

On The Record

SLCFR first responders recognized for acts of bravery

Recently, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) honored four South Lane County Fire & Rescue (SLCFR) first responders for bravery and one for excellence. The Meritorious Service Awards stem from the June 2018 rescue of a civilian from a house fire on Adams Avenue in Cottage Grove. Cpt. Travis Hansen and firefighter Cliff Horton-

each received the Medal of Honor, while engineer Dylan Fitzgerald and firefighter Robert Cournyer each received the Medal of Valor. Duty Chief Justin Baird received the Award of Excellence. The Oregon Fire Chiefs Board will present the Awards at the OFCA Conference May 2.

POLICE LOG

March 29

- A vehicle was reported broken into at Walmart.
- A citizen reported a hazardous tree branch hanging from wires above the sidewalk at Hwy 99 and 10th St.

March 30

- Theft was reported at Grocery Outlet.
- Multiple calls reported a male transient yelling and swinging at no one at Main and Thornton.
- Multiple calls reported a white male on the Row River Trail bike path yelling sometimes at no one and sometimes at other people on the path.
- Police were called when pedestrians reported being charged by an aggressive pit bull on Taylor Ave.
- A drunk and disorderly subject trying to fight anyone he passed on Main St. was given a warning by police.

March 31

- A complainant reported being bitten by an aggressive dog off its leash roaming through Baker Bay Campgrounds.
 - A Row River Rd. resident reported hearing "help me" screamed from the drain pipe to the river below her house. The case was transferred to LCSO.
 - Two subjects were seen tossing a glass bong onto Gateway Blvd. where it was crushed by a passing vehicle.
- April 1**
- Four gunshots were reportedly heard on S River Rd.
 - A male subject reportedly stole \$300-worth of items from Grocery Outlet.
- April 3**
- A small tan dog was reported running around the old Harrison Elementary School area looking injured.
 - A Main St. business reported taking a counterfeit \$50 bill over the weekend.
 - A white male walking toward Safeway was reported to appear "very high" and holding a syringe.
 - Theft was reported at Walmart when a grocery cart full of items was pushed out the fire door.
 - An overnight burglary was reported at Sud-N-Shine Car Wash.
 - A Hwy 99 business reported taking a counterfeit \$20 bill over the weekend.

DEATH NOTICE

SEGARRA—Gloria Gay Segarra, 78, of Dorena, Ore, died April 1. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Helen Irene Patton

April 2, 2019



Helen Irene Patton, age 84, of Port Angeles, WA, passed away April 2, 2019. She was born to parents Glen and Florence (Culbertson) Violette in Cottage Grove, OR. Helen Married Winford "Don" Patton June 27, 1952 in Culp Creek, OR. They were happily married for 67 years. She was a housewife, and enjoyed Crocheting, counted cross stitch, craft work, and

loved playing card game sticks. She is survived by her husband Don; daughter Wanda (Paul) Stark of Troy, MT; daughter Janet (Ed) Kelson of Port Angeles, WA; son Kenneth Patton of Port Angeles, WA; Sister Marion Ward of Klamath Falls, OR; sister Lois Gangle of Albany, OR; brother Don Violette of Cottage Grove, OR; 6 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her first grandson Glen Landdeck. A funeral service will be held Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, in Cottage Grove, OR. A private interment will be at Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove, OR. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Sgt. Bryan Merl Parker

1992-2019



Sgt. Bryan Merl Parker of Wahiaawa, Hawaii, formerly of Cottage Grove passed away unexpectedly March 31, 2019 at the age of 26. He was born in Reno, NV to parents Dana Lynn Miller and Corey Calvin Parker July 26, 1992. Bryan attended Cottage Grove High School and graduated 2011. He worked for Interstate Battery and then joined the United States Army and become a Satellite Communications Specialist. Bryan married Zoe Lynn Rose July 9, 2011 in Junction City, OR.

His hobbies included going to the beach with his daughters, spending time with his military family, cars, spending time with his car group of friends and watching his favorite movie "Fast and Furious." Paul Walker was his hero. Bryan earned Sergeant in the United States Army. He is survived by his wife Zoe Parker; daughters Maci Rose Parker and Mattie Grace Parker, of Wahiaawa, HI; mother Dana Miller and sister Courtney Lynn Parker of Eugene, OR. Bryan is preceded in death by his father Corey Calvin Parker, 2 grandmothers and 1 grandfather. A Military Graveside Service will be held Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the Roseburg National Cemetery, Roseburg, OR. Arrangements in the care of the United States Army, and Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR. Please access the online obituary at www.smithlundmills.com.

James L Duncan

March 19, 2019



James L. Duncan, age 80, formerly of Springfield, OR, passed away at Queen Anne Healthcare, Seattle, WA, on March 19th, 2019.

James was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn Duncan. He is survived by his brother, Richard O. Dun-

can (Barbara), of Drain, OR; his sisters, Janice L. Moore (Marion) of Forest Grove, Aileen Pettit of Junction City, and Vivian Gibbs of Yoncalla, OR; his son, Ronald J Duncan (Carla) of Bothell, WA; stepson, Philip Wawtnef of Las Vegas, NV; daughters, Cheryl Crader (Roy) of Keizer, OR, and Linda Connors (Pat) of Newberg, OR; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Friday, April 12th, 2019, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Cottage Grove, OR.

