

DWD *from A1*

Yelle has been given a terminal diagnosis by physicians. However, the precise timeline for his demise is unclear, which makes preparing to initiate the protocols for killing himself difficult.

Yelle is nearly blind and has Parkinson's Disease. He has also been diagnosed with diabetes, suffers from memory loss and has serious circulatory issues. These medical problems impact Yelle every day and the severity of the symptoms associated with these conditions will only increase as time passes.

Unfortunately, there is no way to know how or when these symptoms will become so difficult that Yelle will wish to avail himself of the option provided by DWDA to end his own life.

The prospect of a lingering slide towards senility and loss of control over bodily functions loom large as he considers his ultimate demise.

"I do not want to live if I am senile or if I can't live with dignity and I have to be taken

care of 24/7," Yelle said. "I don't want to have to suffer the humiliation of being toileted and fed and cleaned up after, and I want to decide when my life has gotten to the point where I want it to end.

"The way the current law is written would not let me decide that."

Yelle's medical prognosis holds no promise of improvement, as all options for recovery or diminishment of his symptoms have been explored and rejected as ineffective. His uncertainty about the rate of the decline of his faculties prevents him from utilizing the protocols currently in place to assure he has the ability to decide to die before becoming completely incapacitated.

The law that allows legal, supervised ingestion of medication to slowly stop an individual's heart from beating is specific and connected to the timing associated with the expectation of death. There must be a diagnosis that gives a patient six months to live in order to be eligible to receive the medication necessary to end one's life.

Yelle's prognosis is a slow

decline into senility, and there is no way of knowing when he will have only six months to live. He wants to be able to put his desires regarding the timing of his death in place before he is unable to think or communicate to others his desire to end his life.

However, Yelle's situation is not unique. After receiving calls and letters from others with similar situations, he started a non-profit advocacy group called "End Choices."

He has accepted a number of speaking engagements and given informational presentations to seniors and their caregivers to help with confusion surrounding Death with Dignity issues.

His non-profit has received financial support of thousands of dollars and dozens have joined in his efforts to modify the current wording in the act.

Yelle's testimony in Salem was just one presentation that was heard by the Health Care Committee but his was the only voice raised in support of the bill. Yelle reports

There were a number of religiously affiliated organizations that spoke in opposition to the

bill, primarily to oppose any legislation that reinforces Oregon's DWDA.

"I was the only person representing senior citizens and disabled that spoke. In fact, I was the only disabled person that spoke. Most of the other speakers were from national organizations with lot's of money at stake. The big three were there, of course, the Catholic Church, Right to Die and Compassionate Choices," Yelle said. "They spoke ahead of me and none of the people that spoke against the bill was disabled or seemed to care that this will help people that are dying and are trying to do so with dignity, I think they just don't care because there is a lot of money to be made keeping people alive, even when they don't want to continue living."

The Death with Dignity Act (DWDA) allows terminally ill Oregon residents to obtain and use prescriptions from their physicians for self-administered, lethal medications. Under the Act, ending one's life in accordance with the law does not constitute suicide. The DWDA specifically prohibits euthanasia, where a physician

or other person directly administers a medication to end another's life.

To request a prescription for lethal medications, the DWDA requires that a patient must be:

- An adult (18 years of age or older),
- A resident of Oregon,
- Capable (defined as able to make and communicate health care decisions), and
- Diagnosed with a terminal illness that will lead to death within six months.

Patients meeting these requirements are eligible to request a prescription for lethal medication from a licensed Oregon physician. To receive a prescription for lethal medication, the following steps must be fulfilled:

- The patient must make two oral requests to his or her physician, separated by at least 15 days.
- The patient must provide a written request to his or her physician, signed in the presence of two witnesses.
- The prescribing physician and a consulting physician must confirm the diagnosis and prognosis.
- The prescribing physician

and a consulting physician must determine whether the patient is capable.

• If either physician believes the patient's judgment is impaired by a psychiatric or psychological disorder, the patient must be referred for a psychological examination.

• The prescribing physician must inform the patient of feasible alternatives to DWDA, including comfort care, hospice care, and pain control.

• The prescribing physician must request, but may not require, the patient to notify his or her next-of-kin of the prescription request.

Yelle made the trip to Salem in the hope that he would be able to convince legislators to support HB 2217, but he realizes that is unlikely, considering the public relations battle he is fighting with relatively little money compared to his opponents.

"I knew this would be hard, I just never thought so many people would oppose something that will help so many people. I guess that's what happens when people care more about money than other people," Yelle said.

SLSLD *from A1*

on the board since May 2011 while Settlemeyer was elected to his seat in 2015.

Merlene Martin, elected to the board in 2011, announced last year that she was not going to run for re-election. Dustin Bengtson will be running unopposed for that position. On

Bengtson's candidate filing form he notes that he currently works with the US Army Corps of Engineers and as a volunteer around the city and with the SLSLD. A graduate from the

University of Iowa, he states that he has "experience in budget development and execution" in addition to personnel, assets and policy management.

The one seat that is being contested this year is position seven. Gary Mort is the incumbent and was elected to the position in 2015. Mort, who has a doctorate degree from the University of California Davis, is a faculty instructor in the science

department at Lane Community College.

Running against Mort is Demian Schwartz. As stated in her filing, Schwartz, who has an administrative license from the University of Oregon, is a school administrator and according to LinkedIn serves as the director at the Eugene Sudbury School. The Sudbury school is described on its website as a striving to provide a

"democratic education."

According to past articles from the *Register-Guard*, Schwartz was also involved with the Blue Mountain School charter in SLSLD that was terminated of its charter in December of 2008 and attempted to open a similar charter in Pleasant Hill in 2010.

The final day for voters to register to vote is April 30 and ballots will be mailed on May 2.

Worship Directory

DRAIN:
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lara Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
10:00am
Christian Education:
Pre-K through 5th
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th St • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhange
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 11:00am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshippupc.com
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467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
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Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
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1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 10:30 PM
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8:30 AM
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Sunday School: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education
9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lara Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
umcgrove.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

CRESWELL:
Creswell Presbyterian Church
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

Worship With Us!

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

Cottage Grove
Sentinel 541-942-3325
116 N. 6th Street
Cottage Grove, OR

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