

Mitchell Sentinel

A Community Monthly

Issue #10

August 16, 2023

Existing by Tradition

In the previous Issue of the *Sentinel* published on July 18th, 2023 we learned that the city of Mitchell has been placed on "probation" with CIS (CityCounty Insurance Services) and that failure to comply with the CIS Risk Management Compliance Plan could result in applying a per occurrence deductible, applying exemptions of coverage, lowering coverage limits, or lastly termination of all lines of coverages through CIS. Without insurance coverage, Mitchell cannot remain incorporated.

In the event that the City of Mitchell disincorporates, either intentionally or by fault, it will have 30 days after the authorization of the surrender of the charter to convey, grant, assign and deliver all of its property real and personal, and property rights by proper conveyance, to Wheeler County for the benefit and use of the county. 60 days after the authorization of the surrender of the charter the City of Mitchell shall cease to exist in its corporate capacity without any further or other formal action, and all its property rights and interests shall vest in the county, and the records of the city will be deposited in the office of the county clerk by the auditor, clerk or other keeper of records in the city. [ORS 221.650]

In order for a small community like Mitchell to enjoy an unincorporated existence, at the very least it will need essential services like domestic water supply, fire protection, emergency medical services, community policing, basic health and dental care, education and infrastructure maintenance and development.

Local governments are classified into five types: county, municipal, township, special districts and school districts. County, municipal and township governments are general-purpose governments. The City of Mitchell is a municipal general-purpose government. It administers Mitchell's domestic water



Mitchell, Oregon 1954

supply and service, the volunteer Fire Department, volunteer Ambulance Service, and the infrastructure maintenance and development within the city limits.

The city allocates monies received from property taxes into funds for administrative services, funds for the Fire Department, and funds for the Ambulance Service. The water service and supply funding mostly comes from service fees billed to and received from the city residents who maintain water service accounts. All of the other essential services for Mitchell's residents are provided by County, State, and Federal entities, not by the city government.

- **Policing** Mitchell's Community Policing is provided by the Wheeler County Sheriff Department. The Wheeler County Sheriff's Office provides the only in-County law enforcement for the 1,715 square miles of mountains, canyons, and rivers that make up Wheeler county.
- **Health and Dental Care** Mitchell's Healthcare is provided by the Mitchell School Based Health Clinic through Asher Community Health Center which is a Federally Qualified

(cont'd on page 2)

Wheeler County Trading Co.



100 West Main Street
Mitchell, OR 97750
(541)462-3585

Summer Hours
Monday-Friday 8am-8pm
Saturday 8am-7pm
Sunday 9am-7pm

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Existing by Tradition (Cont'd from page 1)

Health Center (FQHC). It is also the only health care provider in Wheeler County. They operate an outpatient primary care clinic in Fossil 5 days a week, and satellite clinics at the Spray and Mitchell sites 2 days per week for primary outpatient care. Additionally, full dental services are available at both the Fossil and Mitchell Sites.

- **Education** Mitchell's Education is provided by Mitchell School District #55 with support from North Central Education Service District (NCESD). For public school purposes, the state of Oregon is divided into subdivisions known as school districts. All school districts are corporate bodies, with district school boards, that are authorized to transact all business coming within the jurisdiction of the district and to sue and be sued. Pursuant to law, district school boards have control of the district schools and are responsible for educating children residing in the district. Mitchell School District provides education in all of kindergarten through grade 12. The Mitchell School District also receives support services from North Central Education Service District (NCESD) which serves Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties. Regional school districts that alone would not be able to adequately provide educational opportunities for public (and home school) students receive support such as Special Education Services, School Improvement, Technology, and Administrative Services from NCESD. [ORS 330.005; ORS 332.072]

Funding for Oregon's Public Schools is provided through Oregon's school finance system which combines state, local, and federal revenue to support 197 school districts and 19 education service districts (ESDs). Most state revenue is distributed to school districts and ESDs by a school distribution formula. Local revenue is raised by or flows to local school districts. Federal revenue is allocated to school districts primarily based on eligibility for federal education programs. [Legislative Committee Services; Salem, OR]

If Mitchell comes to exist in a non-corporate capacity, who will administer the domestic water supply service, fire protection service, emergency medical/ambulance

service, infrastructure and road maintenance and improvement for the Mitchell community?

Inadequate revenue bases and competing demands for existing taxes also make it difficult for cities and counties to provide services that their constituents want.

When residents or landowners want new services or higher levels of an existing service, they can form a district to pay for them. Each special district focuses on a specific set of services, like fire protection, water supply, healthcare, parks and recreation, among many others. There are currently 34 different types of special districts in Oregon.

Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. Special districts possess many of the same governing powers as states, counties, and cities. They can enter into contracts, employ workers, and acquire real property through purchase or eminent domain. They can also borrow money to buy or build facilities by issuing bonds, impose special taxes, levy assessments, and charge fees for their services. Special districts, like other governments, can sue and be sued. They can also adopt a seal and alter it at will. [SDAO, Salem, OR]

Water Supply Districts A domestic water supply district may be formed for the purpose of supplying inhabitants of the district with water for domestic purposes. A water supply district may also authorize the purchase and maintenance of fire equipment. Water supply districts shall have the power to make contracts, hold and receive and dispose of real and personal property within and without its described boundaries and do all other acts and things which may be requisite, necessary or convenient in carrying out the objects of the district or exercising the powers conferred upon it. Water supply districts can sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all actions and suits or other proceedings brought by or against it. [ORS 264.110]

