in the third to lead 11-0.They let their defense take over from there as R. Gilbert held them scoreless for the next two innings before the Mercy Rule was invoked.

Gilbert gave up just one hit while striking out nine over the five innings

Offensively Richardson was 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Prat was also 2-for-3 and had two RBIs.

The victory put the Lancers into the semifinals against Scio, the team they beat last year for the state championship. Scio is the number one seed in this year’s playoffs

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JUNE 12
South Umpqua’s run come to a halt in semis against Scio

SCIO – The hottest team in the 3A bracket proved last Tuesday, June 3, why they have been ranked in the top two or three all year long and in the number one position for the majority of the season.

South Umpqua riding a 19 game winning streak, traveled to Scio to take on the Loggers in the semifinals of the 3A playoffs.

Scio was the same team the Lancers defeated last year in the title game and the Loggers were ready for some revenge.

The game didn’t go the way the Lancer had hoped as they trailed by 5, 6-1, but South Umpqua ultimately took a 6-5 lead in the top of the sixth as they plated five of their own.

But that’s when the Loggers rallied and plated two runs in the home half of the inning to take a 7-6 lead into the seventh and hold on for the victory and move on to the championship contest, in which they beat their league rival Dayton 9-3 to take the 3A title.

The Lncers’ Pratt and Richardson both homered in the contest

As for South Umpqua they lose just three seniors, but key personnel to graduation. Those seniors are Mady Pratt, Reagan Gilbert and Haley Twyman.

South Umpqua finishes the season with a record of 24-5 with 20 of those wins coming via Mercy Rule.

They ended the season ranked No. 4 in 3A polls.

JANUARY 30
Days Creek on a winning streak

DAYS CREEK – The Days creek boys basketball squad is currently on a string having won five in a row.

The Wolves, since dropping their league opener to North Douglas in early January, have taken down all foes since bring their Skyline League record to 5-1 just one game back of the Warriors. They are 12-8 overall and ranked #11 in the O.S.A.A. 1A polls.

Days Creek added two more to the win column this last week as they defeated Elkton 58-43 On Friday, January 25, and Pacific 59-25 on Saturday, January 26.

In the Elkton game the Wolves took an early 14-10 lead after the first quarter and never looked back.

By halftime it was a 28-22 lead.

The third quarter was where the Wolves stretched it out and put it away as they beat the Elks 17-10 to lead 45-32.

In the fourth they held off the Elks and took the quarter 13-11 for the 58-43 victory.

Days Creek Head Coach praised his defense for their second half effort.

Keegan Stufflebeam led the Days Creek offense with 28 points and grabbed nine boards.

Brother Cam Stufflebeam added 10 points as did Xane Hopkins.

In the Pacific game on Saturday Days Creek got out to another fast start as they took the first quarter 19-4 and the second 12-7 to hold a 31-11 halftime lead.

Again in the third quarter the Wolves turned up the volume doth offensively and defensively as they outscored the Pirates 21-9 to take a commanding 52-20 lead into the final eight minutes.

In the final quarter Days

Creek took their foot off the gas and cruised scoring just 7 while holding Pacific to 5 for the 59-25 victory.

K. Stufflebeam led all scorers with 16 and Trenton Ladd had a career-high 15 points.

Hopkins and Aiden Denson each chipped in withnine and C. Stufflebeam added six.

Days Creek now plays Yoncalla on Friday and Riddle on Saturday. Both teams are right behind the Wolves in the Skyline League standings.

FEBRUARY 6
Days Creek runs winning streak to seven

DAYS CREEK – The Days Creek boys basketball team took another two steps towards the playoffs this last week as they beat Yoncalla and Riddle to extend their winning streak to seven.

Friday night January 31 against Yoncalla the Wolves came out sluggish and after one quarter were tied with the host Eagles 11-11.

In the second quarter the Eagles turned up the defense held the Wolves to just eight points in the quarter while scoring 13 to take a 24-19 lead.

In the third quarter Days Creek Head Coach James Ellis turned up the defensive pressure, which is his trademark, and the move created several turnovers which were turned into points as the Wolves took the quarter 27-11 to take a 46-35 lead going into the final eight minutes.

In the fourth Days Creek

edged Yoncalla 19-15 to take home the 65-50 victory.

The Wolves were led by Xane Hopkins who had 17 points on the night while three of his teammates also finished in double figures. Keegan Stufflebeam put in 14, Aiden Denson 13 and Trenton Ladd had 10.

At Riddle on Saturday night it was much the same for Days Creek as both teams got off to a hot start. Days Creek held a slight lead , 17-15, after the first quarter but that was when the wheels came off for the Irish.

Riddle scored just four points in the second to Days Creek’s 17 to trail 34-19 at the half.

In the second half Riddle scored just six points total as the Wolves cruised to a 57-25 victory.

Leading the Wolves again was Hopkins as he poured in 18 points. Cam Stufflebeam added 15 and Ladd dropped in 12.

As for the Irish Layton Rainwater led them with 10 points.

With the victory the Wolves improved to 7-1 in Skyline play and 14-6 Overall and ranked #8 in the O.S.A.A. 1A polls.

The loss dropped Riddle into a tie with New Hope Christian for sixth place.

The two teams meet this Saturday.

Days Creek’s remaining schedule has Camas Valley at Days Creek on Friday and the the Wolves go to Glendale on Saturday.



FEBRUARY 20
Days Creek roars into playoffs

DAYS CREEK – The Days Creek boys basketball squad under the tutelage of James Ellis added one more notch to the proverbial belt as they finished off the regular season on a 10 game unbeaten string.

On Saturday the Wolves hosted Milo Adventist Academy in their regular season finale before the Skyline League Tournament.

Days Creek got off to a sluggish start taking the first quarter 12-6.

In the second stanza the two teams turned up the offense as Days Creek outscored the Mustangs 16-12 to take a 28-18 lead at the half.

Ellis brought out his swarming full court pressure defense in the third quarter, which is his trademark, and the Wolves responded holding Milo to just four points while pouring in 19 to break the game wide open with a 47-22 lead.

In the fourth Ellis eased off the pressure and played the reserves as the Wolves coasted to a 57-33 victory.

Cam Stufflebeam poured in a season-high 20 points to lead Days Creek. His brother Keegan Stufflebeam added 11 points while grabbing eight boards and dishing out six assists. Aiden Denson had 10 points to round out those in double figures.

Trenton Ladd grabbed 12 caroms and handed out four assists and Xane Hopkins ripped down nine rebounds and scored six points.

With the victory Days Creek improved to 17-6 overall and 10-1 in the Skyline League finishing second behind North Douglas in the league standings. The Wolves are currently ranked No. 9 in the Class 1A O.S.A.A. poll.

Days Creek is the only local team in the Skyline League to make the playoffs in both girls and boys basketball.

Riddle boys finished one game out of the playoffs, Glendale was two games out. Days Creek, Glendale ad Riddle girls were not in contention.

FEBRUARY 27
Wolves stumbles in league playoff

Still qualify as second seed from Skyline

SUTHERLIN – The Days Creek boys basketball team winning streak of 11 in a row came to an abrupt halt on Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the Skyline League playoffs.

Days Creek, riding the wave of momentum, went up against regular season league champion North Douglas, who finished the regular season undefeated in league play.

North Douglas jumped out to the early lead scoring the first five points before Days Creek could find the basket.

The Wolves settled down and finally scored. With the score 7-5 Days Creek for the remainder of the first quarter went on a 10-3 run to lead 15-10 at the end of the first.

In the second quarter the Warriors, according to Head Coach Jesse Leman, switched from plying man defense to a zone. The change proved successful as they were able to hold Days Creek to just three points in the second quarter while pouring in 14 to take a 24-18 lead at the half.

They stasyd with the zone and it really bothered Days Creek as their offense output was only 11 points in the third quarter to North Douglas’ 20 to give the Warriors a com-

manding 46-29 lead.

