

One of 10 best small towns ... 1996-2001

1996

On April 27, 16-year-old Anthony Fowler made a frightening discovery. While he was searching for a water meter, he came across a backpack in the brush that contained a human skull. It was later determined that the skull was the booty of a grave robbing.

1997

In January, plans to reorganize the elementary schools of Coquille's school district were in the making. In September, they opened their doors to a new group of students. Children in grades kindergarten through second attended Jefferson Elementary, while those in third through fifth attended Lincoln Elementary. Prior to that year, they had both been open to kindergarten through fifth graders. The change was made to save money in the district.

1998

The year of 1998 brought on a lot of complaining from people all over Coos County. The location of the adult entertainment shop Filled with Fun was at the top of their list. The County Board of Commissioners sat through protests during public meetings. Petitions were filled out, and complaints were made. In the end, the store remains where it sat in 1998, across the highway from Bunker Hill Elementary School.

1999

On March 29, Michael James Lavin removed a table from

the wall of his cell in the Coquille County Jail and battered a hole through the exterior third floor wall. A motorist driving by the facility complained that there was rubble falling from the building onto her car on the street below. Lavin's plans of escape were soon interrupted. The jail fashioned a plywood patch until the hole was repaired, reminding citizens of the nearly successful attempted escape that had taken place.

2000

Coquille resident Leah Freeman, 15, was reported missing in June. She was last seen June 28, walking home on Central Boulevard. Freeman's body was discovered August 3 one mile down Lee Valley Road near Fairview. She was murdered; the case remains unsolved as of this writing.

2001

Coquille voters approve a \$3.4 million bond to upgrade school facilities. The bath house at the city pool is demolished to make way for a new one. County commissioners take heat over a proposed nuisance abatement ordinance. Residents are delighted when "Travel Holiday" magazine proclaims Coquille one of the 10 best small towns in America.

1891's Coquille Kids



The Coquille Kids baseball team, 1891-92.

Front Row: Dave Johnson, Claud Nosler, Sam Norton, Gene Norton, Chas. Baxter, George Lorenz.
Back row: Bunk Buzan, George Robinson, Role Anderson, Curtis Price and Bert McDuffie.



L to R: Betty, Michelle, Erin, Patti, Stacey, & Pam

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