Rural Fire Protection District Special districts that provide local fire protection and ambulance services have grown this decade. Leading factors to the growth of the rural fire protection district are due to the fact that residents in certain rural areas expect a higher level of quality than their local government is able to provide and/or perhaps they are in need of another way to

(cont'd on page 5)

MY ARMY LIFE - Part 2

I refused to back my truck and trailer up that steep ramp. I told them I didn't want to break their airplane, they heeded my reserve. Inside that huge plane were 2 each 2 ½ ton trucks coupled to 2 each 1 ton trailers. Both were loaded with all the equipment we would need for the exercise. These planes were as old as me, they were from and manned by the Minnesota Air Guard. I was somewhat apprehensive. I noticed that everything in the plane was strapped down except us! Our seating was jump benches along the side of the plane, right next to the non-existent heaters. The old plane moaned and groaned as it started moving. I can't fault the plane as I was doing the same thing. It took ½ of forever to get the thing in the air, but much to my surprise and answered prayers it went airborne. The C124 airplane is not pressurized so we could not fly too high. It looked like just high enough to clear the mountains. I saw fuel was dripping out of the trucks fuel tanks, the plane had no heat and we were freezing. The plane also had no restrooms, just a trough that ran outside. My thought - one of my pee sickle striking and stabbing a poor eskimo! I moved to look out the window which I wish I hadn't. The mountain tops luminated in the moonlight, but more alarming was the four motors luminated a cherry red. I nervously asked the crew chief if we should be alarmed and he replied, "Don't worry unless the fire goes out!" I didn't feel that reassured! We finally landed at Fort Greely, convoyed to the exercise area, slept in the truck that first night. The next day was spent on setting up tents, ours and the motor pools, which was big enough to house a 2 ½ ton truck.



Fort Greely, Alaska

Dwight Day, my roommate and I pack a foot locker with the needed personal staples for the exercise: chips, jerky, candy, popcorn, seven-up, ginger ale, coke, and hot butter

rum mix, Tom and Jerry mix and 2 fifths of assorted spirits. The spirits were to be used for medicinal purposes including getting cold! When temperatures drop below 0 degrees all things mechanical and technical start acting weird. We got a call late one afternoon. The temp had dropped to -60 degrees and the chill factor was -100 degrees and we should shelter in place! Guess where we were already? Our location was between the Tanana and Salcha rivers, the only running water I saw came out of an insulated barrel. We camped there for 22 days, which took up most of February. My truck ran the whole time as did our tent warmer, a gas yukon stove. Those 22 days saw us not once going to the mess hall. Our Company ran all support for the 172nd so we had access to all the food, like beef steak, boneless pork chops, smoked bacon, ham, every night was a barbeque.

We had one incident when Command commandeered our motor pool tent and heater to heat a bladder tank. I stood my troops down and sent them to their tents. Notified Command - no problem.

I saw my very first buffalo on the tundra. He looked like a large steaming boulder. They were introduced to this region many years ago and they are doing well.

It looked like we were going to run out of human antifreeze. We needed to promote a trip to Fort Greely's NCO Club for a restock. Ten days without a shower and the spit baths were not working so we conned a shower trip and I think we even took one after we visited the NCO Club.

22 days at 30-60 below passed like syrup pouring at those same temps. We loaded up all our gear, taking not the same intricate care as when we started. I begged to join the convoy of vehicles traveling back on the ALCAN Hwy but to no avail. With that begging not working, I started to begging to fly back on a C130, but it was the C124 again. We loaded up in an airplane that was tired by a crew that was tired and I felt my life slipping away. We were lumbering down the ice and snow covered runway, I received no assurance from the crew chief. He said, "I hope we make it this time!" I screamed, "What the hell are you saying?" He said, "We keep blowing hydraulic lines!" When we finally went airborne, I looked to him and saw a devilish smile. I was so scared I don't know if he was messing with me or not!? A few hours later, we landed at Elmendorf Air Base. I relaxed my prayers and gave thanks! The good Lord has given me a learning experience but it took three years off my life, but I will get it back on the flip side.

The 172nd soon settled back into the routine, most

(cont'd on page 4)

My Army Life - part 2 (cont'd from page 3)

weekends were spent exploring. Alyeska Ski Resort east of Anchorage was a favorite place. We always stopped at the Bird House, a bar in Bird Creek, Alaska.



The Bird House tavern - Bird Creek, Alaska

It was an old cabin that was slowly sinking into the earth, it had stump stools, sawdust floors, and ladies underwear pinned to the ceiling. Their drinks were served in water glasses. I got to show my son's the Bird House in 1990, and a short time later it burned to the ground. I mean it burned below the ground. I did learn a valuable lesson about skiing, what I was looking for soon showed up at the bar, and I didn't have to get cold to find it.

Anchorage was a fun city, always something happening. The natives raced everything at all seasons from sports cars, sleds, snowmobiles, go karts. I could not understand Hot Rod Cars and there was only one road out, why rush?

The State Fair was held in Palmer, just north of Anchorage, with a 24 hour growing season. Folks grew some huge and great garden trucks. Plus we like the small town air of Palmer.

Eagle River was another small town we liked to go to. It was a short distance from Anchorage. A mom and pops bar and restaurant there made GIs feel welcome. A large bar and barbecue was built across the road. They feature live country music on weekends. In 1966 Bobby Bare appeared there. I had tickets but I received weekend duty, so I had to wait until 1978 to see him in Redmond, Oregon.

