

Ukiah Community Newsletter

December 2012

Volume 2, Issue



Contractor Mike Becker talks about the lift station generator with Donna Neumann, Engineer Becky Sheridan, Linda Kerr and Louise McKinnon.

Lift Station Back Online

Ukiah's lift station, located on the south side of Camas Creek, pumps sewage from the city to the sewer lagoons on Mossie Road. The original lift station was constructed in 1978.

On December 5 Ukiah City Council members visited the newly remodeled and expanded lift station to inspect the new pumps, piping, control and electrical components and backup generator.

The wet well has been cleaned and refurbished and the original aboveground pumps replaced with submersible pumps and a crane to raise and lower them.

"The pumps are always primed, and there is no need to go down into the wet well. The pumps can be pulled out and

maintained above ground," said Anderson Perry Project Engineer Becky Sheridan during a presentation to the city council.

The pump system includes a flushing valve to periodically stir up the wastewater in the well for a few minutes at a time to minimize

grease buildup. The project brought the lift station up to code by adding a room to house the new electrical components and generator.

"The backup system is similar to the water system. When the power goes out we will be able to run both systems," said council member Clint Barber.

Engineering was done by Anderson Perry and construction by Mike Becker General Contractor, both of La Grande. The city is paying for the project with a \$263,000 loan from the DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

"I think for the money, to have the building almost triple the size, the generator, all the controls out of the weather, the pumps are low maintenance--and it looks pretty too," Sheridan said.



Shame on You--Someone took advantage of the metal recycling dumpster provided by Wurdinger Recycling to dispose of their household trash and old furniture. When Wurdinger refused to accept the non-metal items the city was stuck with sorting the trash and paying Pilot Rock Sanitation to dispose of it. The city usually pays for most of the annual cleanup drive with Wurdinger's payment for scrap metal. Not this year.

Rural Fire District Proposed

For a long time, Judy Reese couldn't get any insurance at all for her home on Battle Mountain. Now she has insurance, but because Battle Mountain isn't in a fire district she is paying more than she likes.

So Judy decided to look into establishing a rural fire district.

"I thought I'd send a few letters out, get a petition signed," Reese said.

It as turned out to be quite a bit more work than that. Reese has talked to many people in the proposed district, which would run from Gurdane Road east to Yellowjacket, down Albee to Dixie Ranch to just south of the Ukiah city limits.

Roy Peterson, who recently succeeded

Tradition!
Join Ukiah School in celebrating holiday traditions from around the world, including Ukiah's own tradition--a visit from Santa!

**Christmas Program
7 p.m. Wed., Dec. 19**

At the school gym. Refreshments.

An original play presented by the Drama Club students in grades 3-12



Upcoming Events

Forest Service Christmas tree-- Ukiah students decorate the tree at the NFJD Ranger District, **11:45 a.m. Mon., Dec. 10.**

Battle Mountain Rural Fire District--Organizational meeting, **6:30 p.m. Tue., Dec. 11,** at the Ukiah Senior Center. See story below.

Decorate the Park--Help put up Christmas decorations, starting at **noon on Sat., Dec. 15.** Chili, hot dogs and hot chocolate. Call Stephanie Picard at 541-427-3016 for more information.

Christmas Program--7 p.m. Wed., Dec. 19 at the school gym.

Council takes office--Clint Barber, Louise McKinnon and Penny Alford to be sworn in as mayor and council members at the city council meeting, **7 p.m. Tues., Jan 8,** Senior Center.

Bingo!--First game of the year at **6 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 2,** at the Senior Center. 50 cents a card, \$1 for black-out. Potluck dinner.

Basketball--Home game against Huntington, **6 p.m., Fri., Jan. 4.**

in creating an RFD in the Monument area, has been a big help, along with Scott Goff, the Deputy State Fire Marshall for Umatilla County.

Reese, Peterson and Goff will speak at an organizational meeting at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 11.

Call Judy Reese at 541-427-3073 for more information.

Meetings and Events

Ukiah City Council, Senior Center, 7 p.m. Jan. 8, 2013.
 Ukiah School Board, Ukiah School, 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 11.
 Stitch & Chatter Quilters, Presbyterian Church, Wed. and Sat.
 Senior lunch, Senior Center, 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.
 Ukiah Food Pantry, Presbyterian Church, once a month, 12:30 to 2 p.m.
 Check church reader board for dates.

Senior Lunch Menu

December 7--Roast beef, potatoes, carrots and onions, gravy, roll, cottage/fruit, banana cream pie.
 December 14--Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, fruit cup, tossed salad, garlic bread, ice cream.
 December 21--Christmas Dinner--Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, Jello salad, candied yams, fruit cup, dinner roll, cherry delight.
 December 28--Chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas/carrots, fruit cup, cabbage salad, roll, apple cobbler.
 January 4--Pork roast, potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, fruit cup, dinner roll, coconut cream pie.
 Seniors--suggested donation \$3.50
 All others \$6.00

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



Judy Pettigrew gets a dollop of whipped cream on her pie from Donna Neumann during the Ukiah Library Pie Social on November 14. The Friends of the Ukiah Library raised more than \$300 for books and DVDs by selling three dozen donated pies.

