June 4, 2019
connections e-newsletter
A newsletter for the citizens and businesses of Douglas County

Board of Commissioners
Chris Boice • Tim Freeman • Tom Kress

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DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER FREEMAN

Commissioner Freeman rallies with leaders for secure funding legislation for rural counties

Commissioner Tim Freeman joined forces with regional leaders at a landmark rally on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol on Thursday, May 30, 2019 to promote the reintroduction of a bipartisan bill that would provide a long-term solution for Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Funding. The bill would establish an endowment that would help stop the funding roller coaster & establish a stable source of funding for rural counties & schools.

During his speech at the rally, Commissioner Freeman stated, “Oregon rural counties face serious challenges and serious demands for services. This bill presents an equally serious solution that generates real hope for all 700 counties in 40 states and specifically for our O&C counties. We have long relied on Secure Rural Schools as a safety net to fund essential services back at home and this bold, creative solution would provide the financial predictability our counties need. On behalf of Douglas County and the O&C Counties Association, I am proud to support this bill and grateful for the senators’ work on this bill.”

SRS and the community determination act was first introduced in 2000 as a temporary answer for rural counties who were experiencing major funding shortfalls due to curtailed Federal timber harvests. Those harvests are supposed to provide county governments with shared revenue receipts. Advocates from both states say rural communities have long relied on receipts from timber harvests to support local funding. The program provides $6 billion dollars for essential county services, schools and roads. The SRS program expired at then end of fiscal year 2018 and for smaller counties the program is a big piece of their budget.

The new Forest Management for Rural Stability Act of 2019, cosponsored by US Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), US Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), US Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and US Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) would create a permanent endowment fund so they won’t have to request and fight for funding every year.

Click below for a link to the summary page of the proposed Forest Management for Rural Stability Act of 2019.

Memorial Day - Honoring our Heroes

Every year on Memorial Day, a day America has set aside to honor those who have died giving the ultimate sacrifice in our nation’s wars, we gather across our great lands to pay tribute. In Douglas County, there were several Memorial Day celebrations, including the Reedsport Memorial, the Glide Memorial and the annual ceremony at the Roseburg National Cemetery, located on the Roseburg VA grounds. Among other honored guests, Commissioner Tim Freeman was asked to pay tribute to our fallen heroes at the VA Cemetery. Ironically, for the second year in a row, Commissioner Freeman’s speech was interrupted for a moment as the majestic F-15 Eagle Fighter Jets from the 173rd Fighter Wing out of Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon conducted their ceremonial Memorial Day fly over above the VA grounds in Roseburg. He is always honored by the timely interruption, and fondly recalls the year that he was asked to dawn a fly-suit and join the airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing as a guest pilot for a southern Oregon fly over mission.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners are dedicated to improving and enhancing the lives of living veterans, as well as dedicated to preserving and remembering the sacrifices of America’s heroes, her fallen soldiers. They are responsible for the Douglas County Veterans Memorial Wall located under the canopy of the Courthouse Elm at the Douglas County Courthouse. The wall was dedicated in 1971, and rededicated on July 4, 2010 as a ‘tribute to all Douglas County men and women who have served their country in its several armed conflicts and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice many of whom are listed there.’ They are also proud to support all the Veteran Walls of Veterans of Foreign Wars county like the one found in Myrtle Creek, Sutherlin, Glide, Reedsport, the Roseburg VFW Post and the traveling Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 805 wall. They encourage you to visit the our memorials and honor the heroes of our nation. Commissioner Freeman shared a veteran saying in his speech, “Sacrifice without remembrance is meaningless.” Honor, remember and never forget.
Avoid Vacation Rental Scams

School is almost out for summer and if you haven’t already booked your summer vacation, now is the time to get going.

With all the online options, it seems like it has never been easier to find the perfect space in the perfect place to take your family. Do you want to rent a condo for a few nights in the big city? Maybe a cottage in the woods? Or a bungalow by the beach? There are tons of options for every kind of possible vacation, and you can find them all with a few quick clicks of your mouse.

Scam Scenario: You find a great house or apartment listed for rent on the internet. The photos look great, and the rates are somewhere between very low and reasonable. You make contact with the person you think is the owner, book a date and pre-pay some or all of your fee. In some cases, a fraudster may have just lifted the info and pictures from a real listing and re-posted them elsewhere. He changes the contact info so you come to him, not the owner, and now he’s making money.

In other cases, the fraudster posts a phantom listing... the rental doesn’t really exist. He promises all kinds of amenities, and you think you’ve just snagged a great option at a low price. All he has to do is get you to pay up before you figure things out. So, before you click on that great rental house, make sure you do your homework. Here is some advice to help make sure that your quest for rest and relaxation doesn’t lead you to a vacation rental scam.

- Be wary if the owner asks you to pay by wire transfer. This is like sending cash — you likely will never get your money back if there’s a problem. Use a credit card.
- Watch out if the owner says he is overseas and wants you to send a deposit to a foreign bank. If you are traveling overseas, again, your best bet is to use a credit card.
- Consider only using a reputable travel website to book your stay. Look for sites that use secure payment portals and/or those that don’t release the payment to the owner until you’ve checked in.
- Use mapping apps — like Google Maps or similar — to confirm that the property really exists.

