

RECORDS

LCSO recognized by MADD for 'Every 15 Minutes'

On March 5, the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) was recognized as the 2018 Oregon Group Advocate of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in connection with the Sheriff's Office's continued efforts in decreasing drunk driving related crashes and fatalities through a program called Every 15 Minutes.

Every 15 Minutes is a two-day underage drinking and driving prevention program which challenges teens to think before drinking and operating a vehicle, or getting in the car with someone who has been drinking.

The program consists of a staged car crash where the role players are students from the participating school, an overnight retreat for participating students, and a community assembly where guest speakers and parents are invited to share how their lives have been impacted by drunk driving.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office has hosted the Every 15 Minutes program 13 times over the last nine years in Lane County high schools in effort to provide an impactful experience that will help students make the right choice when confronted with decisions re-

garding drinking and driving.

Participating students and staff from the most recent Every 15 Minutes program at Mohawk High School were invited to attend the MADD recognition ceremony with Sheriff Byron Trapp.

At the ceremony, Andy Rice of Mohawk High School and Chief Steven Wallace of the Mohawk Rural Fire Department were also recognized for their efforts in bringing the Every 15 Minutes program to their community.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all of the community members who

donate their time and expertise to help make this program a success, including retired Lane County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Kevin Woodworth for organizing the program, the Oregon State Police and first responders from local law enforcement agencies and local fire departments, Life Flight, local tow companies for donating the mock car crash vehicles, Camp Harlow for hosting the student retreat, Michael Sherman for videography, local moulage artists, the staff and students of participating schools and their families, the community speakers, and MADD.



Muriel Kathryn Grace Smith
March 9, 2019

Muriel Smith age 98, of Cottage Grove passed away Friday, March 9, 2019 at Magnolia Gardens. Born in Flatbush, N.Y., she was the daughter of Sidney and Mae Shinick. Beloved wife of 54 years to the late Matthew Smith. She was a long term resident of Long Island, New York and after working for Macy's for 15 years retired to Eugene Oregon in 1986. She was a devoted mother to her 8 children: Richard Smith, Diane (Smith) Perrymore, Virginia (Smith) Isler, Barbara (Smith) Howell, Marian (Smith) Kline, Mickey Smith, Peter Smith and Kathleen Smith. She was a loving grandmother of 17 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to a Funeral Mass at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at St Jude Catholic Church, 4330 Willamette St. Eugene, Oregon. She will be buried alongside her husband Matthew at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to the American Heart Association or individual preferred charities.

Spring outdoor burning season now underway

The Lane County spring outdoor burning season opened March 1 for certain areas in Lane County. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) will issue daily outdoor burning advisories with start and stop times for outdoor burning.

The spring burning season will conclude in June.

LRAPA regulates outdoor burning, also known as open or backyard burning, allowing some Lane County residents to burn dry woody yard debris that was generated on their own residential property.

Rules concerning outdoor

burning differ throughout the county. Outdoor burning is always prohibited inside the city limits of Eugene and Florence as well as on lots smaller than 0.5 acres inside Springfield Urban Growth Boundary and City Limits.

Burning is also prohibited on lots smaller than 2 acres inside the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary.

With the recent snow storm's woody debris and downed trees, there may be more fuel than typical burn seasons. The agency asks people to pile the woody debris and keep it dry until ready for burning or ex-

plore alternatives instead of burning.

Hauling, composting, or wood chipping will help keep spring air quality clean. Burn piles cannot smolder overnight.

Residents should check local ordinances and contact local fire districts regarding restrictions and permits before burning.

LRAPA's advisory is updated daily on the website at 7 p.m. for the following day.

Lane County residents can call LRAPA's Outdoor Burning Advisory Line at 541-726-3976. Coastal residents can call 541-997-1757 for burn advisories.

Residents who are in areas that allow burning must be aware that burning only woody yard debris generated on their property is allowed. All fires must be attended to and completely extinguished by times determined by LRAPA.

Please practice fire safety and keep water handy at all times. A first offense violation of LRAPA's outdoor burning rules may result in a \$500 fine.

Residents can dispose of yard debris by taking it to Lane County transfer sites (541-682-4120), Lane Forests Products at 541-345-9085 or Rexius at 541-342-1835.