In the fourth it was more of the same as the Warriors won the quarter 16-12 and the game 60-41.

Leading the way for the Days Creek offense was Aiden Denson and Cam Stufflebeam who scored 12 points each.

Keegan Stufflebem was held to just six points and Xane Hopkins had five.

The loss gave the Wolves the second seed from the Skyline into the O.S.A.A. playoffs by virtue of their win against Elkton on Friday night.

In that game the Wolves came out a little sluggish but finished the first quarter strong taking it 13-10.

In the second they turned it up a bit taking the quarter 12-7 to take a 25-17 lead at the halfway point.

The third quarter was a mirror of the second with the Wolves taking it 12-7. One thing that was lacking was the trademarked tenacious full court defense that Days Creek Head Coach James Ellis usually implements in the third quarter.

It’s possible that his shortened rotation may have had something to do with it. Throughout both playoff games Ellis shortened his rotation to just six players and that was very seldom, it was usually the starting five.

In the fourth quarter the two teams played to a 12-12 standstill and Days Creek walked away with a 49-36 win and the assurance of at least a second seed.

K. Stufflebeam led the Wolves as he posted a double-double scoring 15 points and grabbing 11 boards His brother C. Stufflebeam also posted 15 points and Hopkins added nine. Denson had eight rebounds.

Days Creek currently sits at 18-7 overall.

They did wind up with a home game in the first round as they were seeded 10th and took on Echo, a team which they defeated earlier this season. That game was held Wednesday, February 26.

The results of that game were not available at press time.

MARCH 6
Wolves on to round of eight

KLAMATH FALLS – The Days Creek boys basketball squad was not ready to call it a season this last week as they hosted a first round playoff game against Echo and then took to the road in the second round to meet Crosspoint Christian.

When the dust settled they had two more wins under their belt and a trip to the round of eight in Baker City where they will meet second-ranked and undefeated Crane on Thursday evening.

On Wednesday, February 26, in their only home play-off game the Wolves hosted Echo.

Both teams came out a little timid and Echo jumped out to a small lead but then Days Creek came alive and won the quarter 14-12.

In the second the wolves exploded as Days Creek Head Coach James Ellis turned up his patented full court pressure defense, which is usually reserved for the third quarter.

The Cougars were frustrated by the defense and committed several turnover in the eight minutes which translated into easy baskets for the Wolves as they scored 22 in the quarter to Echo’s 9 to take a 36-21 halftime lead.

Days Creek continued the pressure D in the third and they again outscored the Cougars , this time 24-14 to take a

commanding 60-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth Days Creek continued to find the bottom of the net after stealing the ball and took the quarter 14-8 and the game 74-43.

Leading the Days Creek offensive charge was senior Keegan Stufflebeam who in his final home game as a member of the Wolves, posted a double-double with 23 points and 13 boards.

Fellow senior Aiden Denson, in his final game at Days Creek, posted a career-high 19 points and had seven rebounds.

Xane Hopkins and Cam Stufflebeam each had 10 points and Trenton Ladd added six as did Daniel Brown. Both Ladd and Hopkins both had several steals throughout the contest.

The victory earned the Wolves a trip to Klamath Falls to meet Crosspoint Christian on March 1.

In the game on Saturday Days Creek got off to a great start as they took the first quarter 23-14.

In the second the two played to a virtual standstill with Crosspoint Christian coming out on top 16-14 to close the gap to 37-30 at the half.

In the third quarter the Wolves got back a point as they took the quarter 16-15 to take an eight point lead, 53-45 into the final eight minutes.

In the fourth it was another back and forth affair with Days Creek edging out the Warriors 20-18 for the 73-63 victory.

Leading things once again for Days Creek was K. Stufflebeam as he posted another double-double with 23 points and 11 boards.

Ladd also had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds to go with four assists.

Hopkins added 16 points for the Wolves while C. Stufflebeam checked in with 13 points. Denson added nine.

Days Creek is the lowest seed in the round of eight. It is their fist trip back to Baker City since 2020.

MARCH 13
Days Creek falls in quarters, ends season with two losses

BAKER CITY – For their first time back to Baker City and the round of eight since 2019 it was a bittersweet trip for the Days Creek Wolves boys basketball team.

In everything that goes into making it that far and the joy of having made it and then drawing the undefeated No. 2 seeded and eventual state champion Crane in the quarterfinals was a rough go.

The two played in the final game on Thursday evening, March 6, and after the first quarter it was apparent that Crane was on a mission as they took the quarter 28-13 and never looked back.

The second quarter was much the same as the Mustangs outscored the Wolves 26-6 to build a huge 31 point deficit, 54-19 at the halfway point.

The third quarter was pretty much the same result as Crane took it 26-16 and went into the fourth quarter up 80-35.

In the final quarter the reserves for both teams saw plenty of action with only 6 total points being scored as Crane cruised to the 84-37 victory and a spot in the semifinals.

Aiden Denson, who Days Creek Head Coach James Ellis said was probably the
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smallest guy on the court, led the Wolves in offense with 13 points and five boards. Trenton Ladd put in 10 points and Cam Stufflebeam added eight points.

The Wolves shot just 38 percent from the field (19 of 50) while Crane was at 59.3 percent (35 of 59). Neither team committed that many fouls with Days Creek having nine infractions while Crane had just five. This resulted in the Wolves not shooting a single free throw while Crane was 4-for-5.

The loss pushed Days Creek into the consolation bracket where they met Nixyaawii on Friday.

Nixyaawii had lost to Country Christian in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

In the first quarter it was apparent that Days Creek had again drawn a top notch team. The Golden Eagles were ranked No. 3 and the loss to Country Christian was considered an upset.

The Golden Eagles came out in the first quarter and hung 28 on the Wolves while holding them to just nine points.

In the second the two teams played pretty much to a standstill with Nixyaawii taking the quarter 25-23 to hold a 53-32 halftime advantage.

In the third the Golden Eagles took flight again as they poured in 32 points against the Wolves’ 10 to take a commanding 85-42 lead into the final eight minutes.

In the fourth the two teams played to a 8-8 tie giving Nixyaawii a 93-50 victory.

Leading the way for Days Creek in his final high school game was Keegan Stufflebeam. The 6’5” senior poured in 17 points and ripped down seven boards. Cam Stufflebeam dumped in 15 points while claiming five caroms and Xane Hopkins added 11 points. Denson finished his prep career with three points.

The loss saw the Wolves end the season with an overall record of 20-9.

They lose three seniors from the program; K. Stufflebeam, Denson and Boone Stratford.

The chore of success next year falls to juniors Hopkins, C. Stufflebeam, Ladd, Daniel Brown and Drew Sawyer.

SEPTEMBER 11

Riddle runs away with season opener

RIDDLE – The Riddle Irish football squad got off to a slow start and things didn’t look so good after the first quarter but the Irish kept plugging away and eventually ran over the visiting Yoncalla Eagles in a 40-24 season opening victory.

The running attack of the Irish took a while to get going but behind the legs of Isaiah Ibrahim who ran for 281 yards and four touchdowns, Riddle netted over 400 yards on the ground.

In the first quarter it looked like Yoncalla was going to run away and hide as they scored on their first possession and then again near the end of the quarter but both conversions failed and after one the Eagles held a 12-0 lead.

Riddle finally got on the board with their initial score of the 2025 season as quarterback Layton Rainwater hit Jase Coker on a five yard pitch and catch. The conversion attempt failed. However, Riddle had cut the Yoncalla lead in half 12-6.

It didn’t stay that way for long as the Eagles on the ensuing kickoff returned it the distance to go back on top by 12, 18-6 with just 1:49 left in the half.

The Irish got motivated during the break and came out in the third quarter and saw Ibrahim take the hand off from Rainwater and scamper 41 yards for a score to close the gap to 18-12.

Yoncalla answered right back with what would be their final score of the game taking a 24-12 lead with 7:59 left in the third quarter.

