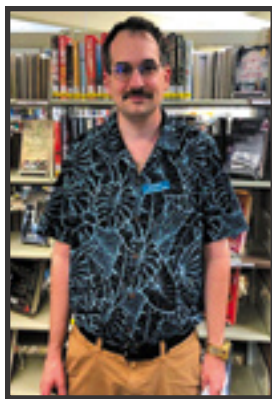


Lower Umpqua Library District Notes



The Lower Umpqua Library District is actively building special sections within our collection, such as Classics, World Languages, Pacific Northwest, and Speculative Fiction. We have also tripled our selection of audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs. Contests are in development designed to challenge our patrons to venture into parts of

the library they many not normally peruse, and to encourage more reading within the community. We will post details on the library website (LULD.org), and the Facebook page for information on an open house at the beginning of November. At that time, we will kick off the All Season Reading Challenge and offer information on other things at the library.

The library is looking for volunteers. There are a variety of jobs available, some simple, others more complex. Our volunteers help us process new materials, reshelv items, preview DVDs, help prepare crafts, and simple cleaning such as windows and dusting. The volunteer job that we need the most is helping to maintain our Neighborhood Libraries. This would entail coming by the library to pick up inventory, and then restock the Neighborhood Library Module. If there is any repairs or upkeep needed, you

would call the library to let us know. Our Neighborhood Library Modules are located at the Winchester Bay Fire Station, Highland Swimming Pool, Smith River Store, Ash Valley, and the Scottsburg Fire Station. If any location is convenient for you, please contact the library.

The Lower Umpqua Library District is proud of our Friends of the Reedsport Library. They are quick to help us with library projects, book sales, and funds for to help with programs. Anyone can join the Friends of the Library just by giving a donation of any kind. When the friends host book sales, they work together to set up tables and display boxes of books. The sales happen every couple of months. The Friends could use some young muscle to help them with this task. Call the library if you would like more information. Alex Kuestner, Library Director – District Manager 395 Winchester Ave, Reedsport, Oregon 541-271-3500

Downtown Roseburg Ghost Tour Fundraisers for Local Optimist Club

The Optimist Club of Roseburg will present the Second Annual Ghosts of Roseburg Tour in October 2025. In-person group tours around downtown Roseburg will showcase real historic characters and reenactments of past events, thanks to a collaboration with the UCC drama department. Participants will be treated to titillating true tales of the past as they walk down the very same streets these lively figures did, from the time before the city's founding in 1851.

"I love bringing the past alive for our local residents," says Valerie Gordon, a member of the Roseburg Optimist Club and the organizer of the event. "We are trying to improve the experience every year and this year's event features some changes based on feedback from

last year. We encourage people to come out, enjoy the twilight atmosphere of our beautiful downtown, learn about their town's history and support our community."

The event will take place on two weekends, for a total of eight guided excursions that last approximately one and a half hours. There is an option for a VIP guided tour which will end the night at the Elks Club with a prime rib dinner (vegetarian options are available), as well as original entertainment presented by The Grand Victorian Theater of Myrtle Creek. All tour participants will receive a take-home souvenir and discount offers from local establishments. The Ghosts of Roseburg Tour is based on the self-guided Ghosts of Roseburg Past Walking Tour that Jennifer Grafiada created in 2022. Grafiada created the original tour, which is available on the VoiceMap app, with the assistance of a tourism grant from The City of Roseburg.

"My tour is based on a 1980s walking tour that a beloved local history teacher at Hucrest Elementary, Britton Weaver, created to teach his students about the very interesting past of their hometown," says Grafiada. "Most people walk around here not realizing that they are passing by the office of an infamous dentist-murderer, for example. There are stories that will give you chills, and stories that inspire. Everyone should learn about these colorful characters, and this is a great way to enjoy an immersive night out while supporting a good cause."

All proceeds raised will support the Optimist Club's youth programs, including "Chalk Art in the Park," school snack packs, school hygiene kits, and the club's Safety Day Program for schools. The Optimist Club and the UCC Theater Arts students will be volunteering their time and talent. Gordon wants to thank the many businesses and individuals who have been supportive of this endeavor.

Tickets are now on sale at HauntedRoseburg.com. To get tour updates, like the Facebook page: [Facebook.com/ghostsofroseburgpast](https://www.facebook.com/ghostsofroseburgpast).

Bears are out in Oregon

Let's Keep Bears and People Safe

Now that autumn weather has replaced hot summer days, bears have begun their annual fall eat-a-thon, known as hyperphagia, to prepare for winter. This intense feeding period begins in late summer when berries and fruits ripen and peaks when fruits like pears and apples are available. During this time, bears spend up to 20 hours a day foraging for food.

Driven by the need to eat, bears will take advantage of free food – garbage, pet food, bird seed, livestock and poultry feed. State wildlife biologists urge Oregon residents, vacation rental managers, and visitors to remove or secure those food sources. Bears that become used to "people food" can pose a serious safety risk to people and pets. Oregon's black bears are highly concentrated along the coast, in the Cascades, and in the Blue Mountains. Coastal residents and visitors need to be especially vigilant as bears are common even in more populated and highly visited seaside towns.

However, the obligation also falls on vacation rental managers and guests to contribute to responsible coexistence with bears. ODFW strongly encourages property managers to provide bear-resistant trash cans and educate guests how to use those cans and give them BearWise tips to minimize the risk of bear encounters or issues.