December City Council

It's official. Ukiah now has a certified population of 235.
 The city received \$13,570 from 2012 property taxes, with \$2000 more expected.
 Becky Sheridan from Anderson Perry discussed the lift station. See story on page 1.
 The council waived the Senior Center fee and loaned the VFD \$200 for a Sunday community dinner, money to be repaid from proceeds from additional dinners.
 In other business, the council:
 * approved a letter from the NFJD Watershed Council to Camas Creek landowners.
 * applied for a \$5645 grant for a roll-down door for the Senior Center.
 * voted to advertise for an employee to read water meters.
 * approved training for new councilors.
 * waived the Senior Center fee for a rural fire district meeting on Dec. 11.
 * waived the Senior Center fee for a fundraiser for Bobbi Hofbauer.
 * thanked Tom Gatens and Terrell Burr for their work repairing the Ukiah QRT ambulance. The city paid for the materials.
 Next council meeting at 7 p.m. Tue., Jan. 8.

November School Board

Ukiah School participates in the Eastern Promise Program that enables students to earn college credits before high school graduation. Ukiah currently offers college credits for classes in accounting, keyboarding, basic math and writing.
 On November 7 students in the school's reading challenge toured McNary Dam and enjoyed a pizza picnic and bowling party.
 Overton Electric bid \$16,690 to replace the school's light fixtures. BPA will provide \$12,000. Another \$7000 may be available from a federal program for student health.
 Basketball starts in December, with 12 boys and nine girls on the teams. The girls will play junior varsity.
 Norma Barber received a \$700 grant from the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition to take up to 20 students in grades 3-12 to the Student Writers' Workshop at EOU in early March. They will attend workshops, write and read their work.
 Correction--Ken and Becky Billings are on an indefinite leave of absence from the schools' boys' dorm, not until January as stated in last month's newsletter.

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Camas Creek Bible Fellowship

Sunday Service 10 a.m.
 Everyone invited!

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

Weekly Home Bible Studies
 Thurs. 6 p.m.

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

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Ukiah Profile

Four High School Teachers



Norma Barber

Norma Barber started teaching English at Ukiah School in 1972. She has a BA and a master's degree from Eastern Oregon University.

Her favorite part of teaching is the students. She

thinks that sometimes she has higher expectations for the students than they do for themselves.

"American and exchange students are not that much different," Barber said.

They both need to focus and study and speak lots of English in class.

By Natsupang Aroonchai



Laura Orr

Laura Orr has taught high school biology, chemistry and physics for the past nine years. She likes the flexibility a small school gives for what and how she teaches, and the support from other teachers, the

school board and the community.

Orr has a B.S. in physics from Eastern

Oregon University and a master's in science education from Western Governors University.

Ukiah's exchange students present challenges with language and experiences in different educational systems. American schools, for instance, approach science with more of an inquiry method than most exchange students are used to.

On the other hand, the exchange students tend to have an excellent work ethic and persist even when they are struggling to learn.

The hardest thing about teaching at Ukiah? "It's hard to maintain the traditional student-teacher relationship when you spend so much time with them K through 12. It makes it harder when you have to be mean," Orr said.

By Lee Farren



Tom Sorensen

"I love the small school," said Tom Sorensen, who teaches history, government and social studies at Ukiah school.

Sorensen graduated from Eastern Oregon University and has a master's degree. He started

teaching in Ukiah in 2006.

He says the amount of activities you can do is one of the best things about Ukiah School, along with the relationships among the students, parents and teachers.

Some of the difficulties of teaching in a

small school include meeting the unique needs of all students and caring so much about the students' success.

The differences in the cultural backgrounds of the many exchange students can be difficult.

"There are sizeable language barriers at the beginning of each year," Sorensen said.

By Tae Hee Huh



Teresa Veach

The all-around math, careers and economics

teacher at Ukiah School surrounds herself with a large variety of students and classes. She has taught at Ukiah for 21 years.

Teresa Veach received her BA at Southern Oregon University and her master's at Eastern. She loves working with mathematics.

Veach likes working at Ukiah because of the flexibility of teaching, the variety of the classes, the small class size and the opportunities with the students, although keeping each class organized with each student is quite difficult.

"The most difficult thing about teaching in Ukiah is driving on the icy roads during the winter," Veach said. She commutes from Hermiston each day.

The biggest difference she finds between American and exchange students is getting responses during class and class assignments.

By Tyanna Billings

Longboarding the Streets of Ukiah

by Adrianna Mathisen and Tyana Billings

What is longboarding, and how is it different from skateboarding?

Tyler Lynch, a junior at Ukiah School, has the answer.

"Longboarding is similar to skateboarding although the board is twice as long, about 45 to 55

inches. Longboarding is more meant for sliding and speed, while skateboarding is for tricks and speed," Lynch said.