It then became the Ibrahim show as Riddle drove down and he took it in from 27 yards out to cut the score to 24-18 as the conversion failed. There was still 5:07 left in the quarter.

A quick turnover and Riddle was on the move again. This time Ibrahim took it in from 24 yards out and after the first successful conversion attempt of the game the Irish had the lead 26-24 with just 2:02 lewft in the third. About midway through the fourth Ibrahim ripped off his longest run of the night scampering for a 58 yard score. Another successful conversion and the Irish lead was 34-24.

The final score of the night for Riddle came on a 13 yard run by Jonathan Arp to bring the final total to 40-24.

Ibrahim finished the night with 281 yards on 15 carries scoring four TDs. Arp had 101 yard on 16 rushes and one TD. Rainwater added 26 yards on six carries and Kane terry had 21 yards on two carries.

Rainwater also connected on four passes for 39 yards and one TD.

On defense Stephen Nordyke had 10 tackles while Nick McKinney had 6.5 and Austin Dean added 5.5.

Both Coker and Rainwater had interceptions. Arp also had a fumble recovery.

SEPTEMBER 18

Irish and Lancers still unbeaten on the gridiron

MYRTLE CREEK – The early prep football season has both the Riddle Irish and the South Umpqua Lancers undefeated in their first two games.

On Friday, September 12, Riddle traveled to Mohawk where they beat up on the host Mustangs 42-30.

Meanwhile South Umpqua was also on the road in Medford taking on St. Mary’s which they won 35-13.

South Umpqua was led by the rushing of Jay Kaae who had 109 yards on just four carries and a touchdown.

Quarterback Michael Fischer accounted for four scores. Two he ran in himself from 18 and 47 yards, respectively and the other two he connected on pass plays of 17 and 36 yards.

He finished with 59 yards rushing and was 5 for 9 for 76 yards passing.

The Lancers finished with 421 yards of offense, 326 of it coming via the rush.

Bobby Jensen scored a TD receiving.

Korbin Lussier also scored a touchdown. He was on the receiving end of Fischer’s 36 yard TD strike.

Lussier led the Lancer defensive charge with eight tackles on the night. Camden Black added five and Knox Maxey had four to go along with an interception.

Riddle was also very effective on the ground as sophomore running back Isaiah Ibrahim ran all over the totaling 337 yards on 19 carries and five touchdowns.

Quarterback Layton Rainwater also had a good night as he ran for 70 yards on five attempts and score once. He also had 56 yards passing.

On defense Nick McKin-

ney led the way with 13 tackles while forcing a fumble. Jase Coker had seven tackles and one interception. Kane Terry also had a pick and created a pass deflection.

OCTOBER 16

Riddle falls from unbeaten ranks

RIDDLE – The Riddle Irish ran into a buzz saw Friday night as the visiting Crosspoint Christian Warriors took them to task to the tune of 48-6.

The Warriors took the opening kickoff and were in the end zone on their second play from scrimmage and with a successful conversion they led 8-0.

Their second series took a little longer as they needed three plays to find pay dirt and the Warriors led 16-0 before the Irish knew what hit them.

Riddle came back with resolve in their next possession as they marched it down the field mixing run with pass and eventually scoring on a 23 yard strike from quarterback Layton Rainwater to receiver Jase Coker. The conversion failed and Riddle trailed 16-6. It was the only time the Irish would find the end zone on the evening.

Crosspoint Christian immediately answered the Irish score on the next series to build a 24-6 lead after the first quarter.

That lead ballooned in the second quarter as the Warriors connected on two 50+ yard touchdown passes to take a commanding 40-6 lead at the half.

The second half yielded just one score to bring the final tally to 48-6.

With the loss the Irish fell to 4-1 overall and 1-1 in Special District 1 play. They also fell to #11 in the O.S.A.A. 1A(8) rankings.

Next up for Riddle is a trip to Chiloquin on Friday, October 17.

OCTOBER 2

Riddle squeaks past Country Christian

RIDDLE – The Riddle football squad kept fans on the edge of their seats Saturday afternoon as they rallied in the second half to squeak out a 28-26 victory over Country Christian.

The victory kept the Irish’s unbeaten streak in tact as they moved to 3-0 on the young season.

The first quarter looked pretty bleak for Riddle as they fell behind the visiting Cougars 12-0.

The Irish opened up the second quarter with a touchdown run by Jonathan Harp on the first play from scrimmage. Following a successful conversion the Irish trailed by only four points, 12-8.

Not to be outdone Country Christian drove back down the field and added another

score before halftime to take a 20-8 lead.

Neither team’s offense could get on track in the third quarter but as the final period started so did Riddle.

Harp scored his second touchdown of the game on a 20 yard run but the conversion attempt failed and Riddle trailed by six 20-14.

minutes later it was Isaiah Ibrahim’s turn to find pay dirt as he ran around the left side of the formation and scampered 60 yards down the sideline to tie the game at 20-20. The conversion failed.

As the quarter began to wind down Riddle had the ball on their own 43 yard line when quarterback Layton Rainwater handed the ball off to Ibrahim who once again hit the sideline this time racing 57 yards to the end zone.

Rainwater ran the ball in for the two point conversion on a keeper and the Irish were on top for the first time on the afternoon, 28-20.

Following a four and out (turnover on downs) by Country Christian Riddle began to work on the clock trying to run it out but had to give the ball back to the Cougars with under a minute left in the game.

Country Christian promptly took it the length of the field and put it in the end zone on a 22 yard pitch and catch to set up a potential game-tying two point conversion attempt with no time left.

The attempt was a run but the Riddle defense held them out of the end zone to end the game and secure the 28-26 victory.

This marked the third time in as many games that Ibrahim has rushed for over 150 yards.

Riddles 3-0 start to the season is the best start they have had in over a quarter of a century, 1998 to be exact. That year the Irish won their first four games but injuries cost them the rest of the season and they finished 4-5.

OCTOBER 23

Riddle, South Umpqua both return to winning ways

CHILOQUIN – After suffering their first loss of the season at home against Crosspoint christian on October 10, the Riddle Irish took to the road on Saturday, October 18 to take on Chiloquin.

The Irish were not about to take another one on the chin and they came out firing and came away with a 36-26 victory. There were no statistics available for this contest. The win improved their record to 5-1 On the season.

As for the Lancers they too returned to the winning side of the ledger as they built a 20-7 halftime lead and coasted to a 34-21 victory over visiting Brookings-Harbor.

The Lancers took charge

in the second quarter as they scored their first touchdown of the game on a two yard run by Korbin Lussier to go up 10-0.

Brookings-Harbor came right back and scored to close the gap to 10-7.

Again South Umpqua answered with a two yard scoring run by Crew Donner. They followed that with a field goal by Cooper Howard to close out the half.

In the third the Lancers kept pouring it on as Jayden Kaae scored on a nine yard pass from Michael Fisher and with the Howard extra point South Umpqua had a 27-7 lead.

That’s when things got a little sloppy as Brookings-Harbor scored twice to to cut the deficit to just six at 27-21.

In the fourth the Lancers were able to score once more as Fischer ran it in from one yard out. The defense also kept the Bruins out to bring the final tally to 34-21.

Fischer finished the night going 17 of 29 for 261 yards and one TD. He also was picked once.

Kaae finished with six grabs for 99 yards and one score.

Bobby Jensen added in five receptions for 120 yards and Lussier had 40 yards on the ground on four carries which included a score.

He was also instrumental on defense as he had nine tackles with two for losses including one sack.

Donner and Adam Whetzel each had seven tackles on the night and Whetzel added an interception.

The win improved the Lancers record to 4-3 on the season.

OCTOBER 30

Riddle falls to Camas Valley

CAMAS VALLEY – Riddle came out strong against Camas Valley Friday night, October 24, and built a 10 point halftime lead, 28-18, but a monster fourth quarter by the Hornets propelled them to a 46-28 victory over the Irish.

Riddle scored first on a 41 yard run by Jase Coker. The conversion failed and they led 6-0. Cams Valley answered to tie it at 6-6.

