

Wasco Sheriff confirms NORCOR death suicide

Wasco County Sheriff Rick Eiesland has ruled the death of an inmate from Hood River last Wednesday at Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility in The Dalles was a suicide.

Eiesland said Thursday his office had not yet received results of the autopsy from the state medical examiner's office, but the cause of death was confirmed as suicide.

Michael Scott Linden, 52, was found dead in his cell at NORCOR at about 10:58 a.m. Wednesday, April 22. NORCOR administrator Jim Weed said jail personnel were tipped off to Linden's death by another inmate. Officials found Linden dead in his cell.

Linden was accused of eight separate felonies including rape. He was facing more than 40 years in prison

if convicted of the most severe charges stacked against him. His bail was set at \$100,000.

The final results of the investigation of Linden's death are still pending.

A memorial for Scott Linden will be held Tuesday at Divots Restaurant at Indian Creek Golf Course in Hood River. The time could not be confirmed as of press time.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

CGCC President Dr. Frank Toda, left, at a 2014 meeting with board president M.D. Van Valkenburgh.

DOUG

Continued from Page A1

of 1.2 million gallons per day. But explaining this to people?

"You want to kill a conversation? When people ask what I do for a living, and I tell them, I either get a deer in the headlights look, or they say, 'that's interesting,' and that's the end of it," he laughed.

Nichols' mornings begin with a staff meeting, where workers discuss "any process or control equipment problems, provide scheduled training, and always include a safety topic — safety is always the number one priority," he said (the plant safety record is currently at over 4,700 days without a lost time accident). The rest of his day is spent managing four Gorge-area wastewater treatment plants — Hood River, Parkdale, Cascade Locks and Stevenson — which includes everything from "managing budgets to regulatory reporting, lab and plant data analysis, client reports, etc.

"In this position, you wear many hats," he said.

And it's a position he enjoys. "Wastewater treatment is a highly regulated and demanding profession," he said. "However, there is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that we make a difference each and every day for the environment, and that we're protecting the waterways of Oregon and public health. Water is a precious commodity.

"We like to think of ourselves as the original environmentalists," he said.

"Wastewater has been around a long time."

He also enjoys "educating the public about wastewater treatment and how a plant operates," Nichols said. "We provide a lot of plant tours to school groups of all ages, from preschool to college level students."

There are eight associates at the Hood River WWTP, five of whom are State of Oregon certified wastewater operators: Louie Hooks, Gary Duree, Brent Tillett, Sean Desmond and Nichols. The other three: Bobby Green, mechanic; Kelby Johnson, biosolids coordinator and equipment operator; and Sara Horne, operator in training.

"These guys are the nuts and bolts of the operation," Nichols said. "... All of our associates are highly trained professionals dedicated to maintaining plant operations that consistently produces a quality effluent (discharge) that meets established discharge permit limits set by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality," he added. "The State of Oregon has the most stringent water quality standards in the nation."

The Parkdale, Cascade Locks and Stevenson facilities are considered satellite projects and are not staffed all day, Nichols said — instead, Desmond and Duree travel back and forth between the sites for a few hours at a time.

Nichols was born and raised in Baker City. He graduated in 1978 with a two-year associate degree in Water and Wastewater Technology at Linn Benton Community College, and began his career as a wastewater opera-

tor at the Gresham WWTP in 1979. He moved to Roseburg in 1984, holding the same position.

In 1985, he began working for CH2M in contract operations, "which has included 10 years at the Gresham WWTP, in maintenance while training to be a project manager; three years as project manager at a WWTP at Keahou, Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the last 18 years as project manager at the WWTP here in Hood River." Nichols and his wife of 44 years, Marilyn, live in Hood River.

CH2M is a contract services provider, and has "enjoyed a great partnership with the City of Hood River since 1983," said Nichols. Hood River WWTP is the company's second-oldest tenured client.

Those services include "operating and maintaining the wastewater plant and six lift stations, application of biosolids on DEQ-approved land application sites, grease trap inspections, and management of a local pretreatment program that involves regulating the discharge of local significant industrial users."

Many small towns contract their WWTP services with companies like CH2M because "they either don't want to be bothered with it, or they're having problems operating their plant and they call us to help out." Many times, "helping out" turns into a long-term partnership.

"It's been a good career — and you talk about job security," he said. "I feel like I've been very blessed — it's been a good profession."

TODA

Continued from Page A1

to get on an even keel we need a new president," Schell said of Toda, who has served since 2001.

Of approximately 90 faculty members, 72 voted on the following statement:

"In addition to the faculty vote of no confidence in CGCC President Frank Toda in September 2013, CGCC Faculty now censure President Toda due to his budget mismanagement; his inability to include faculty and staff in a process to address the current budgetary crisis; his proposal to close the Hood River Indian Creek Campus resulting in the community's lack of confidence in Toda; and his dismissal of key employees resulting in the College being understaffed to the point where servicing students has become a dire problem. Because President Toda's actions collectively constitute a threat to the viability of CGCC, the faculty

asks that the president resign immediately and that the College initiate a national search for a new president."

