

# On The Record

## OBITUARIES

**KENT**—Kenneth Kent, 94, of Florence, passed away peacefully Dec. 16, 2020.

Ken was born in New York City in 1926. When he was nine, his family



**Kenneth Kent**

moved west for his father's work in the movie production industry, ultimately settling in southern California.

Ken attended high school and the Chouinard Art Institute — today known as CALARTS — in Los Angeles.

Ken served in the Unit-

ed States Army during World War II and was deployed to the Pacific Theater. He was awarded the Good Conduct medal and the Asiatic Pacific Service medal, and honorably discharged at the end of the war.

After the war, Ken began a career in industrial arts, specializing in furniture design, which spanned 42 years in offices all across the west coast including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Several of his pieces have been shown in design museums and featured in design magazines.

In 1988, Ken retired to Florence, where he became an active member of the Florence community. He enjoyed building model

airplanes and, later in life, developed an interest in radio-controlled airplanes.

Ken enjoyed watercolor painting and taught painting classes at the Florence Senior Center. He was actively involved in supporting many local nonprofit organizations, the library, and the Siuslaw School District.

Ken is survived by his daughter, two grandsons and many friends.

**SMITH**—Jack Smith died at home in Florence, Ore., on Jan. 15, 2021, after a long-fought battle with congestive heart failure.

He was born in Little Rock, Ark., but the Oregon coast was his home.

He was a graduate of Siuslaw High in 1961,



**Jack Smith**

where he stirred up a little trouble, lettered in football and track, and made lifelong friends.

Jack's career was spent mostly in the woods as a hook tender, but he had also fought historic forest fires, been a U.S. Forest Service crew leader, and a Safety Inspector for Oregon Worker's Compensation Department.

He was especially proud of his work as an employment specialist for the Oregon Employment Department, matching hard

workers to good jobs or sorting out their unemployment benefits.

Jack, a man of the woods was not light-hearted or an easy guy to know. He was as tough as calk boots. He was not a man to be crossed, but he was also a fiercely loyal friend.

He had experienced much in his life, which made for good storytelling and he did that well, re-living the moments as he re-told them. The ending of his final chapter was just that death won, fair and square.

Until his health prevented it, Jack spent his life in nature, either working, hunting or hiking with Shirley, his wife of 60-years. There were few things he enjoyed more

than admiring a herd of elk, happening upon a field of wild tiger lilies or just being in the stillness of nature, where the discord of the world was silenced.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Sealy Smith and Carl Smith, and his mother-in-law he liked to call, "GM"- Velma Easling, and his canine friends Token and Cody. He is survived by his wife Shirley who stuck by him through thick and thin, his children Jack jr., (Katrina), Joni (Dan), and Jason (Alicia), his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

At his request, there will be no services and his ashes will be freed in the places he found most special.

## Beware of these COVID-related scams in 2021

Since the onset of the pandemic, criminals have used tactics like identity theft and social engineering to defraud government and healthcare programs and illegally cash in — and the new year has brought some new material for them to keep up their scams.

COVID-19 vaccines, New PPP loans, expanded government assistance — all are positive developments toward addressing the pandemic's impact, but they also afford opportunities for criminals to fraudulently exploit.

On Dec. 21, federal agencies alerted the public regarding the high potential for fraud during the pandemic, especially now that a vaccine is available.

Meanwhile, fraudsters are continuing their global phishing and spoofing campaigns, baiting victims with bogus promises of COVID-19 testing, grants, and prescription cards in exchange for personally identifiable information (PII).

"Given the impact COVID-19 has had on all of our lives, it's no surprise

that fraudsters are using it to target peoples' money and sensitive information," says Kathryn Albright, Global Payments & Deposits Executive with Umpqua Bank. "But if you know what kinds of red flags to be aware of right now, it can really help protect your business, and you personally, in the long-run."

### Beware of These Scams

- Recorded phone calls ("Robocalls") offering the chance to avoid lines and get vaccinated sooner for a set price (e.g., \$79.99).
- Advertisements and price gouging for the sale of fake or potentially dangerous (and unapproved, illegitimate) COVID-19 "medicine" or treatments.
- Solicitations, whether in person or via text, email, or phone, asking you to provide account information (financial or medical), click an unfamiliar or unexpected link, or visit an unfamiliar webpage in order to "sign up" for treatment.
- Bogus "contact tracers" who reach out to unsuspecting victims and ask for PII (e.g., Medicare number or

financial information) or attempt to collect payment for scheduling a test.

Legitimate contact tracers don't need such information or payment.

### Tips to Note

According to the AARP, the key points federal officials want the public to understand when it comes to preventing such scams are:

- Go to a trusted source for vaccine information (e.g., your doctor or local health department).
- Don't buy a vaccine or treatment off the Internet.
- The vaccine is provided at no cost, although providers may charge a fee for administration (that can be reimbursed).
- Ignore any solicitations about the vaccine that are delivered to you via text message, social media, phone call, email, or in person, because health officials are not contacting eligible people using these methods.
- Don't give money or any type of PII to an unexpected or unfamiliar party contacting you about COVID-19, because fraudsters can use such information to defraud

healthcare organizations and commit identity theft.