Late in the quarter Coker found pay dirt again this time from one yard out to put Riddle back on top 12-6.

In the second the Hornets tied it up again at 12-12 but Riddle quickly answered as Noah Bosse hit Layton Rainwater on a 73 yard strike and with the conversion Riddle led 20-12.

Camas Valley scored again but did not convert and trailed 20-18.

To end the first half scoring and all of the scoring for the Irish was Jonathan Harp who punched one in from six yards out and with the conversion Riddle took a 28-18 halftime lead.

In the fourth quarter the Hornets exploded for 28 points and a 46-28 victory.

NOVEMBER 6

Riddle capsizes Glendale to make playoffs

RIDDLE – In the final game of the regular season the riddle football team rose to the occasion and took care of the visiting Glendale Pirates 40-20 to secure a spot in the O.S.A.A. 1A eight man playoffs, their first playoff berth since 1995.

It didn’t hurt that this was also the Irish’s Homecoming game and held on Friday, October 31, Halloween no less. Also adding fuel to the fire

was that someone had decided to paint the usually white big R, red.

Riddle came out firing early and took a 6-0 lead on a 54 yard gallop by Isaiah Ibrahim and maintained that lead throughout the first quarter. They built that lead to 12-0 in the second when quarterback Layton Rainwater hit Stephen Nordyke on a six yard strike.

Glendale was not to be outdone and the rest of the second quarter belonged to the Pirates as they built a 14-12 lead at the half.

A halftime speech by Ibrahim about just going out and having fun seemed to motivate the Irish as they came out charged up and took the lead back for good in the thirds with another rushing touchdown by Ibrahim, this one from 21 yards out. The conversion failed bu Riddle had the lead 18-14.

In the fourth the Irish pushed the lead out even more as Ibrahim found the end zone for the third time on the night, this time from 10 yards away. The conversion was good and Riddle led 26-14.

With about five minutes left in the game Glendale cashed in on a 56 yard pass to cut the deficit to 26-20.

On their next possession the Irish took care of business as Jonathan Harp burst through the middle and 44 yards later was in the end zone for another score and with successful conversion Riddle led by 14, 34-20.

Harp capped off the night on Glendale’s ensuing possession as he intercepted a Rocha pass and took it 51 yards to the house with no time left on the clock for the game ending pick six giving the Irish a 40-20 victory.

The Irish defense stood strong in the second half only allowing just 25 yards over the two quarters not counting the 56 yard scoring play.

Riddle Head Coach Jason Luft praised his defense for their second half play. He also noted that the return of Austin Dean in the second half sparked the team. Dean sat out the first half due to injury.

The Irish now face the sixth-ranked and seeded Imber Panthers on Saturday, November 8. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER 13

Riddle loses in first round of playoffs

IMBLER – The Riddle Irish football season came to a close Saturday, November 8, as they fell to Imbler 44-0 in the first round of the O.S.A.A. 1A eight-man playoffs.

This was the first time the Irish had made the playoffs in over 30 years. They had a couple of play-in opportunities since then with the most recent being in 2022 but were unable to come out on the winning end.

The Irish finish the season with a overall mark of 6-3 and ranked 11th. Riddle loses just three seniors to graduation.

Those players are Josh Boqua, Nick McKinney and Stephen Nordyke.

OCTOBER 2

SU extends unbeaten string

TRI CITY – The South Umpqua Soccer team is on a roll to start the 2025 season. The Lancers are still unbeaten after seven matches as they took down Sutherlin 3-0 on Thursday afternoon improving their record to 6-0-1.

Sophomore Ray Alcaraz led the South Umpqua offense with two goals and assisted on the third which was scored by Braxton Hamilton.

OCTOBER 30

See SYIR 2025 Page11



Obituaries from 2025 included several prominent area citizens



ROLAND J. THEISS
Myrtle Creek

Roland Johnnie Theiss, 86, of Myrtle Creek died January 3 surrounded by his three children, Anthony Wade Theiss, Tonya Ann Theiss Skrip, and Roland Todd Theiss, as well as other close family members.

Born in Dallas, Oregon, October 10, 1938, to John and Marelyn Theiss,

He lived a full life and was an inspiring leader to his family and many citizens of Douglas County and beyond. After schooling, Roland met the love of his life, Margaret ‘Margie’ Sherman from Ten-mile, Oregon. After a classic and joyous courtship, they wed on November 1, 1958, and remained married until her death in 2019.

Simultaneously, he worked in the logging industry for several years for his father and uncles and later joined other local operators such as M & B Logging, Teco, and Conifer Douglas.

He started his entrepreneurial journey as his family grew by purchasing and operating two service stations, the Union 76 in Myrtle Creek and the Shell Station in Winston. With his wife as a full-time mother of eventually three, he transitioned into the real estate industry and became a broker with Village Realty in Myrtle Creek. He eventually purchased the business and built it into one of the leading local real estate companies.

He helped many people with dreams of home ownership buy their first home with his experience and creativity, always finding solutions for his clients. During his over 40 years in the business, many people approached he with a warm embrace to tell him that he was the person who helped them buy the homes in which they raised their families and helped secure their dreams and their futures.

Furthering his creative ambitions and zeal, in 1977, Roland and his close friend and business partner Bill Lebegood recognized an opportunity to build a storage facility in south Douglas County to service the local community. After many challenging years of working toward this goal, Roland opened the Mini Mouse Warehouse in Myrtle Creek, now the U-Store Self Storage. He eventually added the Canyon Cubbyholes facility in Canyonville and one in Riddle; now, both are U-Store Self Storage. He ultimately built or owned over 1,000 storage units in Douglas County.

He provided many jobs to people throughout his career. Many people who worked for him remained with him throughout his life and careers. Others started their own businesses based on their experiences and business education with Roland.

He was also a leader in the community and contributed to its citizens in many ways. He co-founded and was chairman and co-chair of the South Douglas Rodeo, which grew in stature and popularity over the years. He was also a founding member of Mill-site Park, which has attracted travelers far and wide. He was an avid supporter of numerous charities in the community, including South Umpqua

Food Bank, Wildlife Safari, Mercy Festival of Trees, Cobb School, South Umpqua High School, All Souls Catholic Church, Umpqua Valley Christian School, Tri-City Water and Sanitary Authority Board, and the Oregon Dog Rescue, where he built dog houses for the organization.

He was honored as Myrtle Creek’s Man of the Year in 2006 for his achievements and positive contributions to the community. He was also a member of the Myrtle Creek Elks Lodge.

Throughout his life, He exhibited kindness to friends and relatives, both old and new. He often stopped by their homes to say hello and catch up on their lives. It was never too far away or too inconvenient. He made the time to keep in touch with family and friends.

In addition to his family, work, and community volunteer activities, Roland embraced many recreational activities with gusto and enthusiasm. He hunted, fished, skied, camped, and boated. But his true passion was whitewater rafting. Over the years, Roland became an expert rafter, rowing many challenging rivers, including the Salmon, Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Colorado River, Snake River, Klamath River, and others. He loved adventure, as exhibited by one rafting trip on the Tattshenshini River that started in the Yukon and concluded with a flyout point in British Columbia.

But he was most at home on the Rogue River. He loved the lower Rogue, welcomed any opportunity to raft with his friends and family, and embraced the chance to introduce new rafters to his home away from home on the Rogue. He became affectionately known as ‘Roland on the River.’ At his request, some of his ashes will be permanently united with the wild splendor of his home away from home.

The couple also traveled extensively, visiting Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, many West Coast states, and all the Pacific Northwest offers.

Survivors include: his three children and their spouses (Carol Jacob, Patrick Skrip, and Serena Morgan); and four grandsons, Gentry, Rogue, Jacob, and Avery.