Skyler Gerrity, an ODFW Assistant Wildlife Biologist with years of experience working in coastal areas, says unsecured trash is one of the primary reasons bears are attracted to neighborhoods.

"Bears can smell food from miles away and home in on that source," Gerrity said. "Leaving trash cans unsecured or accessible gives bears the opportunity to rummage through garbage, which can create a dangerous situation for people - and the bears too."

Bears also have an incredible memory of

where they have found food before – female bears pass this knowledge down to their young. Feeding bears, whether intentional or accidental, can have long-lasting negative effects on multiple generations of bears.

The good news is that most conflict between humans and bears is preventable. Bears don't want to be around humans, but the prospect of an easy meal is often too good to resist. Removing things that attract them to the area is the most important thing you can do to protect people and ensure bears stay healthy and wild. Follow these tips to be BearWise:

- Never feed or approach bears. Feeding bears, whether you mean to or not, will cause them to associate humans with food. It is also against the law in Oregon (ORS 496.730).
- Secure food, garbage and recycling. Ensure trash, compost bins and dumpsters are secure by using locking or screw-on lids, metal bars over dumpsters, or fully enclosed trash storage. Take trash out immediately before pick-up, not the night before pickup.
- Remove bird feeders. Birds have plenty of naturally available food sources.
- Feed pets inside and store food indoors. Pet food attracts bears and other wildlife, putting your pets and wildlife at risk.
- Clean and store grills after each use.
- Alert neighbors to unusual bear activity (continued sightings during daylight hours, lack of wariness around humans or pets, etc.). Share these tips with your neighbors!

These simple yet effective steps will go a long way to avoid conflict and keep bears and people safe. Contact your local district ODFW office if you need assistance with a bear-human conflict or observe unusual or aggressive behavior from a bear. Report human safety concerns to Oregon State Police.

ODOT is hiring for maintenance positions across Oregon

Deadline to apply for ODOT winter maintenance positions is coming fast



Snow fell on many Oregon highways in early October. Winter is coming, and ODOT is staffing up to be ready.

After the Oregon Legislature provided new funding in September to support highway maintenance, ODOT began recalling winter seasonal staff and listed dozens of job postings to fill vacant maintenance positions. These maintenance positions provide or support winter maintenance service and are located in every region of Oregon. The deadline to apply for many of those positions closes this week.

Through this summer's transportation funding crisis, ODOT warned the public and partners that the agency was on track to provide a significantly lower level of maintenance service, both year-round and in the winter, in the absence of a funding solution. That's because the agency was going to be forced to lay off hundreds of existing staff.

ODOT is no longer forecasting those scenarios of deep maintenance service cuts. That's because many permanent maintenance staff – protected from being laid off by the actions of the legislature last month – are still with the agency. These crews

Plaque for Doris Bartlett

Doris Bartlett, longtime community member of Yoncalla, passed away peacefully August 12, 2025, at the age of 93. The property at 194 Birch Street that the beautiful Yoncalla Public Library sits on today was donated by Doris and her husband George Bartlett.

In the 1990's, with Doris as Chair of the Yoncalla Branch Library Advisory Board, and Beulah Everley, Librarian, after hours and hours of grant writing were successful in rallying the community in raising the remaining funds necessary to complete the new Yoncalla Public Library in 2003.

Doris was a member of the Yoncalla Branch Library Advisory Board and later a member of the Friends of the Yoncalla Public Library for almost 50 years, until her death. Doris will always be remembered

and deeply missed. We encourage you to visit the Yoncalla Public Library and view the In Memoriam plaque dedicated to Doris. The plaque was designed and donated by Tammy Eveland and her father Don Place, Doris's daughter, Lynn McHaffie, Librarian, Amy Bucknum, and the Yoncalla Public Library and community members. Doris was one for the books!

Capricorn Manor presents:

Drain Oktoberfest

Come to Capricorn Manor at 105 West A Ave. in Drain and celebrate Oktoberfest on October 25 from 1:00-5:00 pm. The first 24 people to spend \$20 in the shop will receive a free commemorative glass beer stein filled with our delicious spiced apple cider. Help yourself to fresh home baked cookies as you shop and support local vendors. For more information, contact Ame Beard at 541-870-1622 or ame_beard@yahoo.com.

A Reception for Time Travelers

Only the nerdiest of time travelers will show up at this event, a nod to the great Stephen Hawking. Decades ago, Hawking held a party for time travelers and no one showed up as he sent the invitations the day after the party. We, however, want you to come! There will be travelers from every era, balloons, champagne, and nibbles- just like the original party!

Come converse with other geeks and show off your costume from your favorite time period. There may even be a wormhole! Location 43 degrees, 39'42.5" N by 123 degrees, 18'55.4" W (43.6617708 by -123.3153809), commonly known as 105 West A Avenue, Drain. October 31, 6pm. Contact Ame Beard for any questions at 541-870-1622 or Ame_beard@yahoo.com.



are ready to provide winter maintenance services.

ODOT has an abnormally high level of vacant positions after the agency instituted a hiring freeze earlier in the spring and after the uncertainty of the summer resulted in elevated levels of staff departures. The agency also always staffs up to provide additional service during the rougher parts of winter that will come in a few months. With stable funding for maintenance secured, ODOT is moving quickly to fill these positions.

Interested applicants can apply online: Oregon Department of Transportation : Career Opportunities : About Us : State of Oregon.