

# Ukiah Community Newsletter

February 2013

Volume 3, Issue 2



Volunteer firefighters Pat Picard and Justin Lynch responded to a trash fire near residences in 2009.



Ukiah has a city-wide water system with a large storage reservoir and fire hydrants and a volunteer fire department and fire truck.

## Homeowner Insurance Rates on the Rise

Fire protection rating company downgrades city

Ed Farren's homeowners insurance went up 21 percent last fall. Carole Picard's went up even more. And they're not the only ones. Other Ukiah homeowners--and the City of Ukiah itself--will also soon see increased insurance rates.

Insurance Service Office, the private company that provides fire protection ratings to insurance companies, has downgraded Ukiah's rating from 8/8B to 10. The highest rating is 1, for superior property fire protection. A rating of 10 indicates no fire protection.

"The rankings are based on fire equipment, number of fire fighters, training, receiving and handling fire alarms, fire hydrant coverage and water system. With hydrant coverage we should be at least an 8/8B," City Planner Laura Foley wrote in her January 8 staff report.

Foley thinks ISO may have Ukiah mixed up with some other community. The city has sent ISO several letters detailing Ukiah's large water storage reservoir, fire

hydrant coverage, fully supplied fire truck and volunteer fire department.

The last ISO review of Ukiah's fire protection capabilities was in 2003.

"The process to provide the Public Protection Classification is that ISO comes to the community and does an on-site survey of the community's ability to suppress fires," Foley wrote. "This unfortunately appears NOT to have been done for us."

ISO has agreed to send a community mitigation analyst to Ukiah later this spring to conduct the survey. Meanwhile, Foley has worked with Volunteer Fire Department Chief Pat Picard, the city's engineers at Anderson-Perry and the 911 Coordinator at the Umatilla County Sheriff's office on a lengthy pre-survey questionnaire.

The city has notified its carrier, City-county Insurance Services, that it is working on correcting the current rating. When that is done, the city will notify residents of the corrected rating so they can notify their insurance companies.

## Maintenance Superintendent Position Open

The City of Ukiah seeks an experienced Maintenance Superintendent. This position will develop and focus on the long-term goals of the Public Works Department, Mayor and City Council. Will need to learn and keep up to date on regulations, guidelines, and procedures related to the water and sewage systems, parks, and streets.

The Maintenance Superintendent plays an integral role in delivering quality services to the community.

Duties include: Submit all necessary reports when due. Irrigate and mow lawns at City Park and Tupper Ball field, maintain the City cemetery and sewer lagoon and perform minor repairs. Must qualify for valid Oregon certification as Wastewater System Operator Collection 1 and Treatment 1 and Drinking Water Program "S" Water Certification within one year of employment.

Applications available from the City Recorder at the Senior Center. Application, cover letter, resume, and background/driver's license check must be submitted by 5 pm on Feb. 28, 2013 City of Ukiah, PO Box 265, Ukiah, OR 97880.

## Quilters to the Rescue



Quilt 'n' Chatter member Ruth Smith works on piecing blocks from a 1963 signature quilt for Lucille Gilliland. The blocks were originally made for Gilliland's mother, Phyllis Kendall.

The quilting group started about 1960, Bettie Barber recalls.

"We met in a refurbished boxcar where the Ayars' horse pens are now. We didn't have a name, just an old Home Comfort stove for heat and we would bring hot dogs and cook them for lunch," Barber said.

In 1963 the women decided to make signature quilts. Signature quilts have been around since the 1840s, when women signed multiple names to quilts that they worked on as a group. Each Ukiah quilter

created a block with her embroidered signature and a flower. The quilts would have blocks from all the members as a reminder of their friendship and time spent together.

But Barber left the group when she started working at the Ukiah Post Office and never completed her quilt. Phyllis Kendall didn't finish hers, either.

The quilting group still meets every week as the Stitch 'n' Chatter Quilters. A few years ago the current members began repairing quilts for local people, replacing backs and edges and quilting the layers back together.

"Then Bettie Barber said, I've got this old quilt that hasn't been finished that was done in 1963," Ruth Smith said. "Bettie had all the blocks together. I put the edge and back on and Karon McAlavy did the quilting and now Bettie Barber has her quilt."

Barber showed the quilt to Kendall's daughter, Lucille Gilliland, who still had the blocks for her mother's unfinished quilt. The quilters took on that project, too, and expect to finish it soon.

Smith, who started with the group in 1966, added a block with her own name to the back of Gilliland's quilt.

"I think they probably made a signature quilt for every member, but not all of them got finished until now," she said.