A celebration of his life is planned for the summer of 2025 at Myrtle Creek’s Mill-site Park. The theme will be Hawaiian Rafting Style. Roland on the River will forever live on!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: South Douglas Rodeo – Memory of Roland Theiss PO Box 266, Myrtle Creek, OR 97457 or All Souls Catholic Church – Memory of Roland Theiss, 1242 NE Spruce Avenue, Myrtle Creek OR 97457

FEBRUARY 13
BARBARA A. MCAHREN
Lompoc, California

Barbara Ann McAhren, 88, of Lompoc, California, died December 28, 2024.

She was born July 2, 1936, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Arthur and Henreitta McDonald.

Throughout her life she was a business owner, a congressional aide, worked at the DA’s office and the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce. She served as the Executive Director of the Lompoc Flower Festival.

She was also a pilot with over 600 flight hours.

She was a former resident

of Myrtle Creek.

She first met her husband, Gordon McAhren on St. Patrick’s Day 1972 and it was love at first sight.

The couple enjoyed traveling and created many wonderful memories.

She was a beautiful and loving person and will be remembered as Gordon’s forever “Bunkee”.

Survivors include: her husband, Gordon; six children, Ethan, Michael, Stephen, Rebecca, Constance and Kimberly; six grandchildren, Christine, Gabrielle, Jason, Drew, Yeager and Rikki; and two great-grandchildren, aria and Rhett.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; and a brother, Larry



MARCH 20
SHANE C. BALL
Myrtle Creek

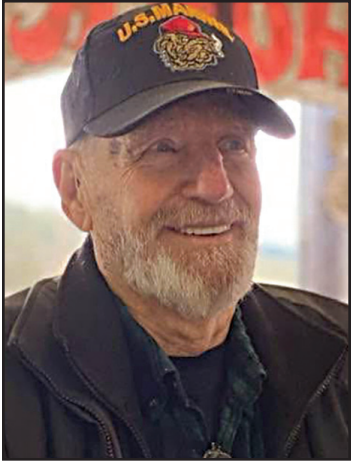
Shane Christopher Ball, 43, died March 1, with his mother and stepdad by his side. He was born June 30, 1981, in Roseburg and lived in the area all of his short life. First and foremost, he was the best and most fun dad to his son, Layne.

He had a passion for old cars and trucks and loved working on them. He loved the mountains, the river, the tide pools at the ocean, riding 4-wheelers and dirt-bikes, anything outdoors that he could do with his son.

Survivors include: his mother, Carolyn (and Rodney) Blevins; his dad, Doug (and Merry) Ball; a son, Layne Christopher Ulam-Ball; Layne’s mother, Amanda Ulam; four brothers, Wiatt Preston, Matthew Ball, Clint Blevins, and David Blevins; and all his aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

“Shane, you are greatly missed, and you will always be in our hearts. Until we see you again, we love you.”

A “Remember Shane” gathering will be held in May.



MAY 8
HARVEY BENNETT
Myrtle Creek

Harvey Bennett, 81, died April 21 in Roseburg.

He was born on October 5, 1943, the eldest of seven siblings.

A proud military man, he served in the US Marine Corps in his youth and later dedicated years of volunteer work with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

His love for the sea and all things nautical was a defining aspect of his life.

One of his most cherished memories was traveling as a crew member on a replica clipper ship from San Diego to Dana Point - truly a trip of a lifetime.

He was a man of many talents: a skilled carpenter, tile

setter, and business entrepreneur. He operated a western gift shop every day in the last several years of his life, which provided him an outlet for his passion for shopping, selling, and most importantly, interacting with people. Blessed with the gift of gab, he thrived on human connection and conversation.

Throughout his life, he was known as a kind man always willing to lend a helping hand to people in need. Hard working and creative, he could even pick out tunes on the piano by ear. When his children were young, he enjoyed playing guitar and singing for them. He was a tinkerer, schemer, planner, and dreamer, always working toward the next adventure. Despite his declining health over the past year, he embraced life fully and concealed how much he was ailing for as long as he could. When family finally stepped in about six months ago, he resisted in spirit but was relieved to have help and care. Though none could have predicted how quickly his illness would progress, least of all himself, he received wonderful care at Avamere at Oak Park and VA Medical Center-Roseburg.

Survivors include: four children, Goldie Mandella, Dustin Bennett, Jacob Bennett, Nickolas Bennett; two step-sons from a previous marriage, Matt Pensyl and Jeremy Pensyl; five siblings, Georgia Wall, Holly Nogales, Theresa Wise, Robert Bennett, and Anna Christine Haranan.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; and a brother, Tom Bennett.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his spirit lives on through the many lives he touched with his kindness, creativity, and zest for life.

Arrangements are in the care of Umpqua Valley Funeral Directors.



JUNE 12
MARLEN FERCH
Myrtle Creek

Marlen “Bud” Ferch85, of Myrtle Creek died April 22.

He was born March 16, 1930, in LaMoure, North Dakota, to Eli and Marie Ferch. He joined his sister Marcella and later Lucielle, making their family complete. He worked alongside his father on their humble farm. On March 1, 1952, he enlisted in the Marines and was sent to the Korean War, fought in three engagements, and was one of five who survived from his platoon.

He married Merle Baker in 1954. Following the loss of their first son, Dennis, in 1954, they welcomed six more children; Timothy Marlen, Benny Joe, Pamela June, Jimmy Wayne, Sherrie Marie, and Mary Ellen.

He made his living as a cowboy, working on ranches throughout the Dakotas, Kansas, Texas, Nevada, and California. He and his faithful dog “Bob” were highly sought after for their skills in wrangling wild cattle. He supplemented his income by being a proficient farrier, and on weekends, he would compete in saddle bronc in rodeos

throughout the states.

In 1972, he married Carolyn Roe. They welcomed their son, Dustin Dennis, in 1976 while he was working in a small logging camp in Yreka, California.

He was a legend in the ranching community and was known as a man of his word. He and his partner roped a mountain lion, which was relocated to the San Diego Zoo. Also, on a dare, he roped a sea lion, which dragged him and his mount into the ocean till releasing his rope to save them both. Bud was very disappointed that he lost a brand-new, good rope to the sea lion and the sea. He was asked to stand in for a commercial as the “Marlboro Man.” This man of few words once said, “he was pretty proud of the fact that he roped all his life and ended it with all his fingers.”

In 1992, he retired and moved his family to Myrtle Creek. He worked tirelessly clearing brush and building fence on their property. He worked just as hard for the many years of his retirement as he did before.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Eli and Marie; two sisters, Marcella and Lucie; two wives, Merle and Carolyn; a son, Dennis; a daughter, Pammy; and two granddaughters, Kristina and Taylor. Survivors include: six children, Tim, Ben, Jim, Sherrie, Mary, and Dustin and their spouses; 24 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

He lived a life only told in fantasy books or movies.

His broken body that slowly tried to trap a titan of a man is now freed to Heaven’s range. His example of faith, fearless patriotism, humor, and love will be cherished for generations.



KATHRYN OTERO
Parker, Colo.

Kathryn “Kathi” Sue Otero, 85, died peacefully April 22 at her home in Parker, Colorado, with her family at her bedside.

She was born August 25, 1939, in Tyler, Texas, to Claude (Jack) Powers and Ruth Evelyn (Myers) Powers. She grew up in Modesto, California, and was a graduate of Thomas Downey High School in 1957. She married Roland (Ron) Merman on June 29, 1957, and had three children: Roland Scott, Susan Jean, and Mark Eric. They divorced in 1968.

She studied Chemistry and became a chemical technician for Dow Chemical, and later Umpqua Research, and she loved her job all through her life. In 1975 she married Danny Otero, and they enjoyed 40 years of life together. They retired in 1984 and purchased a campground in Remote, Oregon, which they operated for 10 years. The couple moved to Myrtle Creek, Oregon, in 1995.

She was an accomplished seamstress, quilter, and painted ceramic figurines for many family members and friends. For as long as can be remem-

bered the couple enjoyed trips to the California and Oregon coastline. And last November she took a once in a lifetime trip to Maui, Hawaii, with her family.