1967 Rolled in. I was developing what they called a "shortimer attitude" with less than 3 months to go. I readjusted to the routine, the shorter my time became

the longer it took. I applied for an Alaskan discharge to serve the rest of my time instead of going to Fort Lewis. I had heard horror stories of how they messed over you there.

I wore my uniform to Seattle just to get a cheaper fare. I got off the plane, entered the terminal, got bombarded by protesters. I got cussed, called baby killer, spit at - not on because their aim was bad. I regretted that I turned in my M14, I thought I was going to need it to get through the terminal.

It was great getting home. It did not take long to adjust to the boring civilian life. I had to sign up for the Army Reserve to complete my 6 year commitment, but they were full. People had loaded the Reserve and Guard to keep from going to Vietnam!

The drafting of me was a good thing. I learned a lot, got out of Mitchell and it made me love Mitchell all the more. I thought about staying in, but I wanted to start a family and the Army life is hard on families.

Dan Cannon

07/11/2023

Bridge Creek Cafe (541)-777-7132



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Family Style Dining
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Salads, Burgers &
Sandwiches, Fries &
Tater Tots, Milkshakes,
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218 HWY 26 Mitchell, Oregon



Vintage AD

obtain financing capital improvement. Special districts are organized as a funding tool for existing volunteer fire departments. These allow volunteer fire districts to collect additional property taxes to provide better service to their communities. Rural fire protection districts may also borrow money by issuing and disposing of general obligation bonds. [ORS 478.010]

Infrastructure/Road Maintenance A special road district may be formed for the purpose of improving roads within the district. Contiguous territory lying within any county and not incorporated within the limits of a city may be formed into, or included in, a special road district in the manner provided by ORS 371.305. A special road district has the power to make contracts, acquire, hold, receive and dispose of real and personal property, and to sue and be sued. A special road district can exercise the power of eminent domain, and to assess, levy and collect taxes on all taxable real property within the district and any other act necessary to carry out the purposes of the special road district. [ORS 371.305]

A cemetery maintenance district may be organized under ORS chapter 265.

A park and recreation district may be organized under ORS chapter 266.

While every town is different, all towns need a sense of community and a source of pride and identity - a place for people to gather and connect. Every town has its own unique history, culture and character. Communities exist by tradition.

An unincorporated town is simply a community that will typically be bound to the laws of the county (or larger city) in which it lies. There are far fewer regulations that apply to your property when you live in an unincorporated town.

Many towns have absurd levels of paperwork for almost any project. Unincorporated communities don't have that on a local level because there's no local government. Many prefer living in an unincorporated town because it allows them to make more decisions about their property without government interference. It is possible to create a self-sustaining method of life that allows you to have as many or as few neighbors as you want.

This feature is part of the national structure in the United States and Canada in remote or sparsely populated areas where people live together and a handful of businesses might operate, but have no municipality

services. Local Business is encouraged. While cities have a lot of rules, the rules are usually quite relaxed when you live outside of a municipality.

In the United States, there are currently five states where there is no unincorporated territory: New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. At the present time, there are approximately 800 unincorporated communities in the State of Oregon.

Incidentally, I spoke to a gentleman from Terrebonne, Oregon the other day and asked him how he liked living in an unincorporated town - He replied with a smile, "It's nice. We love it! Everyone helps each other."

Dajuana Dodd/Editor/Publisher

A Fight to Exist in Tradition

In the next Issue of the *Sentinel*, we will learn about a small community in Oregon's Willamette Valley that incorporated as a city in 2004 in an effort to preserve its culture and history. What ensued, however, was a fifteen year battle to determine its own future.



Highway 26 after the 1956 flood

Black Butte Auto Repair



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Hank Dodd
(541)462-3353

Cody Brinkman
(541)777-1794

Lost Coyote Lane
Mitchell, Oregon

Remembering George Schnee

In 1996, with the help of Advisor/Editor/Photographer Mary Fitzgerald, the fifth and sixth graders at Mitchell Elementary School produced "A Second Glimpse of Mitchell Magic," as a continuation from Mary's 1995 book, "A Glimpse of Mitchell Magic." Through interviews with members of the Mitchell Community, the history, legends, wit, culture, wisdom and traditions of Mitchell is genuinely and colorfully preserved. Here is George Shnee's story:

"I came to Mitchell in 1946 in May. Came out of the service and I stopped to visit my brother and Jack Collins. They had the Chevrolet garage at that time. And they talked me into mechanicing for them, so I stayed. Seems like it was just one thing after another and I just never got out!

"My brother was in a partnership of some sort with Jack. The service station was where Dennis Trenholm had his garage. That's the old Chevrolet garage there. The following year I bought the stock in the Texaco station. It belonged to Shoun - Pit Shoun, I think it was. He lived in John Day at that time. I actually bought the stock from Hack Hobby years and years ago.

"So, I've been selling gas since 1947, I guess. I built a living quarters in the back. When I first came to Mitchell, I lived in a little house about where the public restrooms are. A little above the restrooms.

"There was a little white and red trimmed house that was there on the bank and I lived there for a year and then I moved up where Shirley Ehmer lives right now. Then I built onto the Texaco. Built a living quarters on the back there, and I moved in.

"Then, in 1948, I bought a variety store from Fred Sanky because he was postmaster and at that time if you was postmaster, it was a conflict of interest to have another business. So he had to sell. It wasn't a big deal or anything, just a small place right next door to the Texaco.

