

Female city manager; businesses tank... 1974-84

1974

Coos County Sheriff's Office conducts drug bust at Bandon residence where a meth lab was operating. Direct long distance dialing begins in Coquille. Callers are instructed on dialing "1," followed by the area code, then the number they wish to reach. Coos County Assessor's office begins using computers.

1975

A 14-year-old resident of Belloni Boys Ranch is charged with arson after destroying nearly all of the ranch. City council approves Fifth street park. About 150 Coquille teachers picket Coquille Valley Middle school. First such picket results in pay increase and new policies. Voters recall county commissioners Lonnie Van Elsberg and M.R. Moffit.

1976

Patti Strain is appointed in Coquille as the first female city manager. Said to be possibly the first female city manager in Oregon. Sentinel moves to Central Blvd (#1 Barton Alley). Harvey Colton, a 24-year-old Coos Bay resident, fired two shots in the county courthouse, then fled. He was found when the resident in whose basement he was smoking a cigarette, smelled the smoke.

1977

The controversial X-rated film "Deep Throat" was shown at the Roxy Theatre in Coquille. Theatre owner Richard Herr was arrested, cited for violating city obscenity ordinance and released. Charges later dropped upon discovery that obscenity ordinance was no longer in effect. Re-instatement of ordinance put on the ballot. Coos county commissioners establish Public Defender office instead of contracting out to local law firms.

1978

Fourteen suspects arraigned for the largest marijuana bust ever in Oregon and Washington. Bust conducted by Oregon Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, Coos County Sheriff's Office, Bandon and Coos Bay police.

1979

Eight of twelve drug smugglers arrested the previous year in huge marijuana bust were convicted. Drug use and drug busts increase in Coquille and the county. Sentinel and Bandon's Western World purchased by Robert Cribb and Bruce Wright. Obscenity ordinance continues to spark controversy and debate in Coquille. Richard Herr charged with 7 counts of vio-

lating ordinance. New owners take over Roxy Theatre and open during Christmas Vacation with a Disney film.

1980

After 58 years of operation, Coquille Ford closes down. Paul Burgett files for District Attorney and wins over opponent Steven Plinski. "Doc" Stevenson elected to Coos County Board of Commissioners.

1981

Roseburg Lumber in Coquille shuts down. More than 260 people in need of jobs. Sheriff Les Miller resigns, complaining of interference by the county board of commissioners.

1982

Due to the severe flooding and mud slides of the 1981-82 winter, Coos County was declared by Gov. Victor Antiyeh an emergency disaster area. The waters of Larson Creek threatened homes and deposited a large portion of Highway 42S into the Coquille River.

1983

A nineteen-year sufferer of epilepsy, 21-year-old Coquille resident James Warthen, was accepted as a candidate to undergo corpus collosotomy, microsurgery that they hoped would cure or greatly improve his epilepsy, in late July. He underwent the surgery at the University of Minnesota hospital thanks to the gracious donations, grants and support of local community members. \$13,000 was raised and donated by citizens and businesses. Warthen's recovery was much quicker and better than had been expected.

1984

On June 19, the Board of County Commissioners selected Coquille as the new site for the Coos County Jail. A \$7.9 million Jail Bond Levy was passed by voters in November. It was first suggested by the City Council that the jail be moved to its present site in 1982 when it was determined that a new jail was needed because the North Bend Facility was inadequate. Finalizing the decision was slow and very controversial.

Telephone switchboards



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