Summer Saturdays at the Museum

The Douglas County Museum is pleased to present their ‘Summer Saturdays at the Museum’ series featuring a full day of activities for kids and families of all ages! ‘Summer Saturdays’ will run every Saturday from June 8 to August 31, with the exception of July 6 and July 20.

Each week Museum staff and volunteers will host ‘Summer Saturday’ activities including; story time, crafts, games and more, geared towards helping kids discover and connect with our natural world. In June, they will focus on learning about life in the rivers, from July to mid-August they will be talking forests and finally in late August they will explore the ocean. June’s river activities are being co-led with Umpqua Watershed. After 3 weeks of river-related learning and fun, they will finish out the series on June 29th, with a walk to Umpqua Park for some outdoor activities.

Please note that the activities are meant for families to enjoy together, so they ask that you please plan on participating with your children. Join them for the adventure and then take some time to tour the wonderful exhibits at the museum as a bonus. All ‘Summer Saturday’ activities will be included with the price of daily museum admission. And, it is free to Museum Members. If you are not a Douglas County Museum Member, and you are interested in attending all summer long, they offer a $75 family and friends membership that would save a family of four $140! Plus, a membership is good for a whole year of fun at the museum.

Toddler & Pre-K: 10:30 am for Story Time and 10:45-12:30 pm for Open Exploration: Enjoy themed crafts, activities, experiments, and/or games with the kids.

Big Kids: 1:00-4:00 pm for the big kids turn for some nature fun! Plus, the 4th Saturday of the month is Science Saturday.

Family Matinee: 4:30-5:30 pm for the family matinée will feature family-friendly screenings of films, movies and shows for animal & nature lovers alike. BYOB (Bring Your Own Blanket). Join us for shows like Animals with Cameras, Dogs Decoded, and more!

For more information, call (541) 957-7007, visit them online and check out the event flyer at the link found below.

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO APPLY

Submit your application today and join us for a mandatory interview session on Friday, June 28 from 8 am - 12 pm at the Douglas County Fairgrounds - Conference Hall located at 2110 SW Fureen Street, Roseburg.

Interested in working at the 2019 Douglas County Fair?

For more information about available positions, hours and wage details click below for the job flyer.
Update: February Snowstorm - Available Disaster Assistance Programs

Your Douglas County Commissioners continue to look for disaster relief programs to help Douglas County citizens recover from the disastrous February Snow Storm.

Disaster Assistance - Property Assessment - Douglas County Assessor's Office

Reminding homeowners that the deadline to complete Storm Damage Property Assessment applications is fast approaching. If your property sustained significant damage (greater than $10,000 in property value), during the February Snowstorm, there are applications available, which may be able to reduce your assessed value and/or pro-rate your property taxes. Please feel free to stop by our office to get more information. The Douglas County Assessor’s Office is located in Room 206 at the Douglas County Courthouse, 1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon. Or call (541) 440-4222. Their office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The deadline to complete applications is June 30, 2019.

Disaster Assistance - Farm and Agricultural Lands and Woodlands - USDA Farm Service Agency

Below are two programs available through U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Disaster Assistance for farmers and ranchers and private forest land owners.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). It provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Fact sheet attached.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)
The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). It provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Fact sheet attached.

More information on these programs is available at FSA offices, local USDA service centers and on FSA’s website at disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

Disaster Assistance - Local Assistance - Douglas County Sheriff’s Office - Office of Emergency Management and Douglas County Community Organizations Active in Disasters

According to press releases and website notices, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office - Emergency Management Division indicates that at this time there is no state or federal financial assistance, in regards to the February winter/snow storm, available to homeowners, renters or businesses. Reporting for the 2019 storm has ended. If you have any questions about storm damage, please call the Douglas County Office of Emergency Management at (541) 440-4448.

In addition, the Douglas County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (DCCOAD) in partnership with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office have set up a website through Recovers.org to assist with the basic needs of those affected by the recent snowstorm. If any Douglas County residents are still in need of assistance or want to offer assistance, we encourage them to visit the Douglas County Recovers website at: https://roseburgdisaster.recovers.org/ (link listed below.)

This site is a means through which you can offer assistance in cash, materials, and/or time, to the community of Douglas County in this disaster. It is also where you can request assistance.

Wildfire Season Approaching: Know Your Evacuation Levels


Parts of Oregon are already heading into wildfire season and given the serious season that Oregon, and other parts of the West Coast, experienced last year, we are offering an important reminder about evacuation levels. The statewide “Ready, Set, Go” system is used to notify communities that they are facing a threat and are used for floods, fires and other hazards.

“An important part of wildfire preparedness is familiarity with statewide evacuation levels,” says OEM Director Andrew Phelps. “Wildfires can come without warning and move quickly, so residents need to prepare now in case they have to leave their home.”

Level 1 Evacuation means “BE READY” for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

Level 2 Evacuation means “BE SET” to evacuate. You should be ready to leave at a moment’s notice as this level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area. Residents may have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.

Level 3 Evacuation means “GO” Evacuate NOW – leave immediately! Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advise, you may find that emergency services may not be available to help you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.

We encourage our citizens to understand and promote wildfire awareness and preparedness and to always follow directions of emergency officials during evacuations. For more information go to the ready.gov website listed below.

Do your part - Be Ready, Be Set and Be Ready to Go!