**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER FREEMAN**

Commissioner Freeman Visits Washington D.C.

Commissioner Tim Freeman was in Washington D.C. recently to fight for continued legislation and resolutions regarding the management of the O&C Lands. This is a paramount issue for Douglas County, as these funds are vital to the future revenue streams for Douglas County. As President of the Association of O&C Counties (AOCC), Commissioner Freeman was joined in D.C. by Coos County Commissioner, Bob Main (Vice President of AOCC), Polk County Commissioner, Craig Pope (Treasurer AOCC) and Chris Cadwell, AOCC Forester/Analyst who works as a technical advisor. They spent their time meeting with delegates, congressmen and officials to talk about the very complicated topics of changing the BLM’s performance measure, review the government ROI for management of O&C lands, good neighbor authority projects, salvage of the downed trees from recent February Snow Storm and sequestration of secure rural schools payments. Because the O&C issue is so unique to us, if we don’t fight for our O&C lands at the National Level, no one else will.

The AOCC is a single issue association that started in 1925 and is made up of representatives from most of the 18 Oregon counties. They exclusively work on the management of the O&C Timber lands. Which are a unique set of lands, only found in Oregon. Their primary focus is on the 1937 O&C Sustained Yield Management Act. Which ironically was the first conversation act ever passed by Congress. Before 1937, watershed were harvested with no regard for replanting or any sort of sustained management.

Overall, Commissioner Freeman felt like they are really making progress in D.C. In previous visits, officials in D.C. either don’t know what O&C lands are, or they don’t think there is a problem. Which means they were certainly not committed to fix the problem.

“This trip was different,” commented Commissioner Freeman. “The conversations have changed dramatically. After years of telling our story, the people in D.C. know our issue, know what O&C lands are, know what the management requirements are and they know that they are not being managed as well as they should. I come back very encouraged that the people in D.C. are committed to helping us resolve the issues.”

What this means for AOCC and Douglas County is a greater chance for millions of dollars in revenue being returned to the counties, and working towards creating strategies for future sustainable revenue streams.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER BOICE**

A Letter to the Citizens of Douglas County

Hello citizens of Douglas County. Today, I want to talk to you about hope, proven results and community reinvestment.

**Communities in Crisis:** I can’t emphasize enough how hard we have been working to address the challenges of substance abuse, widespread homelessness and mental health issues that have escalated in our communities. It’s no longer ‘their’ problem, it’s ‘our’ problem. These issues directly impact the quality of life for everyone: from your neighbors to your friends to your family to your coworkers. I want you to know that YOU are important to ‘our’ solution.

**Hope:** There is hope on the horizon. Take a moment to enjoy a panoramic view of all the amazing beauty that surrounds us, and think about the reasons why you love to call Douglas County your home. Although this beauty has been somewhat shadowed by a cloud, the sun always breaks through bringing hope and the promise of a better future. We have the opportunity to bring hope back to Douglas County by investing ourselves in solutions that bring about rapid, positive and permanent change.

**Proven Results:** The good news is that the solutions are no longer just ideas. They are based on years of real life success stories, case studies and research from pilot and trial programs right here in Douglas County. There is a real plan, backed by solid results.

**Community Reinvestment:** Our community reinvestment groups have identified the gaps and barriers in overcoming these issues and are providing programs that change the lives of people living in economically challenged, drug-dependent and criminally disadvantaged situations. In fact, there is a proven success story of individuals pro-actively fostering healthy living through mentorship, workforce development, skill building, prevention education, and connection to community reintegration programs.

**We Need You:** So, are you ready to step up and bring about real change? I want to urge you to attend the 4th Annual Community Reinvestment Summit, on Monday, May 13, 2019 in the Community Building at the Douglas County Fairgrounds from 6 to 7:30 pm. This summit is the latest in a series of local summits that have been implemented to identify, address and bring about tangible solutions. This event is free and open to everyone because we need EVERYONE! To get your ticket and pre-register, click on link below. Make it a date and join us for an evening of information and inspiration showcasing how Community Reinvestment is our road to a better future in Douglas County. We hope you are able to join us Monday, May 13. But, if not, we encourage you to get involved.
Preserving Douglas County History One Artifact at a Time!

The Douglas County Museum and National Historic Preservation Month

From wooden hand-crank washing machines to trade beads filled with vintage photos to rows and rows of carefully preserved gowns dating back to the late 1800’s, the Douglas County Museum preserves a treasure trove of local history. May is National Historic Preservation Month and your Douglas County Commissioners invite you to visit, volunteer and recognize the value in the historic places, artifacts and natural history museums in the Umpqua Valley. The Commissioners issued a proclamation formally dedicating May as a time to observe Historic Preservation Month in Douglas County.

