

THE NEIGHBORLY NEWS



WESTERN WELCOME NEIGHBORS
PO Box 386, Grants Pass, OR 97528

April 2026

Our website: WWNeighbors.org

WWN IS 40 YEARS OLD!
LETS CELEBRATE

Debra Wilson
Newsletter Editor
541-660-7040

debrawilsonwwn@gmail.com

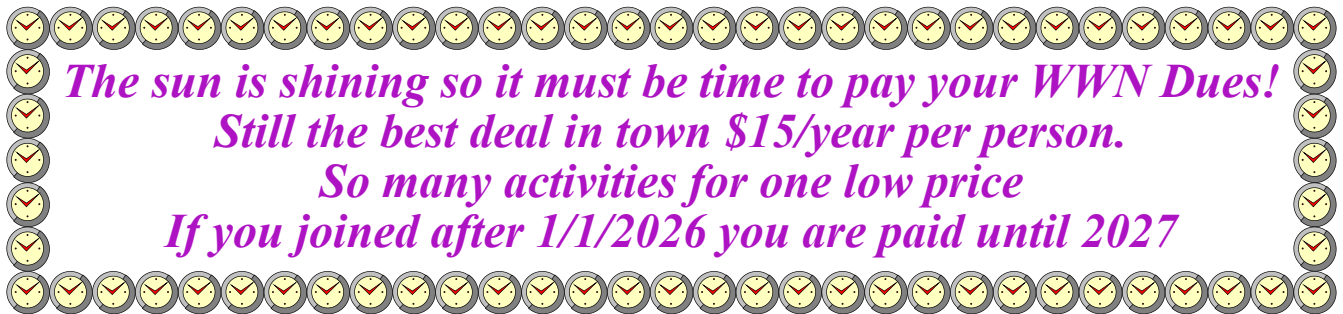
Starr Terra
President

starrterra4@gmail.com



Letter from the President April 2026

If you haven't been to **Shooting Star Nursery** yet, here is your chance! This is the place to go for flowers, trees and shrubs. They specialize in pollinators, water plants and natives. The staff are wonderful and can guide you to just what you need for that special place in your yard. They have wagons available to fill with your treasures. They are located at 3223 Taylor Road in Central Point, so carpooling will be available. We will be visiting this special nursery on **April 20th**. Sign up at the March general meeting or Call **Annette (541-815-1224)** to be added to the list.



The sun is shining so it must be time to pay your WWN Dues!
Still the best deal in town \$15/year per person.
So many activities for one low price
If you joined after 1/1/2026 you are paid until 2027



Launie Myers
Vice President

launiemyers@gmail.com

At our March regular meeting at the Fruitdale Grange I am excited to offer a presentation by our local Search and Rescue (SAR), thanks to member Paul Lonnquist. This will be so interesting to hear about all their endeavors with multiple teams (Mountain Rescue, Communications, K9, Rope, Diving, Snow, UAV and Mounted rescue)

Come with your questions and prepare to be impressed. We are so blessed with amazing SAR for our area.

10 am, March 31 Fruitdale Grange - come early to get a good seat and sign ups for all our events. See you there.



MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Bear Hotel

201 NE Spalding

12:30

April 8th & 22nd

**During May the game will be on
Fridays!**

May 1st & 29th

Bring your quarters, dominoes and racks!
All shared food must be commercially prepared.

Questions & RSVP

Sandy Antich

541-218-4015

sandygoing@hotmail.com



Barbara & Roger Strick



Brian Fritsen



Colleen Irons



LAUGHING CLAM

APRIL 7TH

NOON

121 SE G ST

**You MUST RSVP for Lunch the restaurant
needs to be prepared.**

Jan Kloes

541-862-2803

yngtrvlrs@aol.com

Book Lovers Unite!

We are a different type of Book Club, in that we each read our own chosen book, then come to the meeting, buy our own lunch and give a review of the book to the group. Sometimes the book is offered on loan or as a gift to anyone who wants it. We are part of the *Western Welcomes Neighbors* social group, and you must be a member (\$15/year) to attend on a regular basis.

Visitors are welcome!



Elmer's Restaurant

175 N Agness Ave

Grants Pass

Second Monday

of every month

at 12:30pm

**Please let Susan know if you will be coming so
she can reserve the space**

Susan Jaeger

541-582-8000

bizcoach8@hotmail.com

Paul & Linda Lonnquist
55 years together.



We all know Paul and Linda Lonnquist as 10-year members of WWN—and for connecting us with the Elks for our monthly card games. I’ve always enjoyed talking with them about travel; they’ve visited every continent except Antarctica, with trips to Africa and China among their favorites.