Velda Beatrice Whetham

1914-2019



Velda Beatrice Whetham, 104 of Cottage Grove died March 31, 2019. She was born December 6, 1914 in Goldendale, Washington to parents Ed and Vee (Gardner) Brown. Velda moved to Cottage Grove, OR from Powers, OR and married Loren B. Warner October 10, 1934. After the passing of her first husband she married Henry Whetham, August 21, 1985. She worked for 8 years for the United States Postal Service in Powers, OR and 12 years as a Doctors Assistant in Cottage Grove, OR. Velda loved working with people. Her hobbies included country music, playing bridge, growing beautiful flowers, and volunteering for many years for Sr. Law Service.

She especially enjoyed spending time with Henry's children and their families, as well as her own. Velda's favorite place was being home, spending time with family and friends. She was a member of the St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Trinity Lutheran Church and served many years on Altar Guild, also BAC. Velda was a Past Matron of Eastern Star and Cottage Grove Nile Club. Velda is survived by Loren Dean Warner (Nana); 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her first husband Loren Warner; son Kenneth Warner; and second husband Henry Whetham. A visitation and funeral service will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Friday, April 12, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. and funeral at 10 A.M. in Cottage Grove. A private entombment will be at Rest-Haven Memorial Park in Eugene, OR. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR. Please access and sign the online obituary at www.smithlundmills.com.

Donna Louise Shepherd

1923-2019



Donna Louise Shepherd, a life-long resident of Cottage Grove, OR, peacefully passed away on March 28, 2019 at the age of 95.

Donna was a late-in-life philanthropist whose many generous gifts helped launch and sustain a wide variety of local social service programs benefitting thousands of area residents. She was unpretentious and had a soft spot in her heart for cats - and for kids, even though she never had any children of her own.

Donna was an only child, born in her family's North Ninth Street home on May 31, 1923 to Adalia and Horace Hatch. She attended Adams Grade School (1st-6th), skipping second grade, and missing most of third grade due to scarlet and rheumatic fevers. As a young girl her favorite toys were "Flaming Mamie" and "Peggy".

Donna attended West Side School (7th-8th), then high school on Jefferson Avenue (9th-11th) before transferring to the then-new Cottage Grove High School on Taylor Street her senior year. She graduated from there in 1941.

After high school, Donna attended business school in Eugene. After only three months, Donna was deemed to know everything taught and was graduated. World War II was under way and Donna took the civil service test, but ultimately did not pursue her employment. Instead, she took a job at First National Bank in Cottage Grove where she learned bond amortization. She worked there for six years.

In 1948, Donna went to work for Woodard Lumber Company, learning lumber

invoicing. It was there she met Doyle Shepherd, whom she would later marry. In 1951, Donna transferred to the Woodard Plywood Mill, where she learned a new invoicing system.

For a short time, Donna left Woodard Lumber, thinking that life in Portland might be of interest. There, she went to work for the Illinois Central Railroad, where she became the first female off-line clerk. After six months enjoying all that the big city had to offer, Donna returned to her hometown of Cottage Grove and the Woodard Lumber Company.

Soon after, on May 29, 1954, she and Doyle were married in Eugene at the home of Doyle's brother, Jim.

In 1959, Donna began working in the accounting department at the Village Green Resort Hotel, retiring in 1972.

In 1997, Donna and her husband Doyle made the single largest financial contribution in their lives - nearly \$150,000 - to build a therapy pool in what was then the old Cottage Grove Hospital's Rehabilitation Center.

Just months after the Shepherds' investment, and with the passing of the Tax Reform Act by Congress, the financially struggling Cottage Grove Hospital went into bankruptcy and out of business. Like many in the community at that time, Donna was angered and unnerved by the local hospital closure. She joined with fellow residents to form the upstart group Citizens Supporting Healthcare. Proclaiming "We cannot let our hospital fail," Donna recruited to the cause Casey Woodard, the

grandson of W.A. Woodard, her former employer, good friend, and leader of the original effort that built the local hospital.

Donna was unwittingly instrumental in obtaining the "Act of Congress" that in 1998 designated Cottage Grove as a Critical Access Hospital and therefore eligible for the higher reimbursement rates required to make the new facility fiscally sound. She was quoted in the Cottage Grove Sentinel as saying, "I told Senator (Gordon) Smith that we really need a hospital in Cottage Grove and that it's hard to explain to seniors why we can't have one." Smith later wrote to Donna, thanking her and telling her he had shared her comments during his presentation to the Senate.

Donna served on the Cottage Grove Community Hospital Foundation board for nine years and was an active member of the Campaign Committee that raised the \$2 million match instrumental in establishing the new hospital and medical clinics in Cottage Grove in 2003. She was also a life member of the Cottage Grove Hospital Auxiliary.

Her financial donation to area hospitals - which included the Cottage Grove Community Hospital and Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend - totaled over \$1 million. In 2008, her contribution purchased the installation of ceiling-mounted patient lifts throughout the newly built RiverBend hospital.

Several years after the death of her husband, Donna created the Doyle and Donna Shepherd Foundation and made significant and substantial financial contributions in support of many causes in and around Cottage Grove.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Cottage Grove Humane Society, The Volunteers in Medicine Clinic or Cottage Grove Medical Center.

A funeral Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, April 15, 2019 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR. A private interment will be at Rest Haven Memorial Park in Eugene. Please access the online guestbook at www.smithlundmills.com

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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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