

Centered seniors

**By Beverly Dunlap**  
For the Port Orford News

*"Every talk I do contains some sort of message about saying yes to God. He has something for each of us. We have to have the courage to pray those dangerous prayers – 'God, whatever you ask of me, I'll do it.'"*

— Kerri Pomarolli, "clean comedienne"

We have just watched the new president take office. That is a very special time in history. There is an unsung crowd at that service and it brought tears to my eyes. Are you aware how many of our fellow Americans were not at the inauguration for the historic value of this occasion but to protect all those involved? For whatever reason, my heart is touched by those that have the duty to protect. It is an unheralded job. The people involved have put their life on the line to protect others, just as our troops have done all over the world. A few

years ago, I heard that we should say thank you to our servicemen. I have started that practice on Armed Forces Day and other holidays. We now noticed that these same people stood in Washington DC and there were "protecting" many civil servants with no fanfare!

The first time I became aware of this was in 1959 and while I was living in California. I read an article in the newspaper telling about one of the airborne conies, (an aircraft that had radar equipment and patrolled the coast during peacetime and always I guess) had dropped an engine while on duty. The article advised that within two minutes, that plane was surrounded by two jet fighters. I cried then and now, because I am so touched by the statement that says "Stay away from this plane, they are Americans and we will protect them!" I later found out that my cousin was on that aircraft and I certainly was glad to know about that action. The plane landed well and it was replaced instantly by another

Connie.

They are unsung heroes, and that is not fair. I herewith praise the heroes that serve us always and have for years. Today, I saw about 15 marines, in the at attention position guarding the very famous people walking to their place for the inauguration. I am sure their arms must have ached, but did not see one action that would indicate that.

So today, I salute the people that serve our nation but are not heralded. Thank you for your service to the famous and the infamous, for foreign duty as well as national protection. I am sorry that we live in a time that this must be done. There indeed is trouble in more ways than the international financial situation. I am happy to celebrate your selfless, ongoing protection.

Whether you are Democrat, or Republican you are in a much safer situation today and you can be happy about that! As a matter of fact, that for today is a good reason to Be Happy!



PON photo courtesy Point Porford Historical Society/PON file photor  
**A huge rock, marked as weighing 19.5 tons, is shown loaded on a lowboy trailer.**

BRIEFS, from page 2

**Baseball meeting is set for Thursday**

An organizational meeting for leaers and volunteers for the upcoming Coast Baseball (youth) season will be held at 5 p.m., Thursday, at the library in Driftwood Elementary School, Port Orford. For more information call Wade Phillips at 348-2094.

**Bridge results**

Bev Dunlap hosted one of her now famous Super Luncheons for the local bridge group on December 31, 2008. She really knows how to give a party!

The previous week, as Marie Hammond hosted, their were two Grand Slams bid and made. The lucky recipients were Lee Kincaid, Ed McQuade and Bev

Dunlap. Since Lee was involved in both deals, she came out with the high score that day.

Then this week Lee Kincaid hosted the group at her home. Beverly was high scorer. Second high score went to Marie Hammond. Everyone involved enjoys this easy-going fun group. For information call 332-9745.

**Breast Cancer support group set**

Give the Gift of Hope! Make a donation to Komen Oregon & SW Washington on behalf of family member, friend, business associate, or customer to help us fund critical services for local people in need and continue our quest for a cure.

Your gift could save a life! Donate Today!

Curry County Breast Cancer Support Group meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. or ? At the Gold Rush Bld., 29692 Ellensburg Ave (Hwy. 101), Gold Beach, inside Moose Creek Bath and Body

For more information contact Alice Hammermeister,

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Life with Brice: Rockin' out on Morton Creek

**By Brice Wagner**  
PON staff writer

**Langlois/Morton Creek Smith quarry rock 'harder than steel'**

Jack and Red Smith of North langlois/Morton Creek have something special on their ranch. History reads a Port Orford promoter of the 1930's gave a presentation to Portland, Oregon businessmen that we had a material here harder than steel. He was right even though it wasn't to be discovered until almost 70 years later in north Langlois, Oregon.