**Meetings and Events**

Ukiah City Council, Senior Center, 7 p.m. Feb. 5.  
 Ukiah School Board, Ukiah School, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 14.  
 Stitch & Chatter Quilters, Presbyterian Church, Wed. and Sat.  
 Senior lunch, Senior Center, 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.  
**Bingo!** Wed. evenings, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.  
 Sunday Supper, Feb. 17 and March 3, 5 p.m. at the Senior Center.  
 Ukiah Food Pantry, Presbyterian Church. Check church reader board for dates.

**Senior Lunch Menu**

**February 8--**Sausage links, hash-browns, sausage gravy, stewed tomatoes, orange slices, biscuits, upside-down pineapple cake.  
**February 15--**Enchiladas, with lettuce, tomatoes and sour cream, Spanish rice, fruit cup, tortilla chips with salsa, ice cream.  
**February 22--**Chili mac, mixed fruit, tossed salad, cornbread, lemon cream pie.  
**March 1--**Pork roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, roll, fruit cup, chocolate cake.  
 Seniors--suggested donation \$3.50  
 All others \$6.00

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Mayor Clint Barber  
 Council Members  
 Penny Alford  
 Linda Kerr  
 Louise McKinnon  
 Randy Scarlett



Tom Gatens clears snow and ice from a residential street. Gatens and Dan Vincent both volunteered their time and equipment to remove snow from city streets and private driveways during the December and January snow storms.

**February City Council**

The city's insurance carrier is holding off on renewal to give the city time to clarify the new ISO rating (see story page 1).  
 The Senior Center water meter froze during the recent cold spell. Clint Barber borrowed one from the City of Pilot Rock, ordered parts for and repaired the broken meter and will reinstall it soon. He will bill the city for time and mileage.  
 The new freezer in the Senior Center broke down and was repaired under warranty. The only loss was some ice cream.  
 Possible repairs to the fireplace in the park shelter will be on the March agenda.  
 In other business, the council agreed to:  
 \* talk with Umatilla Country Roads about cleaning the ditch on the north side of DeSpain Street to prevent flooding.  
 \* send a letter to the shake mill property landowner explaining that the city will need an easement at some future time in order to access the water line for repairs.  
 \* ask the county sheriff what that office would charge for conducting background checks on job applicants.  
 Three people applied for the meter reader position. The council will conduct interviews on March 1 and hopes to have the new hire on board by the end of March.

**Student Writers Workshop**

Each March the Oregon Writing Project holds a one-day student writers workshop at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The fee is \$35 per student.  
 In past years only a few Ukiah students have attended the workshop, in part because of the cost. This year, however, a grant from the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition will pay the fee for 20 Ukiah School students.  
 The workshop is open to students from grades 3-12. They attend a variety of writing classes from poetry to riddles, drama and song, taught by teachers from Northeast Oregon. Students get a chance to read their writing at an open mic at the end of the workshop, and each receives a CD of the writing done by all the students that day.  
 Students and chaperones will ride the Ukiah school bus to the event and eat lunch at the EOU cafeteria.  
 The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 9.  
 Application letters explaining why the student would like to attend can be submitted to Norma Barber at the school. Questions? Call her at 541-427-3740

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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.

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 Thurs. 6 p.m.

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

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Ukiah Profile

**Laura Orr, Ukiah Science Teacher**

Those who can, do AND teach



Laura Orr, right, works with Brandon Gill, Obuka Bayarmagnai and Jam Aronchai at Ukiah School. The science teacher started on her second NASA research project last fall.

When Laura Orr started teaching science at Ukiah School in 2003, she needed to brush up on biology and chemistry. But the EOU physics major had no need for a refresher on astronomy.

In 2004, NASA chose Ukiah School as one of 10 to take part in THEMIS (Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms), a study of sudden changes in the northern lights. Orr did her capstone research project at EOU on the northern lights.

"THEMIS was the first NASA project I was part of, using the data they had to help them develop different ways to teach kids to use the information," Orr said. "I did some side research with them and presented a poster at the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in 2008."

Now Orr has been accepted into the NASA/Infrared Processing and Analysis Center Teacher Archive Research Program, or NITARP. Ukiah is one of 81 schools in the program to date.

Teachers in the program use astronomical data from optical telescopes and other wavelengths to discover new stars and galaxy clusters, among other projects.

"This is the first project where I am part of an official research team. The whole point of it is for me to do the research with the lead astronomer, that process lets me know more about it so I can help kids go through the research process," Orr said.

Orr plans to include students in the research. The program will pay for her and three students to travel to Caltech and Washington, DC to present scientific posters on their work to the American Astronomical Society.

Orr and the students will search infrared photos and numerical data from satellite-based telescopes for evidence of young stellar objects in Bright Rim Cloud 38, between the constellations of Cassiopeia and Draco.