She enjoyed pets of all kinds. Her children remember a box turtle that lived under a tree in their backyard, an iguana, and a succession of cats and dogs. In her later years, George, Dolly and then Madison (all cute little dogs) were her constant companions.

She loved her grandchildren and step grandchildren (as much as her own), even having a couple of her grandsons living with her at the campground. The couple also “adopted” some friends as their “Oregon kids”. She felt especially blessed to be able to watch Chance, her Oregon grandson, grow up. For the last 25 years of life she was her oldest son’s guardian and medical advocate. This role brought the added blessing of being able to see her grandson (Roland Jr) regularly. Though three of her grandchildren were not close by, she loved receiving their pictures, phone calls, occasional visits (and making their Halloween costumes). In 2022 she and Roland moved to Colorado to be near her great-grandson, Gabe,

She was a 30 year member of the Lions Club (a service organization helping secure eyeglasses and hearing aids for people in need). She served as secretary on the board of directors of South Douglas Food Bank in Riddle, volunteered at the local library, and read to children at the elementary school. She was an active member of Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church, and at the age of 79 was appointed to a seat on the Myrtle Creek City Council. She realized how God helped her through difficult times in her life, and in response she wanted to help others.

Survivors include: three children, Roland Scott Merman, Susan (Merman) and David Wallin; two step-daughters, Christine Schriendl and Laura Howk; four grandchildren: Roland Michael Merman; Katie (and Matthew) Miller; Carl Wallin, and Mar Merman; a great-grandson, Gabriel Miller; cousins: Karen (and Don) Torrenge, Darla (and Jeff) Rigard, Lorna (and David) Wynn and Jennifer Gruber; nieces: Kate, Casey and LaShelle Powers, and many step relations whom she loved; and her sweet canine companion, Bella.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Danny; a brother, Bill Powers; and her son, Mark.

In lieu of flowers, she would appreciate support given to any of the following: Centennial Lions, Myrtle Creek Lions, Grace Covenant Church Lakewood, Colo, or the Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church. Her family held a Celebration of Life service June 7 at Grace Covenant Church in Lakewood, Colo.



SEPTEMBER 4
ALICE M. POORT
Canyonville
See OBITs 25 Page11

SYIR:

Continued from Page 9

Lancers are Special District champs

TRI CITY – The current 12th ranked South Umpqua Lancers finished off their Special District 4 League schedule last Tuesday, October 21, as they tied with Sutherlin 1-1.

The tie brought the Lancers league record to 9-0-3 and also secured them the league championship and the No. 1 seeding from Special District 4 and a first round bye in the playoffs.

On Thursday, October 23, South Umpqua hosted Rogue River out of Special District 5.

The Chieftains only had one victory all season.

The Lancers took the Chieftains to task and came away with a 5-0 victory to remain undefeated on the season at 11-0-3.

South Umpqua got goal from five different players led by Rhett Wright who had one goal and two assists on the afternoon.

The team’s leading scorer on the year Raymond Alcaraz scored once and assisted on another goal

Also scoring for the Lancers were Dom Darling, Trace Esterbrook and Tayden Houghton.

Vander Deardorff, Braxton Hamilton and Nolan Dewald all had one assist each in the victory.

Goalkeeper Cameron Esterbrook recorded his ninth shutout of the season. He had three saves on the afternoon.

South Umpqua’s undefeated season came to an end on Monday as they took to the road to take on No. 6 ranked Creswell in a nonleague contest.

The host Bulldogs took the Lancers to task and handed them a 4-0 loss in their final game of the regular season

The Lancers are scheduled to host a second-round state playoff game on Thursday, November 5. Their opponent is still to be determined.

NOVEMBER 13 Lancer booters fall in second round of playoffs

TRI CITY – The South Umpqua Boys Soccer team hosted their first playoff game in a quarter century (2000) last Wednesday, November 5, taking on Blanchet Catholic.

The result was not good for the Lancers as they fell 3-0.

In the first half both teams played rather conservatively on the rain-soaked field at Tri

City.

The first half ended in a 0-0 tie.

The second half saw Blanchet Catholic score two goals within the first five minutes of the half and by the halfway point they were up 3-0.

The loss was only the second loss for the Lancers on the season as they finished with a overall record of 11-2-3 going undefeated in league (9-0-3).

Head Coach August Harrison loses seven seniors to graduation. Those players departing are Hunter Hudgeon, Talen Lamm, Logan Schwerdt, Dom Stevenson, Vander Deardorff, Nolan Dewald and Tayden Houghton.

DECEMBER 11 Riddle remains undefeated

POWERS -- It may have taken them a extra frame to keep their undefeated record in tact but that’s just what the Riddle boys basketball squad did on Saturday evening, December 6, against Southwest Christian defeating them 62-54 in overtime.

It might have never gotten to that point if not for a last second put back shot by Nick McKinney that fell through the net to tie the contest 52-52.

In the overtime period it was all Riddle as they outscored Southwest Christian 9-2 to take the 61-54 victory.

Leading the way for the Irish was Layton Lewis who poured in 26 points.

A quartet of Irish; Layton Rainwater, Stephen Nordyke, Rafeal Lopez and Solomon Rhea, all contributed eight points each.

McKinney had 11 rebounds, six assits and three points.

The game was played at Powers High School.

This marked the third game in as many days for Riddle who earlier in the week defeated Chemewa 64-56 and Prospect 80-58.

Against Prospect Lewis scored a career-high 29 points while Rainwater and Kane Terry each had 10.

DECEMBER 18 Riddle wins classic with comeback wins over Glendale, St. Paul

RIDDLE – The Riddle Irish boys have recently taken on the moniker of the comeback kids as they rallied from halftime deficits in both games of the Cow Creek Classic to ultimately claim the title.

On Saturday, December 13, in the championship game against St. Paul Riddle trailed at the half by five 33-26 after having played to a 12-12 standstill in the first quarter.

In the third quarter the Irish were able to only shave one point off the Buckaroos lead as they took the quarter 10-9 but trailed by four, 42-38, going into the final eight minutes.

In the final frame the two teams battled and it took the Irish up until the last 30 seconds of the game to take the lead. That lead came on a three point shot by Rafael Lopez and it proved to be the deciding factor in the win for the Irish.

The victory game them their first Cow Creek Classic championship in four years and kept their undefeated record, (6-0), in tact.

Three Irish were in double figures with Cole Canty leading the way with 12 points while Nick McKinney posted a double-double scoring 11 while pulling down 12 boards. He also has four assists and three steals. Layton Lewis rounded out the trio with 10 points.

Both Lewis and Canty made the all-tournament team along with St. Paul’s Sullivan Grott, Camas Valley’s Tatum Sexton and Glendale’s Kaden France

The Irish might not have been in the title game if not for a defensive blitzkrieg of Glendale in the second half of their first round game on Friday.

The Pirates jumped out to a 12-7 lead after the first quarter and by halftime they had built a 10 point advantage 29-19.

In the third quarter the Irish came out and played a ¾ Court Trap defense for most of the quarter which resulted in a myriad of turnover by the Glendale offense.

The press-trap equated into easy buckets for the Irish and by the end of the quarter they had outscored the Pirates 21-8 to take a 40-37 lead into the fourth.

In the final stanza it went back and forth with each team having short runs but ultimately the Irish held off the Pirates by hitting free throws and takig the quarter 13-9 and the game 53-46.

Lewis led the offensive charge with 20 points while Canty dropped in 16, which included five triples. McKinney contributed to the cause grabbing eight boards to go with five steals and three assists.

Kaden France led Glendale with 17 points and Huntyr Rocha added 11. Jackson Pisan chipped in with 10 points.

The Irish ran their record to 7-0 on Monday evening as they defeated Alsea 62-47.

SEPTEMBER 25 See SYIR Page 12 OBITS 25:

Continued from Page 10

Alice Mae Poort, 79, of Canyonville died peacefully on August 13 at Mercy Medical Center, with her family by her side.