### Remain Vigilant

For additional information regarding the COVID-19 response and updated vaccine distribution details, visit trusted sites like CDC.gov and fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines-periodically.

Also, exercise caution regarding unexpected or unfamiliar communications on the topic.

### If You See Something, Say Something

"Fraudsters are adapting fast, and even the smallest amount of fraud can quickly become a scam epidemic," says Albright. "Try to stay ahead of the fraud game and always keep a healthy skepticism; hyper-vigilance is necessary, even regarding an unexpected opportunity for COVID-19 treatment, as it's often said, 'If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.'"

Contact your local law enforcement agencies if you think you've received fraudulent communication.

## COUNTY COVID STATS

Lane County Public Health (LCPH) was notified of at least 101 additional positive cases of COVID-19 since noon on Jan. 21, along with 3 deaths. This makes a total of 8,578 cases as of Jan. 22 at 9 a.m.

- Hospitalized: 17
- ICU: 6
- Deaths: 113
- Infectious: 368
- Current Vaccination 1st Dose Administration: 14,254
- Testing: OHA is now excluding negative labs from

Opera in an effort to improve performance.

This includes historic negative labs.

Data regarding Lane County testing, patient status, case ZIP codes and more is available at www.LaneCountyOR.gov/local-data.

In the 97439 ZIP code, there are currently 140 active cases as of Jan. 22.

The State of Oregon has created a COVID-19 web page with resources at www.coronavirus.oregon.gov.

## Siuslaw Library District Board to hold special meeting

A special meeting of the Siuslaw Public Library District Board of Directors will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25.

The Library Board will be considering a response to the proposed appointments to the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) Board of Directors.

This meeting will include remote participation by board members as outlined in Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-16.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend remotely by phone or online, and may submit questions and public comments via

email prior to the meeting. Basic information about this attendance option is available on the agenda.

Anyone in need of instruction in this attendance method may also reach out to Library Director Meg Spencer directly at meg@siuslawlibrary.org or 541-997-3132.

A complete agenda for this meeting is available online at www.siuslawlibrary.org.

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## AN OPEN LETTER to the MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

You and your staff have said, on many occasions, that "the City's current policy has been to only annex those who request and petition to be annexed."

However, "current" means today, and says nothing about tomorrow. And any "policy" may be changed, quickly and quietly, with no public input.

In any case, "current policy" fails with Idylewood homeowners, because we're staring down the loaded barrel of a unique, legally binding agreement: An "Improvement Agreement," signed by the City and the Benedicks in 1981.

To summarize, this agreement says that the owners of the 70 lots in the original Idylewood subdivision, which straddles Oceana Drive, shall:

- pay for the extension of the sewer line from Rhododendron Drive, and
- connect to the sewer, whether they want to or not, at their own expense, and
- pay for any road improvements the City wants: curbs, gutters, sidewalks, widening, etc.

The City's past annexations along Rhododendron Drive did not present this kind of predicament. The homeowners along Rhody had no legal obligation to connect to the sewer, and no financial responsibility for road improvements.

There is no precedent for the annexation of Oceana Drive.

So, here's a very simple solution that should satisfy all sides of the dispute: Amend the 1981 Improvement Agreement.

In that Agreement, section 2 would be rewritten to say that connection to the City's sewer is voluntary, except in the case of a health hazard, when a homeowner's septic system has failed beyond repair.

A revised section 3 would say that road maintenance is the task of the City, and major road improvements would need to be approved by a simple majority of the 70 homeowners within the original Idylewood subdivision.

Finally, the top two paragraphs on page two should be deleted. As written 40 years ago, those paragraphs give homeowners no choice, no appeal. But since the subdivision is now complete, removing them hurts no one.

Now, I am not an attorney, but I know that all three of these changes *can* be made, legally and quickly. The City and the Benedick organization simply need to sign.

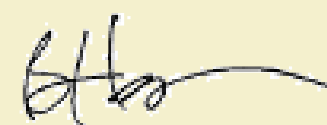
Without this revision, and upon annexation of Oceana Drive, we have new liens on our homes. Legally, I must divulge to prospective buyers that they could be obligated for tens of thousands of dollars in construction fees, at the sole discretion of the City Council.

With this revision, all parties should be satisfied:

Benedick Holdings LLC gets approval of its application for annexation and rezoning; the City of Florence gets to annex more land within its urban growth boundary; and the Idylewood homeowners have a written promise that they will not be forced to annex their own properties, they will not be forced to connect to the sewer, and they will not be asked to pay for road improvements.

What possible objection could you have?

Sincerely,



Bruce Hadley  
Idylewood Owners LLC  
www.idylewood.com