Quarry rock for Jetty material needs to weigh 170 pounds per cubic foot to meet government specifications. The Smith rock weighs 193 pounds per cubic foot. It also has to be of a specific hardness to stand up to the crashing waves of the ocean.

The Smith quarry rock has been amazing to various contractors. A rock crusher was

moved in a while back and the material is so hard it wears out the rock crusher jaws in an 8-hour shift.

Well known local contractor Charlie Valentine said, "you could hear the crusher jaws sound for a great distance working this special hard material through the crusher. It turns out the material is too hard to crush for fine road rock. But alas a special job sprang up for the North Curry County Smith rock quarry.

The Coos Bay north jetty is under repair and the rock from the "Smith's" quarry exceeds government specifications.

Every other day the contractor has to replace the teeth on their excavators as the rock is harder then the dipper teeth and simply wears rapidly wears away the steel teeth.

Kevin Yeager is the contractor with his five-man crew operating the rock quarry. They drill and shoot daily, to sometimes every other day. The heavy machines in place to handle the huge boulders are Hitachi 120,000 excavator, cat 100,000 pond excavator, track rock drill, cat heavy articulating hauler, and a cat bulldozer.

The rocks are painted with tonnage weight numbers in white, so they can immediately load lowboy trucks full gross weight loads. The huge rocks are cross-chained with heavy



Brice Wagner

chain and binders onto the lowboys for safety hauling. The large rocks weigh upwards of 40,000 lbs. each.

Some rock has come from the Hall Brothers rock quarry up Sixes River, as well as from the Gold Beach area and ends up on the North Spit, Coos Bay/North Bend area stockpiling for the repair project to Coos Bay North Jetty.

A sleeping giant has been awakened in the form of "rock harder than steel, and a reasonably short haul for contractors to the Coos Bay North Jetty. The rock material tested out of the Smith Quarry is some of the hardest/ densest quarry material tested in both Coos and Curry Counties, according to local contractors.

**Cards at Sixes Grange**

*"I will go home to my 40-year-old house with wind blowing through the walls before I play cards with a ten year old"*

— Sixes Grange history — 1939

The year was 1939 and Wayne Foster was a 10-year-old boy attending a Sixes Grange meeting with his parents.

The evening festivities were to be a drawing for partners for pinochle card games. Everyone put their number in a box and the Grange Master drew the pairs out and numbers announced on whose who in partners. Carl Steiner a Grassy knob homesteader grumbled out when he saw who he was to play with, "I'll head on home to my 40 year old house with

See BRICE page 5

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**Daily Weather Statistics**

| Month  | High | Low | BAR   | Rain | Year | Wind |
|--------|------|-----|-------|------|------|------|
| Sun.   | 48   | 31  | 30.00 | 0.02 | 4.04 | 9    |
| Mon.   | 49   | 29  | 30.00 | 0.02 | 4.06 | 11   |
| Tues.  | 51   | 32  | 30.00 | 0.00 | 4.06 | 12   |
| Wed.   | 50   | 42  | 30.00 | 0.00 | 4.06 | 9    |
| Thurs. | 51   | 41  | 29.80 | 0.02 | 4.08 | 9    |
| Fri.   | 56   | 40  | 30.10 | 0.00 | 4.08 | 10   |
| Sat.   | 53   | 40  | 30.00 | 0.00 | 4.08 | 12   |

Weather statistics by DeBoyd Smith  
7 a.m. to 7 a.m. – Sixes River, OR

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With OVER 1,100 papers sold each week in the Port Orford, Langlois, Bandon and Gold Beach areas, the Port Orford News is being read by YOUR customers.

**Port Orford News**

The Port Orford News' office at 519 W. 10th St. is now open and staffed by Office Manager Carol Berger from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**(541) 332-NEWS (6397) OR (541) 260-3638**

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**Lars Larue**

by Gary Romele

**Dud & Suds Laundromat**

will be closed for remodeling/new equipment Jan. 22- Jan. 30. Look in the PON next week for the exact reopening date.

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