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# THE OBSERVER



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Good day to our valued subscriber George Venn of La Grande

## Joyce Beeman

### Devoted public servant passes

■ Joyce Beeman, former long-time Island City official, dies at the age of 76

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

ISLAND CITY — Island City has lost one of its most dedicated public servants.

Joyce Beeman, a woman whose tenure shy of three decades as a city councilor featured an attendance record almost as perfect as the putting greens at the La Grande Country Club golf course in Island City, died Saturday. She was 76.

"It is heart-breaking," said Island City's city recorder, Karen Howton, of the news of Beeman's passing.



Beeman

Beeman served on Island City's city council for 28 years through January of 2015, a span during which Dale De Long was mayor for 24 years.

Beeman was present for almost every council roll call during this time.

"I can remember her missing only one or two city council meetings. She was very conscientious and caring," said De Long, who served as mayor from 1990 to early 2015.

Beeman made it to many of those meetings despite health issues that would have sidelined the less dedicated.

"She took her civic duty as an elected official very seriously," Howton said.

In this role Beeman had an open mind and was consistently willing to take community input.

"She was always ready to listen to any residents, whether they were complaining or had praise," Howton said.

When not addressing city council issues, Beeman was busy as a member of the Island City Lions Club,

See **Beeman** / Page 5A

## Elgin Neighborhood Watch



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

"We know who lives in our neighborhood, we know what is going on. So we know when something is going wrong or doesn't seem quite right."

— Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy during a meeting to establish a neighborhood watch

Richard Mackie of Elgin asks a question Monday night at the city's first neighborhood watch meeting. Another meeting in a few weeks will establish block assignments and phone trees.

# COMMUNITY'S NEW PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

■ Elgin takes first steps toward neighborhood watch after recent rash of crime



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy, right, addresses residents Monday night at the Elgin Community Center during a meeting to establish a neighborhood watch.

By Sabrina Thompson, The Observer

**ELGIN** — Elgin's neighborhood watch is underway. Concerned residents of the small town gathered Monday night at the community center to begin organizing to form the watch. The meeting also provided the opportunity for locals to bring their questions and concerns about what the watch will entail.

"We know who lives in our neighborhood. We know what is going on," Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy said. "So we know when something is going wrong or doesn't seem quite right."

The conversation and creation of a neighborhood watch came up after a recent rash of crimes in Elgin. Duffy presented the idea to the city's public safety committee, which gave a thumbs-up to the plan. Monday's meeting brought together leaders of the movement with residents who want to be involved.

Elgin Municipal Court Judge Laura Eckstein, Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen and the three deputies assigned to the Elgin area attended. Duffy encouraged residents

"We have the unique ability to take care of our problems right here. The main thing is we will take care of things ourselves. We have an extremely united city."

— Elgin Municipal Court Judge Laura Eckstein

to reach out to these key people directly when they see something wrong, and to communicate with their neighbors.

"We have the unique ability to take care of our problems right here," Eckstein said. "The main thing is we will take care of things ourselves. We have an extremely united city."

Eckstein as city judge oversees misdemeanors and code violations. Felony cases fall under the authority of the Union County Circuit Court.

During the meeting, some residents asked about the city's ability to prosecute, but Eckstein reminded them that it is not under the city's jurisdiction.

"We have a great relationship with the sheriff's office, and a great relationship with the court," Eckstein said.

Rasmussen said to ensure residents' safety, the neighborhood watch is meant to be a hands-off organization.

See **Watch** / Page 5A

## Oregon

### Ballot initiative aims to curb walkouts

■ Union leaders to file initiative aimed at stopping legislative walkouts

By Jeff Mapes  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Democratic legislative leaders have played down the idea of trying to amend the Constitution to prevent future walkouts of the kind staged

by Republicans during last year's legislative session.

But a top labor leader says public employee unions are

planning to file a proposed ballot initiative that would threaten legislators who walk out with being tossed from office.

Joe Baessler, political director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said polling conducted by the unions show that "voters really seem to like the idea that if you don't show up to work, you lose your job."

See **Walkouts** / Page 5A

## Fishtrap

### Writer pens bio about her life, struggles

By Katherine Stickroth  
For EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — In a memoir that stretches across the United States, writer Pat Higgins Adelhardt narrates her journey, not only of miles, but in her recovery from depression.

"Far from the Tree" depicts her childhood years on the family orchard farm in Hood River, spans the tumultuous 1960s when she worked for the CIA in Washington, D.C., and recounts farming for 35 years in Maryland and then landing in Wallowa County. A scene at Wallowa Lake graces the back cover.

The book describes how Adelhardt faced her father's secret Mafia ties and other issues to overcome her own depression.

Adelhardt and her husband, Brian, bought a cabin at Wallowa Lake in 2004 as a rental and visited every

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## WEATHER

 Full forecast on the back of B section

**Tonight** 34 LOW Evening rain  
**Thursday** 45/39 Cloudy

## CONTACT US

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Issue 13  
3 sections, 24 pages  
La Grande, Oregon

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Call The Observer newsroom at 541-963-3161 or send an email to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.

FRIDAY COUNTING THE HOMELESS

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