When asked to respond to the contents of the letter, the President's office responded that "Columbia Gorge Community College has not officially been presented as a recipient of the above letter and as a result the College will not be able to submit a formal comment at this time."

In the fall of 2013, a vote of "no confidence" in Toda was taken in which 40 faculty voted no confidence, eight voting against no confidence,

and 24 abstained.

Schell cited Toda's actions in November 2014, announcing plans to close the Hood River campus. Toda did so without consulting the board, and later said he came out with the closure idea to bring CTCC's budget shortage to the attention of State legislators. The CGCC board declared in December that it would not consider closing the campus.

"That was such an ill-wrought thing to do. We don't think the college can go on with (Toda). Its whole reputation is now at stake," Schell said.

Skamania Lodge Golf Course Gorge Resident* Open House May 29th - 31st

Come play your challenging neighborhood course FREE during this special event designed just for you. Carts are only \$15.** Complimentary hot dog, chips and soda also included!

Advance tee times required - reference "Open House Event." Reservations begin May 15th at 800.293.0418.

We look forward to hosting your best game of the season!

*Must be a resident of Skamania, Klickitat, Hood River or Wasco County.
**Green fee is complimentary and does not include a cart fee of \$15 per player. Golf cart is required to ensure pace of play.



Skamania Lodge
Authentic. Inspired. Rejuvenating.
A DESTINATION HOTEL®

STEVENSON, WA • 800-221-7117 • SKAMANIA.COM

May 19 ballots are in the mail

The Hood River County Elections office put ballots in the mail Friday for the May 19 Special Districts Election.

Voters have until May 19 to return their ballots via mail or to voting locations at the County Administration Building, Sixth and State, or Cascade Locks City Hall.

Voters are reminded to sign their ballot envelopes, but to sign only their own, to ensure ballot validity.

If you do not receive your ballot in the mail by May 3, call County Elections at 541-386-1442.

The elevator at the county building, where Elections is located, is currently out of order and will be for another week or so. Anyone with mobility limitations should park in the county lot on the west side of the building and take the ramp that leads to

the third floor. Ballots must be in the hands of the Elections office by 8 p.m. May 19; postmarks to do not count.

The ballot includes seats on every special election district in the county, and features contested races for the

Ports of Hood River and Cascade Locks, Hood River County School District, and Hood River County Parks and Recreation District.

**Gas Appliances
Electrical Repair
Get your RV
road ready!**

RV Doc — Bruce Henderson

Mobile Service & Repair



State Fire Marshal Certification #001242-08

RVMobile Doctor
Service & Repair. I come to you!
BRUCE HENDERSON
541-993-5982
LICENSED & CERTIFIED


Gorge RENTALS
Property Management

We Need Homes


Qualified Applicants Waiting

Monthly • Leases
Pet Friendly
Oregon • Washington

Rent@GorgeRentals.com
(541) 387-4080
GorgeRentals.com
610 Oak Street • Hood River
Denise McCravy, Owner



SEARCHING
ENDLESSLY
ONLINE
VS.
TALKING
TO AN ACTUAL
EXPERT



HOW
HORSE OWNERS WORKSHOP

PURINA

Get the answers you need at the Hood River Supply Horse Owners Workshop. Come to our Horse Owners Workshop and learn about a feeding trial offer, hands-on experience and advice from the experts about topics that matter to you.

HOOD RIVER SUPPLY
1945 12th St. • Hood River
541-386-2757
3831 Eagle Loop • Odell
541-354-3000
hrs@supply.com
May 19th
6pm-8pm

Volunteers in Action - Providence Community Caregivers

Volunteer Training

1-5 p.m.
Sunday, May 3, 2015


Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital

VIA-PCC offers non-medical volunteer assistance to older adults and those with chronic illness in Hood River and Klickitat Counties.

If you have an hour a week or an hour a month, you can be someone's "good neighbor."

Volunteer tasks might be taking someone to the doctor, picking up a prescription, friendly visits, grocery shopping and other assistance.

Call to register or find out more, call 541-387-6150 or email clare.black@providence.org



Thinking Of A Loan? THINK LOCAL!

Our team lives and works in the Hood River community - We know the local market.

Before you call anyone else, call your neighbors for great rates and the best service anywhere!



JEFF SACRE
Sr. Mortgage Specialist
NMLS-140302, MLO-140302
541.806.1556
jsacre@directorsmortgage.net



STEVE WOLF
Sr. Mortgage Specialist
OR NMLS-114305; WA MLO-114305
541.490.2897
swolf@directorsmortgage.net



MIKE ELLSWORTH
Sr. Mortgage Specialist
OR NMLS-114033; WA MLO-114033
541.490.2832
mellsworth@directorsmortgage.net

DIRECTORS Mortgage 541.436.2662 directorsmortgage.net

This is not a commitment to lend. NMLS-3240, CL-3240