

Centered seniors

By Beverly Dunlap
For the Port Orford News

"You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love."

— Henry Drummond

Do you remember Rupert? He was a darling rooster that lived at our house for several months, almost a year and filled the role of "Cock of the Walk." I wrote about him for several months and I hope you remember him. I do! With a smile on my face, he is a happy memory.

Now, however, I have another "Chicken" story for you. Friends of mine have just a few hens. They have not raised hens in the past, but this venture has captured their imagination and their hearts it seems. The "top

Hen" had an accident and broke her leg. As they only have two anyway, this caused a big dilemma for my friends. She is the one that laid their first egg and she was at the top of the pecking order, an important bird you might say.

They immediately separated her from the other hens. As you may know, chickens can really get after one of their own, when it gets down, the other hens, will gaily finish the job. So my friends got the number one hen into safe quarters. I was not there, but guess there was a look of relief on her face. That didn't seem to be helping her much.

The man of the couple resourcefully found some Styrofoam and began to but and shape it for a chicken's leg. Then it was applied to the leg like a splint and lo and behold, the next two days has revealed what seems to be improvement.

That is where we are today, and we are all waiting with baited breath for the hen to rise from her agony. Making a splint for a chicken is the kindest act I have ever heard of. Hoorah chicken fixer!

There is yet more to the story. The injured hen has been placed on a diet of all good foods. She gets her grain of course; however, her grain is washed in yogurt and served on one of the good plates. She has constant fresh water and is watched very closely. Now if that isn't an act of love I don't know what is! And the punch line is she has laid a nice fresh egg in thanks for the special food she is getting.

The chickens back leg is beginning to relax and the toes are moving. That is happening now and I do believe that gentle care can cure just about anything. That "anything" can

include seniors that have some physical problems. Anything should include any time that a senior that is house bound gets visited by a friend.

Acts of love are never in excess. Acts of love will make the giver and the receiver happy. It is a character trait that we all can practice and be successful at in a grand way. Who knows, just like the wild turkeys that have inhabited Port Orford we watch them and protect them when we can and I understand that there are four or five new babies. These are Port Orfordites? The turkeys are worth our care and even fun to watch. We are blessed to have a wild thing decide to live with us.

I hope this makes you happy, and helps you toward a happy week and helps you to make an act of love to some critter today! Stay happy!

Hangin' out



Photo by Lance Nix

This is the time of year when the huge female garden spiders have large webs set up every where all over town to catch bugs so they can fatten up in preparation for laying their eggs before winter sets in. I caught this big honey high up on her big web last week," said Photographer Lance Nix. Thanks Lance.

Veteran's news: All branches gather in Gold Beach to discuss memorial

By Phil Colozzi
For the Port Orford News

On September 30, 2009, Curry County Veterans from all branches of the service got together to discuss erecting a Veterans Memorial.

This was the first Joint conference for the Vets, and it was held at the

Senior Center in Gold Beach around 12 noon for lunch.

Several sites were considered in each city, Brookings, Gold Beach and Port Orford. Each area will be evaluated based on our requirements.

However, censes of opinion is leaning toward a centrally located memorial best suited in Gold Beach. This is

not to eliminate any chances of Brookings and Port Orford of erecting a smaller one for their cities.

The concern was funding, trying to get sponsors to develop three memorials would be considered a duplication and harder to justify.

Another concern was the location. A memorial that only the Vets and

locals would be aware of would not generate as much interest. A memorial that the general public sees occasionally would allow them to honor our fallen brothers and sisters often, not to mention the traveler's passing though.

The Curry County Veterans Memorial steering committee will be

meeting every two months. You don't have to be associated with any veteran's organization to participate. In fact, you don't have to be a vet, if you're interested in the memorial or have comments, land, talents, money or anything free, please call Phil Colozzi, 541-332-6490 or email me at pcolozzi@msn.com

CHIEF, from page 1



Contributed photo

New Port Orford Police Chief Marvin Combs is shown with his wife Lisa. The couple will be moving to Port Orford soon and the chief hopes to be on the job by November 1.

friendly. We stopped by a couple places, ate and talked. Everyone seemed friendly and easy going."

Murphy liked what he saw on Combs resume, especially the continuity of service and accountability that the 31 years in one department implied.

"He's a person who will work with us and has a lot of experience with search and rescue – which involved a lot of volunteers and four staff members," said Murphy.

"That experience will help us here – we depend on volunteers. He'll keep our department going because we need our volunteers to augment our staff.

"So I brought him before the interview committee . . ."

Which consisted of Tyson Breuer, Jim Auburn and Gary Doran. Other members Tom Proctor and Doug Jamieson were unavailable the day of the interview.

The members all liked what they saw when Combs walked into the room.

"Wow. He was open, had good energy, a smile and is someone I think is going to fit in here beautifully," said Murphy.

"I believe he'll be very professional, open and caring – everything that the community has asked for in their police department."

"He came across as very professional with a good, commanding presence," said Auburn. "He seems very steady and

dependable. He's worked in the same department for 31 years and worked his way up through the ranks.

"And he wants to be involved with the community."

But the position brings obvious challenges, which Murphy, with his almost year-long stint as interim chief understand well.

"Drugs, alcohol, traffic and theft – most of that drug-related – we've got all the challenges of any other community," he said. "Port Orford is not immune – I wish we were."