"I sold the Texaco station to Kenny Brookshire in 1950. But somewhere in there, I think I still had the Texaco station, when I dumped gas one August in the ethel tank and they'd built apartments underneath where the old variety store was. The vent pipe on the tank, I guess, went over agin' the building and didn't go up, so the gas went down in these apartments and somebody had some coals in a stove and I just happened to stand up. I was about two foot from the wall, I guess, and that sucker blew! Blew the boards off the wall and dumped



From left to right: George Schnee, Fred Sanky, Bill Davis

everything in the store on the floor. Blew the window out! No insurance. Anyway, that was kinda an experience.

"And, then the building over from that variety store which is gone, used to be the old post office. And, of course, in 1956, the water gutted out the post office and took the safe down to the Painted Hills.

"In 1953 I bought this old Shell station here next door. Then, I put in a grocery store in the 'Whole in The Wall' in 1955. Then run back and forth and took care of it! There'd be a customer across the street and I'd say, 'Wait a minute and I'll be there in a minute!' and scoot across the street and wait on them.

"In 1961, I bought the Sidewalk Cafe. My wife, Ruth, run the restaurant for 30 years.

"In between times, we went to England and then to France. Went around to a whole lot of places there. And, then, we went to Hawaii. Then we took another trip to Hawaii and went on to New Zealand and Australia and came back. Then went to Hawaii again, then to Nashville and New York.

(cont'd on page 7)

"Then we went to Washington, D.C. and got to go through the Capitol. And, the guide told us something that I'll always remember. Said that the Statue of Liberty, if you put it in on the floor of the Capitol Building, it wouldn't touch the dome. So, it's quite a big room. Oh, it's beautiful, though!

"And, then a little over three year ago, why, we went to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Went out on the bayous and we just had all kinds of fun.

"I like to travel. I really do. I'd go once or twice a year if I had a chance. I plan to go to the Snake River a couple of times this year. Catch Channel cats. I just love that!

"The furthest I went was three months in High school. I didn't really learn anything in high school. I put gum in the girls' seats and sailed an airplane up on the teacher's desk! And she kept me in at recess and she says, 'You know, you're a big boy now. Big boys don't do that!' And, here I am, a big six-footer, and I just felt like I was about three or four feet tall. So, I never did it any more!

"But, in those days, you could go get a job anywhere. It was a lot of manual labor and that sort of thing. Which now it's computers and machinery and everything. You just can't do a lot of things you used to do. I run into things, I educated myself a lot. I've learned a lot over the years.



Whole in the Wall - Main Street, Mitchell, OR

"It's been a great life. I like Mitchell. I don't think I'd ever leave Mitchell. It's quiet. People, as a whole, are quite nice. We have our ups and downs. We have people that come from time to time, of course, that it's nice when they leave, but the general population of Mitchell is pretty nice people.

"What I like about it is if you want to go on a picnic, you can go someplace and have a good time. Nobody's around. You know where nobody else is. Pretty hard to do

when you're in a big city. A lot of enjoyment!

"I came from Missouri when I was five and half years old to Canby. Came in a 1923 or '24 one-ton Model T truck. You've seen movies with covered wagons? We had a covered wagon on the back of the truck! All our belongings was in the truck and all of us kids, my brother and I, we was up above and, of course, we had a ball, waving at all the people! Cut up and stuff!

"And, the old truck, why going uphill, you'd go about five miles an hour. Maybe, if you was lucky, you'd go ten. I don't know - I don't think it'd go ten! Downhill, why, you could fly if you didn't watch out! But, on the level, probably about 25 miles an hour.

"After the flood, of course, Mitchell changed a lot. The flood was Friday the 13, July 1956. I had a barn back of my place, and it went out about 4:00 pm. There were thirteen buildings went out. A 45 foot trailer house went over the bridge down here by the highway like a cork - it just went right over!

"The old telephone office used to be across the street. When Ashmead sold out to the phone company, they tore that down. And, then there was an old bar by the new bar, and they finally tore it down. So, there's been a lot of buildings torn down over the years.



From left to right - old station, new bar, old bar, telephone office, Sidewalk Cafe. 1954

"That little rock building still by the cafe was an old cellar. That, I suppose, was built when, you see, there was a drug store years ago, over here, and when we bought the old cellar from Ashmead, then of course the roof collapsed. And there was boxes and boxes and boxes of old bottles, Upjohn bottles and all kinds."

End of Interview

A Good Establiher

Researching Anthony Houston "Pike" Helms, I found that the History of Central Oregon 1905 listed him as a Helm. Mystery comes forth – Where did the S come from? Why is his nickname "Pike"?

Anyway, Mr. Helms was born on October 6, 1842 in Missouri; his education was completed in said place. In 1863, Helms enlisted in Battery L, Second Missouri Light Artillery. He served until November 11, 1865 when he was mustered out! Upon his discharge, Helms married Miss Mary Paul, another native of Missouri, and in 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Helms came to the far left coast and Oregon. Helms established the Twickenham Post Office and operated it for six years. His next move was east to Waldron to start another Post Office where he stayed for twenty years. Post Offices closed as populations shifted so Helms found himself back in Twickenham running the Twickenham Stage Stop. It's good that they didn't have many possessions and their moving became easier because they got efficient at it. The Helms' were back in Mitchell where he established (if nothing else, he was a good establiher) the Mitchell *Sentinel* newspaper. The *Sentinel* was printed once a week, whether there was news or not, which probably meant "Old Pike" may have had to stretch the news.

I have read that Pike worked sometimes as a lawyer, there was some controversy about his credentials as to his degree. Sometimes if a man could paint 'Lawyer' on a board, he was one! Pike did have a good motto, "By God, I'm the law around here, and I'll tell you, by God what you can do!"

