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Rotary News PortOrfordRotary.org

A big payoff at 'the races,' and getting to know Ollie Jones better ...

By Matt Hall
PON staff writer

The Port Orford Rotary celebrated the very successful "Day At The Races," dinner/dance at its latest meeting by announcing that over $11,000 was raised at the affair, according to P.O. Rotary Treasurer Frank Smith, who added that "more was still coming in."

Following the meeting a impromptu auction was again held for a few remaining items, with even more funds being raised, including a joint-bid by Smith, who purchased a one-week trial at the Bandon Fitness Center for P.O. Rotary President Dave Holman, and another joint-purchase by Bob Webber and Holman for a set of golf balls (seems neither really needs any, since they say they never lose any … hmmm.)

Emily Francona presented the P.O. Rotary with a banner from the Roseburg Morning Rotary Club – she also noted that we need some more room to post such banners as well.

Ollie Jones

Then came the "main event" of the luncheon, as Karen Auborn introduced new Rotarian Ollie Jones of the North Curry Family and Children's Center, who was to be the speaker for the day.

Jones, who in real life is the friend and facilitator for nearly 20 North Curry County non-profits and human service organizations, launched smoothly into her address.

"I'm from the serene green building; some people have referred to it as 'The Green Turtle,'" she quipped.

"I'm a product of the Northwest," she continued, her dark eyes intent behind her rimless glasses. Occasionally she would peer at her notes, but mostly she just spoke, becoming more comfortable as she continued.

"A woman of the West, and proud of it," she said. "My parents were members of the local grange and I was a 4-Her."

She grew up in a small community, where everyone had a place, and in emergency, a purpose as well.

"If the (emergency) siren didn't go off (at the fire station) I knew where the switch was and I could turn it on," said Jones. "I was raised in the Puget Sound area and I worked in the halibut industry as a 'bait girl.'

"To this day I do not eat any small, slimy fish," she added.

"I graduated from 'bait girl,' to 'boat girl,' she continued, explaining how she "lived to cross the Columbia bar, daily if possible.

This love affair with the sea continued until "a couple of large, sneaker waves and a Coast Guard rescue boat that rolled over on its way out to rescue us changed my mind."

From there Jones went to the University of Washington, then worked in natural resources as a forest entomologist in New Mexico, until "after a couple of years I realized that I didn't really like bugs … ."

Still, she spent 25 years working for the U.S. Forest Service where she "became interested in federal programs relating to rural communities.

"From there I grew my interest in non-profits," she said, "and I was fortunate enough to come here.

"I've been here for one-and-a-half years now, and I've learned a lot – it's an exciting challenge," she said.

Jones works with lots of folks. The list includes, but isn't limited to; North Curry Family & Children's Center, the Veterans, public health agencies, Curry Home Health & Hospice, SWOCC, SBEC, South Coast Food Share, credit counseling agencies and programs, direct service programs such as health and nutrition at the school district, and more.

Lots more.

In fact, it turns out that there is a lot more to Ollie and her work that helps us all – which is part of what interested her in becoming a Rotarian.

"I'd been around Rotary," said Jones, whose observations about Rotary included "community service and networking, which are all a part of what led me to it.

"There are 19 non-profits serving Northern Curry County," she continued. "I want to know how we can help each other out to be more effective – how do we link up and work together more efficiently."

Jones closed to a warm round of applause, telling her audience, "we're more than just a building down the street, and I look forward to working with each of you."

Photos by Lois Miller

RIGHT: An auction in progress. FAR RIGHT: Ollie Jones speaks. BELOW RIGHT: The PHS Varsity Basketball team served at the recent Rotary dinner.

CURRY Health Network

Shilo McKenzie, CNMNP

Growing up on a sheep and cattle ranch on the Southern Oregon Coast provided me with a joy for the birthing process. My favorite time of year is the spring, watching the sheep and cattle give birth and assisting many in times of need.

My mother and her friends used a midwife for their births. They would share their experiences and talk of how wonderful it was to have a midwife care for them. During and after high school I job shadowed our local midwife (Alice Taylor, CNM). My pursuits of midwifery lead me to attend nursing school at the University of Portland. In my freshman year at the University of Portland I gave birth to my son. The same midwife (Alice Taylor, CNM) who delivered me, also delivered my son.

In 2005, I eagerly returned to my home town of Langlois, OR, with a Bachelors in Science and Nursing, and worked at Bay Area Hospital, in the Labor and Delivery Unit. I then attended the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing and became a Certified Nurse Midwife. It is an honor to now be working alongside Alice Taylor and the staff at Curry General Hospital. I will be accepting patients soon.

I will educate women, support families, and share in the joys of life with my clients, family, and friends. I currently reside in Langlois with my husband, Tomas Hernandez, a local rancher and our two sons Esequiel (Zeke) 8 years and Santiago 2 months.

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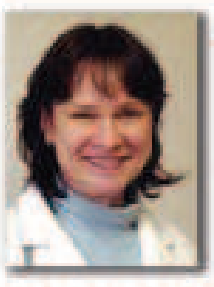

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Vineyard in Dallas, OR.

Kerr is the daughter of Thomas and Joye Kerr of Brookings, granddaughter of Robert and Phyliss Kerr of Brookings, Joyce Price of Centalia, Wash., and the late Stan Price. She is a 2001 graduate of Brookings-Harbor High School. She graduated Western Oregon University (WOU) in 2006, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and a minor in Biology. She is employed as a admissions counselor at WOU, recruiting in Alaska, Oregon and Hawaii.

Compton is the son of Greg and Roxanne Gibbs of Port Orford, grandson of Maxine Compton of Benicia, Ca and the late Paul Wilber Compton, and Carl and Arlene Gibbs of Middlefield, OH. He graduated from Pacific High School, class of 2000, he also graduated from WOU in 2005, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and a minor in Physical Education. He is employed at WOU as assistant director of admissions, responsible for coordinating college fairs and overseeing recruitment.