"I can show kids exactly what it is to be a real scientist in the process. They are going through the same processes as a real scientist would, so they understand how it works, that it's not simply a cookie-cutter textbook lab with a right or wrong answer. That sometimes the answer is, I don't know," Orr said.

The NASA projects benefit Orr's teaching, too. "I keep being challenged and interested in new scientific developments so I don't get bored and complacent," she said.

**Ukiah's TSA Team Rules!**

by Tyanna Billings, Ryan Wong and Minji Koo

Last December Ukiah's TSA team brought home another first place with "Little Tommy," a toy made of recycled parts.

That blue first place banner joined seven others in Teresa Veach's business and math classroom.

TSA, or Technology Student Association, is a nationally recognized activity that brings leadership experience to Ukiah students. TSA members chose from a list of projects and prepare one to present and demonstrate at a competition at BMCC.

TSA is available to every high school student for \$12 a year. The money comes from fundraisers as well as the student store run by the marketing class in Veach's classroom.

The Ukiah TSA team started in the fall of 2007. The teams have placed at least once every year since then, taking eight second places and four thirds as well as the eight firsts.

Most projects are completed before presentation at the competition. For some, students bring a toolbox and build it on the spot. As students work in class they gain know-how, get help when needed and earn class credit.

Because Eastern Oregon is home to all five of the state's high school TSA teams, the local events are state competitions.



Ukiah School students Solomon Kim, Tyanna Billings and Tyler Lynch work with a toy robot as they prepare to build an animatronic creature for the February TSA competition. Photo by Teresa Veach.

Winners can go on to the national level, though no one from Ukiah has, due to the expense.

Veach thinks the hands-on projects are good and most students are interested. "We need to have more student leaders than we do now. This gives them a chance to get out and see what's going on in other schools," Veach said.

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# In Memoriam



## Merle G. Ross

Longtime Ukiah resident Merle G. Ross, 85, died on Jan. 19, 2013 at the home of his daughter in Stanfield. He was buried privately in Ukiah. A celebration of life dinner will be held at a later date.

Ross was born Sept. 7, 1927, in Othello, Wash. He married Marcella "Mike" Michaels in 1947.

He owned and operated a service station and store at Meacham moving to Ukiah in 1961. In Ukiah he owned the Trail Room before going to work for the U.S. Forest Service as an equipment operator.

He enjoyed fishing and hunting and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He lived a good life.

He is survived by his wife and daughter Debbie Bonnett, both of Stanfield, daughter Peggy Colvin of Ritter, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



## Wesley E. Ayars

Wesley E. Ayars, 85, died January 11th in Portland following a brief illness. Funeral services were held Jan. 14 at the First Church of God in Pendleton.

He was born in La Grande and lost his mother when he was an infant. His father remarried and moved the family to Ukiah in 1934, where Wes attended school until his senior year, when his parents' store burned. His mother died in the fire. His father moved the family back to La Grande, where Wes finished school.

He joined the Navy in 1943 and served on the aircraft carrier USS Matanikau. He worked at the Pendleton Flour Mill and as a logger in Ukiah. Later he worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation. In the 1950s he became custodian at Ukiah School, where he received awards for his work ethic. He retired in 1992 and remained in Ukiah until 2002, when he moved to Pendleton to be near family.

He was a hunter at heart and enjoyed both deer and elk hunting.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Norman Ayars, and his daughter Kathy (Ayars) Smith. He leaves a wife of 66 years, Dorene (Peterson) Ayars; sisters Alladeen Weatherspoon and Doris Foster; his son David Ayars and daughter Karen (Ayars) Parker; six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

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## Turkey Talk

The 60 to 100 turkeys wintering in Ukiah this year are descended from Rio Grande turkeys introduced by ODFW in 1975. The big birds are not native to Oregon.

"It's for hunting recreation, and it's been fairly successful," said ODFW wildlife biologist Greg Rimbach.

The birds have been roosting in Ukiah's big ponderosa pines. Rimbach said they like to walk up the hill and fly down into a tree. When they leave in the morning they glide out on the open hillside.

Then they parade through town, clucking and stopping at bird feeders. In winter they are always looking for food.

Turkeys especially like the interface between timber and rangeland. That makes Ukiah just about perfect.

By April they will scatter and look for places to nest, preferably far from people. But next winter a whole gang of them will probably be back.



Wild turkeys look both ways before crossing Hwy 244. A wild turkey lives for about two years. The National Wild Turkey Federation estimates a U.S. population of 7 million.

## Bobbi Hofbauer Update

The Hofbauer family reports that 16-year-old Bobbi Hofbauer is doing well after her first treatment for cystic lymphangioma in Ohio. She needs at least two more treatments but has been released to play sports and plans to begin softball in the spring.

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