“We want to encourage residents to take the journey of discovery and get excited about history and around Douglas County. Take time to learn about the places, the stories and the people behind them. Peep back the layers of time and imagine the hardships, challenges and ingenuity of the people that lived here before us,” commented Commissioner Tom Kress. “Start your journey by visiting our local gems, the Douglas County Museum and the Umpqua River Lighthouse Museum. Believe me, you won’t be disappointed.”

Did you know that at any given time, about 5% of the more than 8,600 items in the Douglas County Museum are in collection on display? That’s right, the collection relevant to locals and tourists alike, as well as preserve the integrity of artifacts, the museum staff continually updates the exhibit halls and offers ‘limited edition’ viewings of certain collections. Many artifacts on display are so fragile that they have limited the amount of time they are exposed to air and light (the two main enemies of preservation) in order to hang onto the relics for generations to come. Issues like shattered silk and leather blooms are all too common for museum preservationists. A “fracture” is a term related to the degradational process of their dedication and countless hours spent. And, leather blooms refer to the expression of salt and chemicals on the surface of treated leather as the material hardens and dries over time.

When residents take time to walk through the smartly appointed artifact and ‘limited time’ exhibit rooms at the Douglas County Museum, they can begin to recognize the importance of preserving our past. The vibrant colors of a real life model train set, the story behind the “History Channel,” like you’ve never seen it before, the story behind an old photo, ‘as you discover artifacts and read the sortied tales associated with them. For long-time employees like Karen Bratton, Research Librarian/Artifact Collections Manager, this work is more than a job, it’s a passion.

She has the last 21 years, dawning white gloves and painstakingly cataloging and preserving ledgers, toys, manuscripts, diaries, baby buggies and oral history tapes all that recount a time and place from local days gone by.

All the items in the Douglas County Museum collection have been graciously donated over the years. Each item the museum chooses to add to their collection must go through a careful selection process, with the first priority being recognized as having pride of place for Douglas County. They have got typewriter and wooden pencils a plenty, but one item that is high on the request list are vintage children’s toys. Unfortunately, these rare finds are often in poor condition, because kids play with them, they get lost and they get damaged.

In regards to rare finds, the Douglas County Museum is filled with a number of prize possessions that would (if they were for sale, which they are not), start a rather large bidding war at any auction they were bunched up. One such object measures just over 3 1/4 inches long and is made of wood and metal. It weighs less than an ounce and has a pretty sordid history in Oregon. It is a real genuine gold “Beaver Coin.” Beaver Coins, also known as Beaver Money, were gold coins minted for a short time in Oregon in 1849. Their name came from the prominent beaver depicted on the back of the coins. They were used by the fur trade and related business out West in 1849.

A local mint decided to design and produce a $5 and $10 beaver coin to act as the local currency. But, later that year Territorial Governor Joseph Lane ruled the operation unconstitutional and with the opening of the United States Mint branch in San Francisco, California, which made a large supply of government issued coins available to the citizens of the West Coast, the Beaver Coins were quickly acquired and destroyed. Today these coins are quite rare and valuable. Get out, explore your local treasures and discover your heritage during National Historic Preservation Month.

Preserving History and Volunteering at the Museum

Are you interested in preserving history? Maybe you have an attic full of treasures. Or you have a family story that has been passed down from generation to generation. Here are a few tips from the Douglas County Museum staff to think about when storing those family photos, stories and artifacts.

1) Get your treasures into an acid-free environment.
2) Take your photos out of those old, yellowed or peel and stick albums. The materials they are made of, typically plastic, glue and cardboard, will damage photos over time. If you do decide to use a commercially available photo album, look for one labeled “acid-free.”
3) Keep items stored in air tight containers away from insects & dust.
4) Get them out of the light. Exposure to light, especially modern fluorescent bulbs will quickly fade colors.
5) If you want to display those family photos, make sure to use UV protective glass.
6) Got a story to tell from way back when? Write it down. Or better yet, record your parents or grandparents telling the story.

Speaking of preserving history, volunteers are always needed at the museum. If you share a passion for local history and are looking for a volunteer gig, and have a background, experience or a library or museum setting. Contact the museum to see what volunteer opportunities are available at the Douglas County Museum.

National Public Works Week 2019

May 13-19 is National Public Works Week and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize our Douglas County Public Works Department (DCPW) for the tremendous work they do in maintaining our roads, bridges, dams, natural resources, solid waste, county fleet and the work crew program. Especially recognizing the employees who spent hundreds of hours of work during the recent catastrophic February Snow Storm.