Mary and Pike produce the following offspring: Carlesa, W.E., P.C. and O.V. J.H. is deceased.

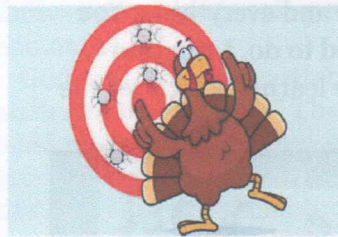
Anthony Houston Helms without a doubt was one of the builders of the "new baby" known as Wheeler County.

Dan Cannon
07/24/2023

A. H. Helms still has relatives in the area - one son Mike, one granddaughter Mary, is interred at the West Branch Cemetery. A grandson Merl (age 94) is still living in Albany, Oregon. Great granddaughter Claudia is Merl's caregiver.



Mitchell Lions Club ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT



When:
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
@9AM

Where:
HUDSPETH MILL, 106089
HWY 26

Compete for prizes! Win a TURKEY!
Shotgun, Long Gun and Hand Guns



Mitchell, Oregon after the 1956 flood



Mitchell, Oregon - 2002

The Snake

Song

On her way to work one morning
Down the path along side the lake
A tender hearted woman saw a poor half frozen snake
His pretty colored skin had been all frosted
with the dew
"Poor thing," she cried, "I'll take you in and I'll take
care of you"

"Take me in tender woman
Take me in, for heaven's sake
Take me in, tender woman," sighed the snake

She wrapped him all cozy in a comforter of silk
And laid him by her fireside with some honey and
some milk
She hurried home from work that night and soon as
she arrived
She found that pretty snake she'd taken to had been
revived

"Take me in, tender woman
Take me in, for heaven's sake
Take me in, tender woman," sighed the snake

She clutched him to her bosom, "You're so beautiful,"
she cried
"But if I hadn't brought you in by now you might have
died"
She stroked his pretty skin again and kissed and held
him tight
Instead of saying thanks, the snake gave her a vicious
bite

"Take me in, tender woman
Take me in, for heaven's sake
Take me in, tender woman," sighed the snake

"I saved you," cried the woman
"And you've bitten me, but why?
You know your bite is poisonous and now I'm going to
die"

"Oh shut up, silly woman," said the reptile with a grin
"You knew damn well I was a snake before you took
me in

"Take me in, tender woman
Take me in, for heaven's sake
Take me in, tender woman," sighed the snake

"The Snake" is a song written and first recorded by
civil-rights activist Oscar Brown in 1963; it became a hit
single for American singer Al Wilson in 1968. In the
U.S., the hit version of "The Snake" was released in
1968, on Johnny Rivers' Soul City Records

A LITTLE HUMOR IS GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU.
THE FOLLOWING IS FOR ENJOYMENT ONLY.

In the Beginning...

God Created heaven and the earth. Quickly He was
faced with a class action suit for failure to file an
environmental impact statement. He was granted a
temporary permit for the project, but was stymied with
the cease and desist order for the earthly part.

Appearing at the hearing, God was asked why He
began His earthly project in the first place. He replied
that He just liked to be creative.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and immediately
the officials demanded to know how the light would be
made. Would there be strip mining? What about
thermal pollution? God explained that the light would
come from a huge ball of fire. God was granted
provisional permission to make light, assuming that no
smoke would result from the ball of fire: that He would
obtain a building permit; and to conserve energy, would
have the light out half the time. God agreed and said He
would call the light "Day" and the darkness "Night."
Officials replied that they were not interested in
semantics.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth green herbs and
such and many seeds." The EPA agreed so long as native
seed was used. Then God said, "Let waters bring forth
creeping creatures having life; and the fowl that may fly
over the earth." Officials pointed out this would require
approval from the Department of Game coordinated
with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and
Audubongelic Society.

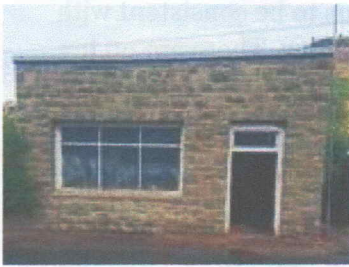
Everything was O.K. until God said He wanted to
complete the project in six days. Officials said it would
take at least 200 days to review the application and
environmental impact statement. After that there would
be a public hearing. Then there would be 10-12 months
before...

At this point God created Hell.



Mitchell Museum

In the previous issue of the Sentinel, I asked if anyone was interested in establishing a Museum here in Mitchell to preserve our culture and history. After talking to K'lynn Lane who is currently the Executive Director of the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce which serves Wheeler County, I know what needs to be done! The first thing is location - a building or place whose owner is willing to offer space to accommodate the Mitchell Museum. When trying to find a suitable building for our local museum, I found myself constantly thinking about the Old Bank Building since it's one of the few vacant buildings in Mitchell. Done! Shawn Hawkins, one of the owners of Tiger Town Brew Co., owns the Old Mitchell State Bank Building on the north side of Main Street. It currently sits vacant and Shawn has agreed to offer the space for our Museum!