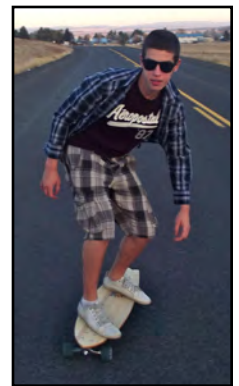
Lynch can often be found teaching others to skateboard or longboard. This year he and Dominik Bibko, Felix Killermann, Matheus Paim and Amir Moor can all be found longboarding the streets of Ukiah when the weather is nice.

They also take their boards along on school trips.

Bibko said that anyone who tries the sport needs to wear elbow and knee pads and a helmet. "But don't worry about speed," Bibko said.

Most of the riders learned about longboarding from Lynch, who reported that he and the others all really enjoy the sport.

Right, Skateboarder Matheus Paim, an exchange student from Brazil, takes his skateboard out for a run in Ukiah. Photo by Amir Moor.



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Bountiful Baskets Offers a Solution to Rising Grocery Costs

by Bethany Davidson

As the Farmer's market comes to a close and gardens are put to bed, we all wonder what we will do about our vanishing fresh vegetable supply.

We just aren't as prepared for winter as our grandmothers were. Root cellars have vanished and the family would rather stock the freezer with wild game or half a beef. Grocery stores keep increasing prices with little information as to the source of their suppliers.

Bountiful Baskets Food Coop supplies rural communities with fresh local produce at an affordable cost. Operating throughout the western United States, the coop also offers fresh bread, granola and other seasonal products. Prices stay low because volunteers operate site locations and participants pool money for truck-loads of food.

With enough local interest, we may be able to get the truck to stop in Ukiah! Ukiah residents are currently taking turns picking up baskets at La Grande and Pendleton distribution sites.

Join the many families saving hundreds with Bountiful Baskets. For more information visit bountifulbaskets.org or contact local participant Beth Davidson at LewBetha6@aol.com.



A \$15 conventional and a \$25 organic basket from Bountiful Baskets Food Coop. Photo by Bethany Davidson.



New Arrival--Holly and Jason Hutchinson with their new baby, Henry "Hank" Hutchinson. Born on October 30, Hank weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. "The last four weeks have really flown," Holly said. Both parents work for the U.S. Forest Service.

Christmas Tree Permits on Sale

Christmas tree permits are now on sale for \$5 at the NFJD Ranger District, Rhodes Supply, Granny's and the Dale Store.

Randy Scarlett is in charge of bringing in the tree for the ranger station. "Most people will get a spruce or a grand fir, or a Douglas-fir if they can find it," Scarlett said. "They have that nice-looking form, wide at the base. They are usually a little more open than the Christmas trees on the lots in town, because they haven't been trimmed."

Spruce and grand fir prefer wetter, higher elevations, such as the areas around Tower Mountain and Hidaway Springs or FS Road 52 to Granite.

The permit includes limits on size and where to cut.

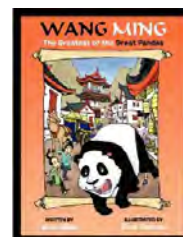
"A lot of years snow is going to limit where you can go," Scarlett said. "Be prepared, take food and water and let people know where you are going."

Student Body Officers

On October 31 students at Ukiah School elected senior Dominik Bibko for student body president, junior Fernando Bonato for vice-president and senior Brittni Gulden for secretary.

The Ukiah Community Newsletter is published monthly by the City of Ukiah. Display ads are \$30 and \$15. Classified for sale ads are \$5, all others free. To place an ad or for other newsletter business contact Lee Farren at 541-427-3047 or ukiahnewsletter@cityofukiahoregon.com To receive the newsletter by email, contact Linda Kerr at happyplane22@hotmail.com. The newsletter is also available online at www.ukiahoregon.org

Ukiah Graduate Kateri Wang Publishes Children's Book



Wang Ming, the Greatest of the Great Pandas by Kateri Wang. Pbk, 32p \$19.99. Sold at amazon.com.

2001 Ukiah High School graduate Kateri (McBean) Wang has published her first book. In "Wang Ming," children travel to China to meet the great panda in his bamboo forest and join him in overcoming his fears to earn his title as the greatest of the great pandas.

Kateri lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with her husband Zheng Wang

and their son. Her mother, former Ukiah resident GP McBean, is a frequent visitor.

After high school Kateri traveled around the world, finished college and got married. She saw her first pandas at the Hong Kong zoo and fell in love with them.

Wang Ming "did not hit paper until a few years later and after my son was diagnosed with autism," Wang said. "I wanted to bring to life parts of his father's culture for him in a book because I knew that for now there is no way to travel and take him to see the panda forests in China."

The book's coexistence message is based on Wang's childhood in Ukiah, where she spent much of her free time in the woods.

"I have always written and I am a huge bookworm, so it is very natural for me to want to write," she said. "I actually published my first piece while in high school. I was very lucky to have Norma Barber as an English teacher. She was always very encouraging of my work."

Someday Wang hopes to walk into a library and see kids reading her book.

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Sundays 10 a.m. To 7 p.m.