

Reprint of article on Kline dropping intent to sue city of Ontario

Editor's Note: This is the article we believe Sally Harrison referred to as rumor during her comments on October 15 (see story on page 14)

By Pat Caldwell, Argus Observer in Ontario, Sunday, November 3, 2002. Reprinted by permission

Ontario – Former city manager Dick Kline said Wednesday he will not move forward with legal action against Ontario.

Kline, bounced by the Ontario City Council in August 2001, is now the city manager for Cornelius, near Hillsboro.

Kline told the city and the Argus Observer in the spring of his intent to file a tort claim against the city in the wake of his termination.

Now, Kline says, the time has come to move on.

"I'm not anticipating filing a tort claim," Kline said. "We probably don't have a claim against Ontario. We believe a better use of our resources would be to help our kids financially get through college."

When Kline was fired from his position as Ontario city manager by the Ontario City Council, the council never gave an official reason for the termi-

nation. Kline, though, has maintained he was sacked because of a police probe into allegations he sexually abused a female, minor family member.

Charges against Kline eventually were brought before two separate grand juries. The first grand jury indicted Kline on two counts of sexual abuse in the first degree. That indictment, however, was dismissed because the grand jury inadvertently gained access to prejudicial information. A second grand jury was convened and it delivered a "non-true bill," essentially declaring there was no case against Kline.

Kline, who went to considerable personal expense to defend himself – including hiring a high-profile polygraph expert – claims he was hung out to dry by city officials because of the allegations – allegations he says were untrue.

While Kline does not plan to proceed with legal action against the city, he said he is still struggling with the council's decision.

"I just thank God that my family's mental health is intact," Kline said.

Kline said he is still convinced his termination and the actions by some city officials were sparked, in part, by a

"third force" political entity in Malheur County.

"There is a group that is not elected that has a lot of influence on things in Malheur County," Kline said.

Kline said while he can understand the council's decision, he is trying hard to come to terms with the council's method.

"Is what they did legal? Year. I'm not bitter against the town. But do I respect the city council? How could I?" Kline said. "I'm bitter because I never did anything wrong. I'm not the first person used by the system out there."

The city, for the most part, remains steadfast behind its policy of not commenting on Kline's case.

City manager Scott Trainor, picked by the council to fill Kline's vacant slot, said he believes Kline's decision not to pursue legal action to be a good one.

"That is really good news for the community," Trainer said.

Members of the Ontario City Council also said they are relieved.

"I think it is closure. I think its the best thing he could do," councilman Mike Allen said.

Council president John Gaskill agreed.

"I'm glad that was his decision," Gaskill said.

Ontario Mayor LeRoy Cammack said Kline's judgment to forgo legal action is best.

"I think it is in the best interests of his family," Gaskill said.

Kline said his family left Malheur County in the spring, after the hardware store they owned in Nyssa was sold.

Kline said he and his family are happy they live in Cornelius.

Still, Kline said they will always miss Ontario.

"We planned on retiring in Ontario. I never dreamed in 2002 I would be working in western Oregon.

"But we do have to turn a

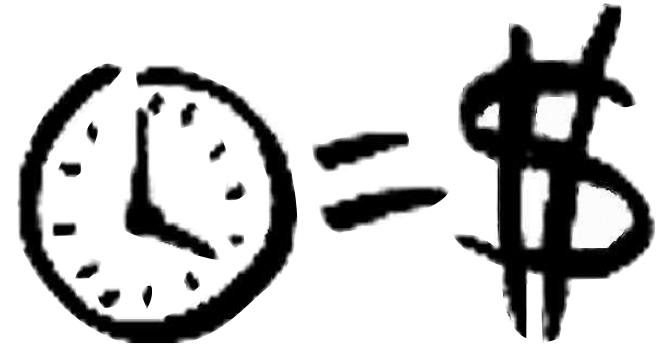
page. Now I plan on retiring here," Kline said.

Cammack seemed to sum up the council's feeling about

the former city manager.

"I wish him well," Cammack said.

Save Time and Money Shop Local



**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS WHO KEEP
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FREE**

Obituary

SPENCER NEIL GORHAM

Spencer Neil Gorham, 86, Forest Grove, died October 11, 2007. Services have been held.

Mr. Gorham was born April 10, 1921, in Portland, to Ora and Aimee Spencer Gorham. He was raised in Milwaukie and Portland. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and in Korea.

In 1952, he married Audrey Adele Freshour. She died in 1983. He married

Maxine Elizabeth Clark in 1984. They made their home in Hillsboro until moving to Forest Grove in 1991.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark.

Survivors include his wife; four sons, Spencer N. Jr. and Eric, both of Portland, Michael of Beaverton, and Gregory of Santa Barbara, California; two stepsons, Larry Lee of Banks, and Dennis Lee of Forest Grove; a sister, Betty Pelton of Kirkland, Washington; and 13 grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to Emanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 505, Cornelius OR 97113, or to a charity of choice.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove was in charge of arrangements.

Direct Cremation

\$475

Direct Burial

\$675

Plus Cemetery Costs

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives

~ There are Options ~

www.tualatinvalleyfa.com

237 West Main St., Hillsboro

503-693-7965

Angel Memorials

Granite Marker Headstones
503-429-1523

~ 100% Guaranteed.
~ Every Cemetery accepted.
~ Privately owned mobile
business making family visits
at no extra charge.

Prices start at \$350
for 24x12" includes
lettering & design


www.angelmemorialsheadstones.com

Holiday Bucks ready for 3rd year

From page 7

On the following three Saturday's, November 24, December 1, and December 8, there will be drawings from all the filled cards for \$25 Cash Gift Certificates. The Grand Finale Drawing(s) (amounts to be announced) will be held on Saturday, December 15.

Please check the ad in the November 15 issue of *The Independent* for a complete list of participating businesses and rules. Then, watch for the stores with the "Buck" poster in

the window and have fun shopping and getting your card stamped in Vernonia.

The program is in its fourth year and is quite popular among Vernonia businesses; wait and see what they have in store for you this holiday season. Not sure if your favorite business is participating this year? Let them know how much you like the program and encourage them to take part and reward their customers for their patronage.

Mariolino's ICE CREAM
**12 DELICIOUS FLAVORS
TO CHOOSE FROM!**



721 Madison Ave., Vernonia • 503-429-5018

Did You Know . . .

From page 19

ment. For more information you can go to ACIM's website at <www.achildismising.org> or you can follow the link on the front page of the VPD website at <vpd.vernonia-or.gov>.

"A Trusted Name in Funeral Service"



**Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt
Funeral Home**

*Third Generation
Family Owned & Operated*

Jeffrey Hoyt, Tina Rose-Reynolds,
Gregory Hoyt, Christopher Hoyt,
Ross Mathews, Jane Schneider,
Dan Raney, Yvonne La Mont,
Julieanna Finegan, Jose Lopez
Attendant: Ray Pelster

2308 Pacific Av. Frst Grv...357-2161
741 Madison Av. Vern.....429-6611
E-mail: Fuitenrosehoyt@aol.com

To sign the online guestbook or send
a condolence to the family, go to:
www.fuitenrosehoyt.com