She was born November 5, 1947, in Illinois, to Derk and Henrietta Poort. She grew up surrounded by animals and corn fields. She could run like the wind and ride a horse like a pro. She taught herself to trick ride and barrel race. Her mom would frequently find her asleep on the back of a horse in the sun. She was known for helping any stray animal that came along, including cats, dogs, and even baby skunks.

She later moved to Tennessee, embracing the friendly, laid-back lifestyle. She enjoyed country music and dancing, long rides on her motorcycle, and her sweet little dogs. Her nickname was “Country Girl”.

She worked as a type setter at Litho type for many years. She worked hard, was independent, and kind. She liked to look classy and have fun in life.

She eventually moved to Oregon to live with her sister, Martha and family.

Survivors include: Mena and Pete Reilly, Martha Burkert, Derk Poort the 3rd (and Rose Poort), Grace Poort, and Berta (and Mike) Musuta.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Derk and Henrietta Poort.

She will be laid to rest in Canyonville. She will always be in our hearts and in God’s peaceful arms.

OCTOBER 30



ELIZABETH HAMANN REEDY Myrtle Creek

Elizabeth “Liz” Hamann

Reedy, 82, of Myrtle Creek died October 15 following a short illness.

She was born in 1943 in San Francisco to Joe and Julia (Kinavey) Reedy.

The family moved to San Jose in 1952 when her father’s employer, Hibernia Bank, opened a branch.

Her passion for dancing was ignited in San Jose and she was able to continue this until recent months.

She graduated from Notre Dame High School in San Jose and enjoyed lifetime friendships from her time there. She completed her LVN at San Jose City College. She worked at Los Gatos Hospital at one point. She resided in San Jose in the early 1970’s and began her lifelong career with Santa Clara County Social Services.

She left Silicon Valley to retire in Myrtle Creek where she found friendships and joy from numerous activities in this beautiful community.

Travels included locations in Ireland where her grandparents lived.

Unfortunately, she did not have the time (or ankles at 80) to take up Irish step dancing while in the ‘old country.’

Survivors include: a daughter, Julie Vatuone; a son, Matt (and Lily) Helms; five grandchildren, Nicholas (and Emma) Vatuone, Joshua, Zachariah, Wesley and Riley Helms; a great-grandson, Bennett Helms; two siblings, Phil (and Judy) Reedy and Christine (and Bob) Williams of Shasta County, California and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; and a brother, Joseph Reedy.

DECEMBER 18



JOYCE E. O'DAY-HOBSON Myrtle Creek

Joyce Elizabeth O’Day-Hobson, just shy of her 90th birthday, died peacefully at home on December 8.

She was born in Tucson, Arizona, on December 30, 1935, to Isabel and Eugene

Young.

A longtime Myrtle Creek resident, she was deeply rooted in her community and known for her generous spirit and countless hours of volunteer service. She attended college in Santa Barbara, where she met and later married the late George Richard “Dick” O’Day in the spring of 1954.

In 1966, the couple moved to Myrtle Creek, settling on a small country farm—complete with its very own milk cow, Bessy. Soon after pigs, cows, chickens, and rabbits joined the family, creating what became affectionately known as “the farm.”

She was an active and dedicated member of the Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church. Through the years she contributed to the church history project, served on the Administrative Church Council, attended Annual Northwest Conferences and women’s retreats throughout the Pacific Northwest, and participated in numerous ministries supporting both the congregation and the wider community, including the Safe Place for Kids program.

In recognition of her service and impact, she was selected in 2002 as Top Citizen of Myrtle Creek. She was also recognized in 2003 as Woman of the Year by the Myrtle Creek/Tri-City Chamber of Commerce.

Her professional career began with the opening of the Myrtle Creek Hospital, where she became a licensed medical records technician. In 1976 she joined a small start-up, Umpqua Research Company, where she worked for 23 years, retiring as Office Manager.

Her lifelong commitment to youth and community began early as a 4-H leader alongside her husband as they founded the Myrtle Creek 4-H Stockman Club. Together, they taught and mentored young people on the values of community, friendship, responsibility, volunteerism, and the 4-H principles of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health—guiding lessons that she carried throughout her life.

She was also active in the American Business Women’s Association, serving at one time as the local chapter president, and participated in Job’s Daughters as well as numerous school and community programs. Never one to remain idle, she also served on the Myrtle Creek Fire Board,


See OBITS 25 Page 12


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SEPTEMBER 25
Man robbed in Myrtle Creek

MYRTLE CREEK – On Sunday, September 14, at about 8:47 p.m. officers were dispatched to the Columbia Bank (formerly Umpqua Bank) at 111 NW Pleasant Street. Myrtle Creek Police Department officers and Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) deputies responded and contacted a male in the drive through, who reported that he was just robbed by two subjects.

The victim reported that he was dropping off a deposit for his workplace when the two men approached his vehicle and demanded the money. He told police that one of the men threatened to shoot him. The subjects took an undisclosed amount of money and fled the area on foot.

DCSO deployed a drone, and the Roseburg Police Department brought a K-9 to the scene for a track. The suspects were not located at that time.

The two males were both wearing hoodie sweatshirts and masks.

Evidence was collected at the scene and is being processed. The investigation is active and no further information will be released at this time.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Myrtle Creek Police Department at 541-440-4471.

Website to launch; subscribers help needed

MYRTLE CREEK – The Douglas County Mail will launch its first-ever website October 1 but in the interim assistance is needed from all subscribers.

The Douglas County Mail is in the process of setting up subscriber access to the website but in order to accomplish this the emails of all subscribers are needed.

If you are a current subscriber please send us an email with your name and physical address along with your email address.

Also please include a phone number so we can contact you personally if other information is needed.

If you are a subscriber but don’t want access to the on-line version of The Douglas County Mail please send us your email anyway because eventually all billing we become electronic due to the continued increases in postage.

The plan is to provide the website free for the first month. After that time it will be accessible by subscription only. Current subscribers will have free access to the site but email addresses are needed to be able to generate a email with a password.

The Douglas County Mail still plans to print a paper version of the newspaper on a weekly basis as has happened for the last 123 years. The goal is to provide a more comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of events throughout the area.

If anyone has any questions please email us at dc-mail@dcmail.info

OCTOBER 2
Website launches, subscribers help still needed

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Please bear with us as we work through this new avenue of news.

If anyone has any questions email us at dcmail@dcmail.info

Riddle woman found deceased

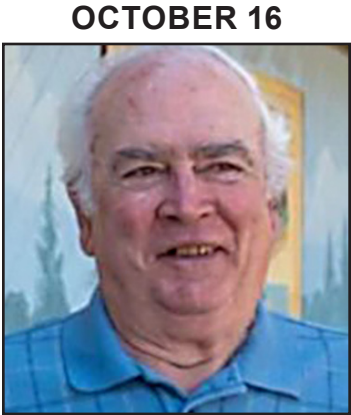
RIDDLE – At approximately 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 9-1-1 dispatchers were advised that the body of Shirley Hart was located near her residence. Deputies confirmed her death and notified her next of kin. The Douglas County Medical Examiner’s Office was notified and began investigating the death. There are no indications of foul play at this time.

Deputies and Search and Rescue crews began actively searching for 90-year-old Riddle resident Shirley Hart on Saturday morning. Hart had dementia and wandered away from her home in the 1300-block of Canyonville Riddle Road sometime during the previous night. She was considered to be at risk.

Residents in the immediate area of Shirley’s residence were asked to check any unlocked vehicles or outbuildings as Hart was known to enter those and sleep.

The Sheriff’s office personnel would like to thank the many volunteers and community members for their efforts in trying to locate Hart. The men and women of the Sheriff’s office extend their deepest sympathies to the Hart family.

The Sheriff’s office was assisted by volunteers from Douglas County Search and Rescue, REACH Air Medical Services, Cow Creek Tribal Police Department and Myrtle Creek Police Department.