And even with Murphy's best efforts over the last year there remains a lot to be done within the department.

"We need to hire an officer," said Murphy. "Make sure the department is in order and to provide supervision as needed. Bring us into compliance with all state requirements. Make sure we're doing all the right things. And build trust with the community. There are a lot of trust issues . . . most people are not trusting until they have had some exposure (to a new person or system)."

These are challenges that Combs understands and has anticipated.

"We need to get staffing back up and take a good hard look at things," he said. "There are things that haven't been done and I'll make sure that they will be."

But Combs doesn't intend to rush into decisions.

"I'll come in, take a long look it, talk to the officer working there and get a good, inside picture of it before making a bunch of moves."

But even so, he's hurry-

ing to get to work, already.

"I'm hoping to be there and at work by November 1," said Combs.

"I'll be setting down with the city council and everybody and find out what direction they want their department to head. I've got my feelings on how things should be, and my priorities, and they will have, too. We have to work together and go forward from there.

"And I'm looking forward to working with the community and getting people involved."

Involvement and volunteerism is something that Combs is familiar with and believes in strongly.

"When I was transferred to search and rescue in 2006 I relied heavily on about 80 volunteers, and it was one of the best things I've done in my career," he said. "They were an outstanding group of people and without them not much can be done."

Combs has also served his country, something he spoke of quietly, but proudly.

"I'm a Vietnam veteran, U.S. Army. It was an opportunity I had – I seized it – and had a great time."

Both the Combs know that the change from high desert in Central Oregon to furthest point west in the contiguous United States at sea level is a big change, but seem up for the opportunity.

"Lisa came with me on the visit and yes, it's going to be a pretty big move," said Combs. "We knew that we wanted to come someplace – to a smaller community – not that Bend isn't a nice place . . ."

And Lisa brings expertise of her own to her new community.

"She has been an office manager in the sheriff's office, an office manager in Redmond and managed her father's engineering office, but things have slowed down . . ."

"You know, she wants to help," said Auburn, almost grinning at his, and his community's good fortune.

Combs is also ready for a change of weather, as well as scenery.

"At least I'm not going to have to shovel snow," he said. "And although we've never lived on the coast and we know that it's going to get rainy, we're still looking forward to coming to live in your town."

Next comes the job of introducing the new chief to the community.

"We'll have an open house, a 'meet and greet,' as well as another police department open

house. He really wants to get out and around the community," said Murphy.

As for Murphy after almost a year he's learned a lot about Combs' new job.

"Almost a year," said Murphy with a wry smile. "There's a lot

to it – a tremendous amount – and public relations is a big piece. It's a more complex position that I realized and was very much an educational experience."

So, is Murphy sure that he's ready to finish filling in as

chief?

"Absolutely," he said. "With 500 exclamation points!"

The terms of Combs' employment are near completion, and might entail creating a new position for him due to his many years of experience and seniority.

Marvin F. Combs, Jr.

Profile

- 31+ years experience as a Certified Police Officer with Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.
- 20 years experience as Sergeant in areas of Patrol, Detectives, Traffic and Search & Rescue.
- Strong leadership and instructor capabilities.
- Field training officer for deputies, new sergeants and reserves.
- Proven ability to work in unison with the public, volunteers, outside agencies and administrative staff.

Employment

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Bend, Oregon 1976 – Present

Patrol Deputy

- Respond to calls for service. Participate and encourage community policing techniques. Investigate cases and interview witness/suspects. Prepare police reports for District Attorney.

1976 – 1979

Detective

- Investigate major crimes including homicide, sexual abuse, burglaries and major thefts. Received training in advanced criminology, practical aspects of homicide investigations and narcotics. Worked undercover narcotic cases for a period of time.

1979 – 1988

Patrol Sergeant / Watch Commander

- Supervised approximately eight patrol deputies. Responsible for staffing levels, reviewing reports, disciplinary action, and performance reviews.

1988 – 1996

Detective Sergeant

- Supervised approximately five detectives. Responsible for overseeing all major crime cases.

2000 – 2004

Traffic Sergeant

- Supervised three traffic deputies. Coordinated and oversaw traffic and DUII grants. Worked with Oregon Department of Transportation and the community regarding traffic related issues.

1996 – 2000

Search & Rescue Sergeant

- Supervised 80+ volunteers and four full-time DCSO staff members. Responsible for all search missions and recoveries. Coordinated and oversaw grants for Marine and ATV patrols. Retired June 30, 2008, and contracted with DCSO for three months to train and mentor replacement for current position.

2006 – 2008

Civil Technician (Armed Position)

- Part-time position responsible for serving restraining orders, subpoenas, writ of executions, garnishments, etc.

10/2008 - Present

Education

Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon
43 college credit hours

Chemeketa Community College, Salem, Oregon
Awarded 40 college credit hours through Professional Certification Program

Bend High School, Bend Oregon
Diploma, 1969

Military

United States Army, Honorably Discharged, 1976

Instruction

Over the last 20 years, I have had the opportunity to provide instruction within DCSO in the following areas:

- Firearms (handgun, shotgun, urban rifle)
- Use of Force
- Less Lethal and Taser Guns
- Patrol Procedures (DCSO Reserve Academy).
- Interview Techniques
- Child Abuse Investigations
- Crime Scene Investigations

Certifications

Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Supervisory Certificates from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSSST).

Accumulated over 2,200+ hours in DPSSST approved training.



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