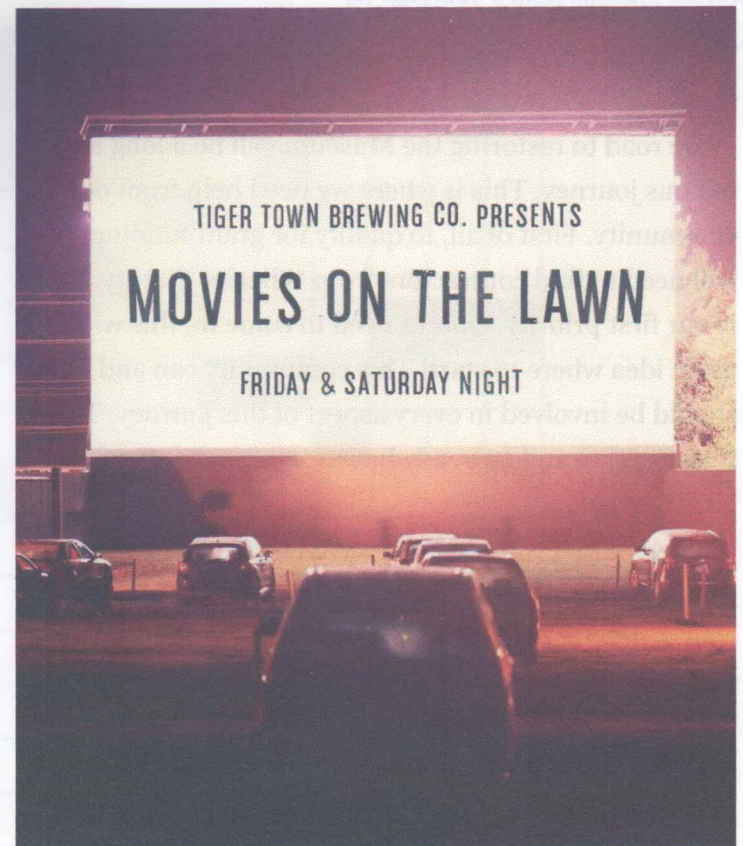


Thank you so much, Shawn!

The next step is to get local support from businesses and residents who are willing to volunteer their time and effort to get the old building in shape. It needs some structural work and a deep clean! We also need to start collecting (or the promise of loaning) antiques, pictures, stories about Mitchell from the start to present. Photos are also needed as they are a wonderful way to tell a story!

The old Mitchell State Bank Building is the perfect place for our museum due to its own history. The following historical account is taken from a book published for THE WHEELER COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION entitled "Glimpses of Wheeler County's Past," edited by F. Smith Fussner:

"During 1918, the people of Mitchell decided that it would be to their advantage, and to the advantage of the surrounding territory, to have a Bank in Mitchell, Oregon, to provide for their financial



Friday and Saturday Nights
8:15 pm until 11:30 pm

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needs. On November 19 of that year, the Mitchell State Bank was opened for business, with a capital of \$25,000. Officers of the Bank were L.L. Jones, president, E.R. Laughlin, vice president and Fred Anderson, cashier. The bank continued operations until September 1, 1932, when it closed."

After the bank closed in 1932, the building was not put to use until 1956. The flood of 1956 wiped out many buildings, including the Mitchell Post office. The safe from the post office was found clear down at the Painted Hills! At the time, the Post Office was located right next door to the Variety Store on the north side of Main Street on Bridge Creek. Once Mitchell cleaned up after the flood, the new Post Office was relocated in the Mitchell State Bank Building. The Post Office continued there until 2000 when it moved to its current location at 212 West Main Street.

(cont'd on page 12)

The Old Bank building has been sitting empty since then.

The road to restoring the Museum will be a long and tedious journey. This is where we need help from our community. First of all, to qualify for grant funding, we will need to find contractors from Wheeler County. This is our first priority. Quotes need to come in, this will give us an idea where to start! This community can and should be involved in every aspect of this journey. This is so exciting and I already have some remnants of our local history.

Please, if you want to be involved by contributing your time, articles or pieces of history, please call me! And of course donations will always be accepted with a huge smile! A grant through the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce is my first goal. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 542-390-2044 or stop by The Little Pine Lodge & Souvenir Shop on Main Street in Mitchell and I will answer any questions you may have. The Mitchell Sentinel promises to keep everyone updated on the progress!

Teresa E. Riley/Reporter/Contributor

Changing the Charter

Two Ballot Initiatives have recently been filed with the City of Mitchell Elections Officer. Both initiatives propose to adopt changes to the Mitchell City Charter.

On July 18th, Chief Petitioners Catherine Y. Cook and Teresa E. Riley filed a Prospective Petition in an attempt to amend Mitchell's City Charter. If adopted, this measure would allow amendments to the City Charter as follows: (1) Change the qualifications for office to allow electors both inside the City Limits and outside City Limits that have a 97750 zip code with a vested business and/or real estate property located within City Limits during the 12 months immediately preceding the election to qualify for elected or appointive office; (2) To prohibit elective or appointive officers to be a relative, spouse, significant other or housemate to any elective officer or appointive officer, or City employee at the time of the time of election; and (3) Amend nominations for vacancies of elected City positions to be consistent with the proposed change of qualifications. There are no tax implications regarding this Measure.

Chief Petitioners Cook and Riley filed a second Prospective Petition on July 25th. If adopted, this Measure would amend the City Charter to incorporate appointive and elective officers within Section 10. The amendment would also remove the City Clerk as an appointed officer, and instead, the City Administrator/City Clerk would be an elected officer. The Mayor, and City Administrator/City Clerk, would be elected every two years for a two-year term. There are no tax implications regarding this Measure.

Ballot Titles for both petitions were filed by Mitchell's City Attorney on July 31st and published in the Times-Journal on August 3rd. With no objections filed with Wheeler County Circuit Court, both Ballot Titles were finalized on August 10th.