Riddle mayor resigns
RIDDLE – Longtime Riddle Mayor Bill Duckett officially resigned Monday evening, October 13, at the Riddle city council meeting ending a run of 30 years at the helm.

His Letter of Resignation was read into the record and the city council proceeded to appoint City Councilor Aaron Christensen to fill out the remainder of the term which expires at the end of the 2026 calendar year.

Duckett was first seated as Mayor January 9, 1995.

There will be a retirement party held for Duckett on Saturday, October 25, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Riddle Community Center.

The Riddle City Council will now be accepting applications to fill the vacancy on the council created by the appointment of Christensen to Mayor.



Douglas County Mail photo by Bob Chaney, Sr.
Longtime Mayor of Riddle Bill Duckett, who recently resigned from the post, was honored on Saturday, October 25, with a retirement party culminating his 30+ years as Mayor. Several people were on hand to give Duckett well wishes including all three Douglas County Commissioners; Tom Kress, Chris Boice and Tim Freeman. Freeman spoke on behalf of the Commissioners and presented Duckett with one of their Challenge Coins. (ABOVE) Newly appointed Mayor Aaron Christensen (RIGHT) presents Duckett (LEFT) with a plaque denoting his service to the city of Riddle for over three decades. Riddle City Manager Kathy Wilson (CENTER) looks on. Wilson also spoke about her time with the city and how Duckett was a part of that. Others in attendance spoke about how Duckett had been a part of their lives over the last 30 years and how much they were going to miss that but also how they were looking forward to new relationships with the new leadership.

NOVEMBER 13
Myrtle Creek man arrested on drug charges

MYRTLE CREEK – Myrtle Creek resident Chet Evans was arrested last week on drug charges.

On Wednesday, November 6, detectives with the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) witnessed possible drug activity within the intersection of NE Casper Ave and NE Odell Ave in Roseburg. At approximately 9:45 a.m., with assistance from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, detectives contacted Evans, 38, of Myrtle Creek.

Evans was detained and a search of him and his vehicle revealed approximately 3.5 grams of suspected fentanyl and a glass pipe with suspected methamphetamine residue. Evans was also in possession of brass knuckles and an expandable baton. Evans is currently on Felony Probation and has multiple felony convictions.

Evans was lodged at the Douglas County Jail on two counts of Felon in Possession of a Restricted Weapon, Unlawful Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and is on a Probation Detainer for Lane County.

The Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT) is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force that identifies, disrupts, and dismantles local, multi-state, and international drug trafficking organizations using an intelligence-driven, multi-agency prosecutor-supported approach.

DECEMBER 4
Announcement to our readers

For many years, our newspaper, The Douglas County Mail, has been dedicated to providing trustworthy local news, thoughtful storytelling, and a reliable voice for our community. We remain committed to that mission. However, we must also adapt to the realities facing the journalism industry today.

Like many publications across the country, we have experienced declining advertising revenues, a primary source of funding for our

OCTOBER 30
30+ YEARS IN THE MAKING

year old Laquita Twete was dealing methamphetamine.

At approximately 3:40 p.m. a deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office conducted a traffic stop on Twete’s vehicle.

During the traffic stop, drug detection K-9 “Trapper” alerted to the presence of controlled substances in the vehicle.

A short time later, detectives executed a search warrant on Twete’s vehicle, locating approximately 87.1 grams of suspected methamphetamine.

Detectives then served a search warrant on Twete’s residence in the 300 block of Conrad Street in Myrtle Creek. At the residence, detectives located an additional 3.2 grams of suspected methamphetamine and a digital scale consistent with presumed delivery and distribution of controlled substances.

Twete was arrested and taken to the Douglas County Jail and charged with Driving While Suspended or Revoked and three counts each of Unlawful Manufacture of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine.

SYIR:
Continued from Page 10
South Umpqua survives against Klamath Union

TRI CITY -- South Umpqua jumped out to an early lead in their home opener Friday night, September 19, as they entertained Klamath Union but had to hold on for a tight 25-18 victory.

The first score for the Lancers came on a miscue by the Pelicans offense as the center hiked the ball over the quarterback’s head and it trickled out through the end zone for a safety and a 2-0 lead for the Lancers before they ever set foot on the field offensively.

On their first offensive series South Umpqua methodically marched down the field and punched it in the end zone on a one yard run by Crew Donner. The extra point was no good and South Umpqua led 8-0 with 6:09 left in the first quarter.

On Klamath Union’s next possession they came out firing and marched it down the field to score a touchdown of their own with 4:48 left in the first. The conversion attempt was no good and the Lancers still led 8-6.

The lancers didn’t do anything on offense and punted as the quarter came to an end. The first play of the second saw the Pelicans firing again but it was to the wrong team as Bobby Jensen intercepted the pass and returned it 31 yards for the pick six and after a successful extra point the Lancers led 15-6.

The Lancers next score didn’t come until late in the second quarter when quarterback Michael Fischer decided to do it himself running it in from three yards away and after the extra point the Lancers led 22-6.

South Umpqua’s final score of the quarter and the game came as time expired in the half as Cooper Howard connected on a 30 yard field goal to give South Umpqua a 25-6 lead at the half.

It looked like it was going to be a breeze from then on but as the two teams battled in the third quarter neither one could seem to sustain any type of a drive and neither one scored.

In the fourth things began to get a little uncomfortable for South Umpqua as Klamath Union began to move the

ball.

It started about a minute into the quarter when the Pelicans scored on a 35 yard pitch and catch. However they still couldn’t convert on the extra points and trailed 12-25.

The Lancer offense went cold and once again the defense had their backs to the wall as Klamath Union drove down the field and put it in the end zone with 5:09 left.

Another missed opportunity on the conversion saw the Lancer lead remain at seven, 25-18. The Pelicans’ defense held the Lancers and got the ball back and drove it down into Lancer territory. The SU defense stiffened and stopped them on four successive plays to take over on downs and ran the clock out.

OBITS 25:
Continued from Page 11
contributing to the development and promotion of the rural fire protection association—an involvement she was particularly proud of.

After retiring in 1999, she continued her service, volunteering several days a month for over a decade with the Mercy Hospice of Roseburg, providing administrative support to the hospice staff and leadership.

In 2001, she met her second great love, Dewey Hobson at Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church. They were married on July 7, 2007, and spent more than 24 cherished years together. The couple continued the community volunteering together and enjoyed traveling to visit family and taking fishing trips to Green River, Wyoming. He kept her active, and their time together was a blessing not only to them but to the entire family.

An avid reader, she supported and volunteered with the Friends of Myrtle Creek Library. Large-print books were her favorite, especially works by authors John Grisham and Dave Baldacci.

At home, she took great pride in her beautifully maintained roses and flowing grasses, always cared for with just the right amount of water and fertilizer. She enjoyed watching the birds and was known for chasing off the turkeys with her trusty BB gun.

Survivors include: two sons, Richard (and Rica) O’Day of Fallon, Nevada, and Patrick (and Mary) O’Day of Pasco, Washington; 11 grandchildren, Alisa Pickup and Mitchell Newton, Elizabeth and Jason McFadden, Michael Eckrich and Athina Kuhn, Maria O’Day, Patrick R. and Tina O’Day, Erin O’Day and Carter Snedigar; 10 great-grandchildren, William, Taylor, Preston, Haven, Baylei, Raymond, Angelic, Vincent, Seth and Sadie.

She was preceded in death by: three children, Mark Lawrence O’Day, Claire Elizabeth Eckrich, and Peter Alan O’Day, her first husband, George Richard (Dick) O’Day.

A special thank you to Dewey’s daughters, Melissa and Chad Holo and Shelby and Sean Witt.

Her life was defined by service, compassion, resilience, and a deep love for family and community. She will be missed profoundly and remembered always.

A Memorial Service is set for January 24, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at the Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church

A Celebration of Life will follow at the Myrtle Creek Community Center (next to Church).

Donations on behalf of Joyce O’Day can be sent to Mercy Hospice of Roseburg.