

North Douglas  
**HERALD**

*Dedicated to Our Readers & the Residents of North Douglas & South Lane Counties*

**Ice-amegeddon Leaves a Trail of Destruction & Outages**

*Downed Trees, Utility Poles, Icy Conditions & Loss of Power Wreaks Havoc for Thousands Across the Region More on Pages 8 & 9*



*February 14th*

**Zolezzi Insurance Agency; A Legacy**

**Local Roots Run Deep for Craig Zolezzi**

*Story by Rusty Savage*

Gordon Zolezzi started working for Travelers Insurance in Portland in 1966. Gordon and his wife Jean had 2 children including, Craig, his older sister Janice and a few years later a younger brother, Paul. At the age of 4, Craig found himself moving with his family to the small town of Drain Oregon when Gordon purchased the Jack Randall Insurance Agency. At that time, Randall Insurance was located a few doors down from the present Liquor store on 2nd St. It was 1968 and Zolezzi Insurance was established. From that location, Gordon Zolezzi began to build his customer base and business style.

After a few years the business moved across the street into a small brick building next to the old Bank. Still another move, a while later, found the Agency over next to the Post Office. Soon

afterwards Gordon was able to buy the lot next door and built the office building at 208 West C Ave, where it currently resides.

Gordon worked to build his local reputation and expand the business. He was committed to his clients, neighbors and the community that he lived and worked in. He was a volunteer fireman and whenever there was a call, he was diligent in getting out on the fires and often he found those suffering fire damage were clients and he was always service oriented towards their needs. Said Craig, "I can remember many times riding along in my Dad's station wagon to get to a fire call." Craig grew up in this local environment of small town Oregon and under the umbrella of his Dad's Insurance Agency. At the age of 9 Craig remembers a teacher assigned

the question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

"So, I drew a picture with crayons and wrote at the bottom that I wanted to be an Insurance Agent", says Craig. "My father framed it and gave it to me many years ago. I proudly display it in my Florence office!"

Although he grew up in the Insurance business and often worked part time and summers at the office as a kid, it was in 1988, at the age of 24, that Craig began his formal journey into the insurance business. Initially working for North Pacific Insurance, which later became Liberty Mutual, in Cedar Hills, Portland Oregon. His start at North Pacific was an 18 month training program and at the end of his tenure he returned to Drain and the

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