Once the Signature Sheets are approved by the City Elections Official, Chief Petitioners Cook and Riley will begin the process of gathering signatures on each Petition. According to Oregon's Secretary of State Elections Division, 15% of voters registered in the city on the day a prospective petition is filed is required to bring the measures to ballot for a vote by the electors. As of July 7th, 2023, there were 101 registered voters in the City of Mitchell - a minimum of 16 signatures will be required for each initiative.

Dajuana Dodd/Editor/Publisher



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

MITCHELL FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Becoming a Volunteer Firefighter is a great opportunity to serve your community.

Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department provides an essential service to the community.

Don't miss out on this chance to make a difference. Begin your training journey by signing up now!

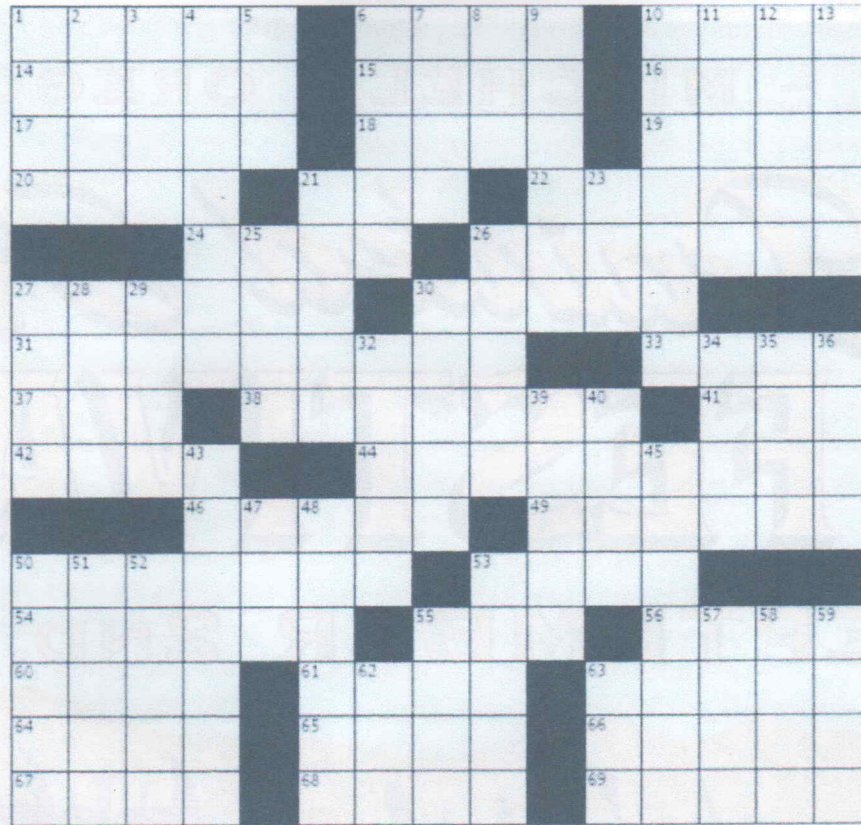
If you're interested in joining the Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department, kindly contact Mitchell Fire Chief, Glenn Raber - (541)462-3972 (home).

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Actress ____ Winfrey
6. Slipped
10. Talented
14. Female relative
15. Become weary
16. Design
17. Visibly upset
18. Right away (abbr.)
19. Irritating one
20. Norwegian capital
21. Can.'s neighbor
22. Relaxed (2 wds.)
24. Wild party
26. Maker
27. African adventure
30. Ceremonies
31. Made believe
33. Long, narrative poem
37. Have a cold
38. Eternal
41. GI's hangout
42. Evaluate
44. Woodworking pro
46. Settle a debt
49. Delighted
50. Clothing
53. Inner hand
54. Gets up
55. That gal
56. She, in Valencia
60. Stir up
61. Tense
63. Discolored spot
64. Perfume
65. Model ____ Macpherson
66. Pollute
67. Clears as profit
68. Raise
69. Consent



Down

1. Informed of
2. Slapstick items
3. Actual
4. Gymnast's kin
5. "You there!"
6. Hide away
7. "Mona ____"
8. Lyricist Gershwin
9. Go away
10. Pacify
11. Sheep's cry
12. Lariat
13. Register
21. Utilizing
23. Summer shirt
25. Precinct
26. Fall drink
27. Ship's pole
28. Diva's forte
29. Sensed
30. Pass along
32. Sticker
34. Golf stroke
35. Psychic's phrase (2 wds.)
36. Thin rope
39. Pointed weapon
40. Broker's advice
43. Chalkboard wipers
45. Identifying label (2 wds.)
47. Before, to Shakespeare
48. Annoy
50. Slugger Hank ____
51. Self-respect
52. Plane's captain
53. Anchorman ____ Jennings
55. Luau entertainment
57. Wild animal's home
58. Queue
59. Initial bet
62. Pub brew
63. Depot (abbr.)

Solution to Crossword Puzzle is located on page 15.

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- MITCHELL, OREGON -

Painted Hills **FESTIVAL**

SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2023

**HALF-MARATHON
10K AND 5K RUN**

QUILT SHOW FROM 10-4

ENTERTAINMENT & LIVE MUSIC

PERFORMANCES BY BUFFALO KIN KAYLEY LYNN
SWEET AND JUICY DAN ROBINSON MITCHELL PODCAST

FOOD, VENDORS, PARADE

TAHITIAN FIRE DANCER WATER TROUGH RACES

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WWW.MITCHELLOREGON.US/EVENTS WWW.PAINTEDHILLSHALF.COM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitchell Lions Club Annual Turkey Shoot

Saturday 09-23-23 @ Hudspeth Mill
16089 Hwy 26 - 9am
Shotgun, long gun and hand guns -
Compete for Prizes! Win a Turkey!