Howard Tharpe
1948-2019

Howard Tharpe, 70 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on March 2, 2019. He was born on July 6, 1948 in Los Angeles, CA to parents Howard S. and Anna Belle (Rickabaugh) Tharpe. Howard married Susan Cary on July 4, 1987. Howard made his career as an accomplished and talented artist; painting billboards, signs and murals. He worked for Universal Studios, Obie Media, King Retail Solution and as an independent painter. He painted murals all over Los Angeles, CA; including the official 84' Olympics signs, and numerous supermarket murals. Locally, his most famous art pieces are the Buster Keaton mural on the Cottage Grove Hotel, the Opal Whitley mural in the All American City Square and the mural on the south side of the Flower Basket in addition to various business signs. He was a member of Gideon's International. Howard enjoyed treasure hunting, metal detecting, playing guitar and was the ultimate conspiracy theorist. He loved and adored his children and grandchildren. His presence filled a room with love, confidence and generosity. He is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Susan Tharpe; daughters, Nicole Polakowski, Katlyn Tharpe, Emily Tharpe, Corrie, Buffy and Sarah; sons, Jonathan Tharpe and Michael Tharpe; brother, Jim Tharpe and 7 grandchildren. A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

Homeowners warned of property seizure scam

Lane County residents may be targeted in a tax scam that has made its way across the country in recent months.

Letters claiming to be a "Notice of Warrant and State of Oregon Tax Lien Action" have been reported by some Eugene-area residents. The notice claims that property seizure is imminent and provides a non-local number for resolution.

"It's sick, but these con artists rely on creating enough panic that their victims will overlook all of the red flags," said Lane County Assessor Mike Cowles.

Property seizure does not occur with a legitimate State of Oregon income tax lien. For liens related to unpaid property taxes, real property seizure only occurs after five years and many notices to the property owner.

Property owners can check the status of any legally recorded liens by visiting Lane County Deeds and Records at 125 E. Eighth Ave. in Eugene.

Other indicators that this letter is a scam:

- A full agency name is not clearly provided.
- No agency address is provided on the envelope or in the letter.
- The logo is a generic seal that does not properly identify any agency.
- Lane County does not have an "Office of Lien Filings."
- There is no "Bureau of Tax Enforcement" located in Eugene.

Suspected scams should be reported to your local law en-

forcement agency or the Oregon Department of Justice by calling 1-877-877-9392 or visiting www.oregonconsumer.gov.

"These documents are fake," said Ellen Klem, Director of Consumer Outreach and Education for the Oregon Department of Justice. "Crooks impersonating the government cost people their time and money. The Oregon Department of Justice urges people to stay vigilant against schemes and scams and avoid becoming a victim."

SCAM SAFETY TIPS:

- Don't panic: Con artists will use aggressive tactics to rush you into making immediate payment to avoid legal action or prosecution.

If you have any doubt about the legitimacy of a notice, pause and look for signs of potential fraud. Use terms or names in the notice to conduct online research to see if a similar scam has been reported by others.

- Spot imposters: Con artists often pose as a government entity. If you are targeted by a con artist through the mail, phone or email, do not provide personal information or money until you are sure you are speaking to a legitimate representative. Try contacting the agency directly through telephone numbers listed on the agency's official website rather than using phone numbers provided by the con artists.
- Look carefully at the letter or email: Fraudulent notices

are usually vague, so they apply to as many victims as possible. Examine the notice for identifying information that can be verified. Look for blatant factual errors and other inconsistencies, such as a fake return address or fake logo. If the notice is unexpected and states "This Is Your Final Notice," take a mo-

ment and verify its legitimacy. Agencies will send multiple letters to taxpayers if there is a legitimate liability owed.

- Avoid strange payment systems: Legitimate government agencies will not ask you to pay a debt with reloadable debit cards, gift cards or money wiring services.



RENA SANDOVAL LUNDY
1929-2019

Rena Sandoval Lundy passed away on Feb 27, peacefully, at her home in Cottage Grove, OR. She was born at home in San Pedro, Calif to Ysidra & Amado Sandoval on Oct 16, 1929. She grew up in a close knit, loving Latin

family, consisting of two brothers and three sisters. Surviving siblings are Ruben Sandoval and Rose Sandoval Jefferson.

Rena lived thru the Great Depression as a child and graduated from Banning High School in Wilmington, CA. During WW II, Rena met sailor, Kenneth Lundy and they were married at the conclusion of the war. Kenneth passed shortly after their 51st anniversary. Rena & Ken had five children, Michael(dec), Christine Sullivan Kopachik, Kenneth(Jim), Ronald, Thomas (dec), Joe Armas, a nephew, lived with the family and was as a son to Rena & Kenny. Rena is survived by many beloved grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Rena was a traditionalist, a homemaker with many interests; sewing, knitting, canning, crafting, baking & cooking. She was an avid reader, having read a great many classics, American literature as well as English literature, she loved poetry and could recite at length many poems. Rena read the newspaper cover to cover daily, until she could no longer see. She kept journals for many years of family life. She was an old movie devotee and a political junkie. She worked the polling booths at election time until Oregon went to mail-in ballot format.

She was a beautiful gift to many, she will be missed, she is at peace.

Service Saturday, March 16th, 2:00 at Smith-Lund in Cottage Grove, followed by a reception at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant.

DEATH NOTICE

CRAWFORD — Ron Crawford, 76, formerly of Cottage Grove, passed away Feb. 28, 2019, in Yuma, Ariz.

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