

Boater deaths on decline in Oregon; education

SALEM (AP) — Seven people were killed during recreational boating accidents in Oregon last year, the lowest number since 1990.

Six of the fatal accidents took place on a river, one was on a lake, while four involved motorized boats and three were related to non-motorized craft, the Salem *Statesman-Journal* reported.

The numbers come from data released by the Oregon State Marine Board and the U.S. Coast Guard.

A number of factors likely contributed to the falling number of fatalities in Oregon, marine board spokeswoman Ashley Massey said. The number of registered motorboats has dropped to 166,664 from over 197,000 in 1997.

Massey also pointed to a mandatory education requirement that since 2009 has required everyone operating a motorboat with an engine over 10 horsepower to take a safety course.

“We’ve seen a nice little decrease in accidents in that time period,” Massey said. “What we’re seeing is that education is working, and we want that to continue.”

While the number of fatal accidents in motorized boats has been steadily dropping, the number of people killed in accidents involving non-motorized craft has been rising.

Clark and Smith step into board positions

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Amanda Clark and Jeff Smith were unopposed in the May 19 election for the Sisters School Board. That means that Smith will retain the seat to which he was appointed last year, and Clark will take on Position No. 5.

Clark has wasted no time ramping up for her new job, familiarizing herself with the policy issues that will confront the district in the years to come. One of those is the implementation of Common Core standards.

“Common Core is here, and that’s something I’m spending a lot of my time learning about,” she said.

The mother of a kindergartner and a second-grader, Clark got involved in discussions at regular informal “coffee” with Superintendent Jim Golden.

“I started going to the superintendent meetings and I just really enjoyed the interaction that I had there,” she said.

From that interaction, she has been part of a group working on developing a consistent, holistic homework philosophy across all three schools. And that led to throwing her hat in the ring for a school board seat. She’s also working on the superintendent selection committee working on finding Golden’s successor.

Clark grew up in Eddyville as her father served as a district attorney on the coast. She worked for an ambulance service, where she met her firefighter husband. He took a job in Central Oregon and they moved here. Amanda

has worked in the St. Charles Medical Center’s emergency room lab.

She has done a lot of study in early childhood development, and she has watched the community debate over the recently failed school bond with considerable interest.

“I’m passionate about this stuff,” she said. “I love this community. We’ve been here three-and-a-half years and one of the things that I love about this community is how invested they are in the schools.”

She doesn’t believe that the failure of the bond means the community is losing that willingness to invest in the schools, and she thinks the district should consider going out for a bond again — but with a different configuration.

“I think we need to pick and choose a little,” she said. “I think it needs to be on a smaller level.”

She notes that, as a parent of elementary school students, she can attest that the needs at that facility are real.

“There’s a lot of issues there,” she said.

“I think we’re really going to have to look at scaling down (a bond ask) a little more,” Clark said. “If we listen, we can put together a bond that will pass.”

That’s pretty much Smith’s take, too.

“I think we go out for a bond asking for fewer dollars — and a bond that supports activities that are central to the core (of education in Sisters),” he told *The Nugget*.

Smith served for more than a decade on the school board previously and stepped back into the arena in part to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Amanda Clark.

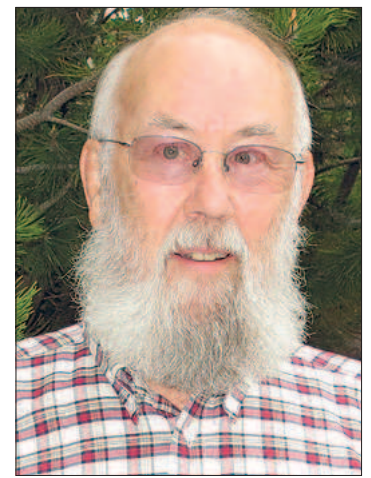


PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Jeff Smith.

bring institutional memory to the school board.

“I think the district needs better connection with the past, to the history,” he said. “Not that we follow the past, but that we learn from it and understand how we got where we are.”

Smith is optimistic that the toughest times associated with the recession and a decline in enrollment are behind the district. He believes that enrollment will pick up with the economy.

However, he noted, there are caveats. He notes that online and other alternative forms of education are competing for enrollment. He believes the schools need to focus on student retention.

“Students are more

technologically mobile than in the past,” he said. “I think we need to improve our delivery of online options ... integrate classrooms with more online opportunities.”

Smith observes that Sisters Country has a wealth of human capital, and he would like to see the district do more to leverage the kind of involvement seen with the Sisters Folk Festival and the Sisters Science Club.

“We need to be welcoming to the community,” he said. “We need to create opportunities for the community to be involved in school activities. I think we need to encourage people to be in our buildings. That kind of welcoming attitude will encourage people to step forward.”

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

541-549-1026 DAVIS TIRE

188 W. Sisters Park Dr. In Sisters Industrial Park across from SnoCap Mini Storage
Serving Sisters Since 1963.

NuggetNews.com
is your online source for
Breaking News
Classifieds | Weather

Window Blinds • Draperies

30% OFF
Exclusive Signature Series® Window Treatments by **Budget Blinds**
a style for every point of view

Hunter Douglas® Window Blinds • Shutters
Draperies • Solar Shades • Vertical Blinds
Locally owned & operated by a Sisters family.
Offer valid through 6/24/15.

541-788-8444
Free Consulting • Find us online at www.BudgetBlinds.com
CCB Licensed #197715 | Bonded | Insured | 30+ Years Experience
Offer valid through Budget Blinds of Deschutes County only. Offer not valid with any other offers.

Kokanee Cafe
Camp Sherman, Oregon

Exceptional Cuisine at the Metolius River

Now open for the 2015 season!

FIVE-COURSE WINE DINNER FEATURING GALAXY WINES JUNE 3RD!

Call 541-595-6420 for Reservations
www.kokaneecafe.com

Hope for a child. Change for a nation.

HOPE

\$35 a month.
All the difference in the world.
Sponsor a Ugandan child with a local organization at
HopeAfricaKids.com

This ad sponsored by The Nugget Newspaper.