Movies on the Lawn Friday and Saturday nights in August @ Tiger Town's Orafino Theater -

108 Main Street - Mitchell, Oregon
Bring a chair, enjoy a good movie -
popular titles from the 80s & 90s - 8:15pm-11:30pm

Senior Friday Lunch

every Friday @ Noon Mitchell Community Hall
60+ \$5.00 59- \$6.00
ALL are invited! Please join us!

Mitchell City Council

Meets every 3rd Tuesday @5:30pm
Attend in person or via ZOOM!
Join Zoom meeting #303 789 9953 -
Use passcode: 593227
The Public is encouraged to attend!

SCHOOL STARTS MONDAY, AUGUST 28TH

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Looking for people who are interested in establishing a Museum here in Mitchell. I am forming a committee of volunteers to make plans, give ideas, etc. Please call Teresa Quant Riley at (541)390-2044

Place your Classified ADS here for only \$5.00 for up to 3 lines; \$1.00 per line after that. (541)462-3532

In Loving Memory

Justina Bolton

July 13, 1960 - June 2, 2023

Justina Bolton, a devoted family woman passed away on June 2, 2023. Born to parents, Joyce Brooks and Rusty Cox, she brought joy and love into their lives from the very beginning. Justina's love for her family, especially her cherished grandchildren, was immeasurable, and she always put their needs above her own.

Growing up in Oregon, Justina attended grade school in Paulina, Silver Lake, and Prineville. She continued her education in Mitchell, where she attended both middle school and high school. These formative years shaped her

Solution to Crossword Puzzle

O	P	R	A	H		S	L	I	D		A	B	L	E
N	I	E	C	E		T	I	R	E		P	L	A	N
T	E	A	R	Y		A	S	A	P		P	E	S	T
O	S	L	O		U	S	A		A	T	E	A	S	E
			B	A	S	H		C	R	E	A	T	O	R
S	A	F	A	R	I		R	I	T	E	S			
P	R	E	T	E	N	D	E	D			E	P	I	C
A	I	L		A	G	E	L	E	S	S		U	S	O
R	A	T	E			C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R
			R	E	P	A	Y		E	L	A	T	E	D
A	P	P	A	R	E	L		P	A	L	M			
A	R	I	S	E	S		H	E	R		E	L	L	A
R	I	L	E			T	A	U	T		S	T	A	I
O	D	O	R			E	L	L	E		T	A	I	N
N	E	T	S			R	E	A	R		A	G	R	E

into the caring and compassionate person she became.

Justina dedicated her professional life to serving others. Early in her career she worked diligently at Mountain View Hospital. She then transitioned to Jefferson County EMS, where her commitment to the community was truly evident. Currently, Justina served with unwavering dedication at Jefferson County Fire and EMS, continuing to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Justina found solace and fulfillment in riding horses, a true equestrian at heart. Justina



Justina Bolton

found solace and joy in riding horses. She possessed a deep passion for, and was an accomplished barrel racer, embracing the exhilaration of each race and inspiring those around her with skill and determination.

Justina Bolton will be fondly remembered by her family, friends, and colleagues for her selflessness, love, and dedication. Her legacy of service and compassion will continue to inspire and uplift those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

May her spirit forever ride on, carrying the love she shared with us all. Rest in peace, dear Justina Bolton. You will be dearly missed.

Justina was preceded in death by her brother, Phillip J. Brooks, Mitchell; daughter, Traci Monk, Madras; stepfather, James "Jim" Brooks, Mitchell; father, Rusty Cox, Prineville; uncles, James "JB" Cox, Prineville, and Alford Smith, Lowell.

Mitchell Sentinel

A Community Monthly

Issue #10

August 16, 2023

*****ECRWSS****

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SENIOR FRIDAY LUNCH

Senior Meals are served to the community every Friday at the Mitchell Community Hall - Dinner Bell rings around 12 Noon or soon after Dan Cannon arrives! (he usually gives the invocation)

MENU

August 18th	Meatloaf, Fruit/Vegetable, Dessert
August 25th	Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Fruit/Vegetable, Dessert
September 1st	CANCELLED
September 8th	Shepherd's Pie, Fruit/Vegetable, Dessert
September 15th	Clam Chowder, Fruit/Vegetable, Dessert

60 +
\$5.00



59 -
\$6.00

Everyone is WELCOME! Please Join us!

Thank you for your support!

The Mitchell Sentinel is a non-profit publication.

Any and all donations, big or small, are greatly appreciated!

Please make checks payable to Mitchell Sentinel.

Donations can be mailed to PO Box 312, Mitchell, OR

97750 or dropped off at the

Little Pine Lodge, 100 E. Main Street, Mitchell.

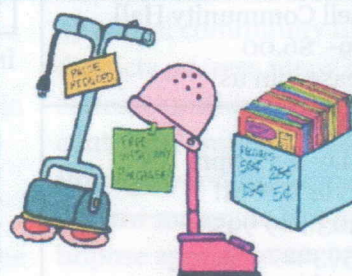
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MitchellSentinel.com

Editor/Publisher - Dajuana Dodd (541)462-3532

news@mitchellsentinel.com.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY
AUGUST 25TH-26TH



SIDEWALK SALE
in front of
JUDY'S PLACE
Main Street
Mitchell, Oregon



9AM until 4PM BOTH DAYS

Community Advertisement



Vintage AD