The DCPW Department has 64 dedicated individuals facilitating the services necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives to meet the county’s needs. The DCPW works to improve the efficiencies of its workforce through the hiring of skilled workers, the integration of technologies and equipment that provide a comparative advantage.

DCPW Divisions include: Administration & Administrative Services; Engineering; Operations and Maintenance; Natural Resources; Fleet Maintenance; Solid Waste and Work Crew.

DCPW Manages:
• 1,400 miles of County-Maintained Roadways
• 302 County-Maintained Highway Bridges
• 600 rolling stock and 1100 total pieces of equipment
• 11 towns and 2 cities
• County Landfill and 11 Transfer Stations

Next time you see a DCPW crew or worker, think about all the things that need to be maintained and how challenging life would be without public works. Take time to thank them for all their efforts to keep our roads safe, clean and working efficiently.
Celebrating Older Americans Month 2019

Each year, more and more older adults are making a positive impact in and around Douglas County. As volunteers, employees, employers, educators, mentors, advocates, and more, they offer expertise and experience to community. That is why Older Americans Month (OAM) has been recognizing the contributions of this growing population for 56 years. Douglas County Commissioners approved an official proclamation on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 declaring May as Older Americans Month in Douglas County.

“I would like to commend our dedicated Senior Services staff for the amazing work they do to help seniors in our communities connect with resources, receive hot meals and provide skills workshops. Communities that support and recognize older adults are stronger! Join us in strengthening our communities by supporting OAM and throughout the year,” said Commissioner Tom Kress, the Liaison Commissioner to Senior Services.

Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) each May, OAM provides resources to help older Americans stay healthy and independent, and resources to help communities support and celebrate their diversity. This year’s OAM theme, Connect, Create, Contribute, encourages older adults and their communities to:
- Connect with friends, family, and local services and resources.
- Create through activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.
- Contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

Douglas County Senior Services Office will celebrate OAM by promoting ways that community members of all ages can take part in helping Douglas County thrive. We encourage you to:

- **Connect**: Log onto our website for the latest events, news and tips. www.co.douglas.or.us/sas/
- **Create**: Are you a family caregiver? You are not alone. Join us for a free day of caring and relaxation. Discover all the caregiver resources available to you. Caring for Family Caregivers Conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The free conference will feature community partner presentations, relaxation techniques and guest speakers. There will also be community resources, support groups, drawings and refreshments.
- **Contribute**: Volunteer! We are always looking for volunteers to help facilitate our programs, especially our Meals on Wheels programs. Douglas County Senior Services serves approximately 72,000 hot meals a year to homebound seniors via their Meals on Wheels dining sites in Glendale (Serving Glendale and Azalea), Riddle (Serving Riddle, Canyonville and Myrtle Creek), Winston (Serving Winston and Green), Gilders (Serving Glide and Irlayd Park), Tiller and Drain (Serving Tiller and Drain) and Reedsport (Serving Winchester Bay, Reedsport, Gardner). Volunteers for these programs log more than 18,300 hours of service a year. For more information about Meals on Wheels programs in Douglas County and how you become a volunteer, call Douglas County Senior Services at (541) 440-3677.

For more information or to preregister for the conference, please contact the Douglas County Senior Services at (541) 440-3677.

**3rd Annual**

**Caring for Family Caregivers Conference**

Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Community Conference Hall
2110 Fehr St, Roseburg
10 AM - 2 PM

**Are you a family caregiver?** You are not alone. Join us for a free day of caring and relaxation. Discover all the caregiver resources available to you. Caring for Family Caregivers Conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The free conference will feature community partner presentations, relaxation techniques and guest speakers. There will also be community resources, support groups, drawings and refreshments.

Participants can preregister by calling (541) 440-3677.

Douglas County Veterans Services

Please join our community and fellow veterans for the special memorial services to honor these unclaimed and forgotten veterans with a proper military funeral.

Douglas County Veterans Services Officer, Mary Newman Keys was given the honorary status of “Next of Kin” for the cremains in a formal custody transfer on April 19, 2019. She is working with the Douglas County Veterans Forum to honor these veterans.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

**Unclaimed Veterans Memorials**
Memorial services, with full military honors have been carefully planned for May 14, 15 and 16. Inurning the 28 Veterans whose cremains were recently discovered. On May 14, the procession will begin at 11:00 am at the Douglas County Courthouse to honor the first four veteran cremains. Their cremains will be placed in a horse drawn carriage, accompanied by local National Guard soldiers and escorted by law enforcement personnel for a 'final ride' to the Roseburg Veterans Cemetery. Respectfully, the Army veterans will be inurned on May 15, and the Navy and Air Force veterans will be inurned on May 16. Both ceremonies will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Community Conference Hall.

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DOUGLAS COUNTY

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