Recently, they celebrated an incredible milestone: **55 years of marriage**. This interview is about that journey—and what a story it is.

First Meeting

Paul was 23, attending the University of Kansas through the U.S. Navy, when a visit to family in Denver led to a blind double date with 19-year-old Linda. For Paul, it was love at first sight; Linda just giggled when asked about it. After that, Paul drove 440 miles every weekend from Lawrence, KC to Denver until they married in January 1971. One memorable date to Lookout Mountain included a bottle of Cold Duck that exploded at high altitude—leaving them soaked, laughing, and falling asleep until 5am! Linda’s father was waiting at the door in the morning. Paul didn’t stay for breakfast.

Early Years & Adventures

After a one-night honeymoon at The Broadmoor in Denver, they packed up Linda’s prized possessions—a sewing machine and a leather coat—and headed for life in Lawrence, KC—sharing an apartment with Paul’s two roommates. One of the roommates enjoyed sitting outside the bathroom door and chatting with Linda. Soon came moves to Pensacola, Florida, and then to Skaggs Island in San Francisco Bay, where their daughter Laura was born in 1972. In 1973, they moved to Italy, living off-base in a nearby village and forming lifelong friendships. In 1975, while pregnant with their second child and no nearby hospital, Linda spent six weeks alone in a hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany. Given only two Tylenol, Linda gave birth to their son Erik—who weighed in at 9 pounds, 13 oz. No family nearby, no support system—just strength and determinations. If you know Linda, though, you won’t be surprised to hear she made friends and made the best of it.

Returning stateside in 1976, they began what Paul calls their years as “white-collar migrant workers,” living in 13 locations before settling in 2015.

Careers & Strengths

Paul built a career in Aerospace engineering. Linda began as a secretary but quickly found her strength in sales, breaking barriers in a male-dominated field of aerospace sales before later becoming an insurance agent.

The Secret to 55 Years

When asked what they admire most about each other, Linda pointed to Paul’s drive to reach for a higher position with each move, while Paul praised Linda’s financial skills.

Their key daily habit? Eating dinner together. Simple—but powerful. They also value independence, with Linda playing bridge and Paul enjoying ham radio. Both stay active in the Elks with Paul taking on a leadership roll as Exalted Ruler this year.

As for small annoyances? Linda laughs about Paul turning off lights and closing doors behind her, while Paul teases about Linda moving his “stacks.” Like most couples, they’ve found humor in the little things.

Words of Wisdom

Their advice to newlyweds: decide what *style* of family you want to be. Talk about communication, parenting, and even simple routines like sharing meals.

Linda summed it up beautifully: “I’m the color to Paul’s black and white.”

And as Paul quietly shared, “It’s actually been pretty easy.” He was smitten from the start—and still is.

I truly enjoyed my time with Paul and Linda. I hope their story inspires a little reflection in your own relationships.

Each month I hope to bring you a bit of insight to some of our members. Debra Wilson, editor



Shooting Star Nursery

3223 Taylor Rd,
Central Point

April 20th 11:00

We will leave the
Applebees parking lot at
10:30 for those wanting
to carpool
Sign up at the March 30th
General Meeting or RSVP
Annette Schmidt
541-815-1224
heartrockschmidt@gmail.com

April Birthdays

Day Name

1 Sherrill Eads
4 Ed Agricola
8 Cathy Pallari
11 David Tyson
11 Linda Lonnquist
12 Mike McCartney
14 Jan Kloes
17 Darlene O'Dell
21 Sharon Kier
27 Lynn Montgomery



May Birthdays

Day Name

4 Steve Highley
6 Lee Wheeler
7 Lisa Acrea
8 Angie Sokol
8 Anne Grube
14 Brian Fritzen
12 Gail Reitz
12 Robert Lindberg
18 Helen Toth
20 Jan Bertaggia
20 Monica Stockton
29 Sharon Porner



Host, Jan Kloes



Annette Schmidt &
Terry Miller looking
over the craft area



Margee Wheeler,
photographer



Sandy Antich
(those grapes are
for everyone!),
Valerie Harlacher
and Anne Grube



Annette Schmidt



Barb Mahan,
Jan Kloes,
Sharon Porner,
Carol Whelan
enjoying the potluck



Anne Grube



Our February Meeting was about
the past of WVN. Answering
questions were Past Presidents
Nelson Maler, Paul Porner and Pat
Randall. Also Ann Barham, now
we just need to convince her to be
President!!



50/50



\$\$ WIN

Purchase your tickets at the registration area.
Ticket prices are 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, 5 for \$3
and 10 for \$5.

Tickets are drawn at the meeting and you could
go home a winner!

The total collected is divided 50% to the club
and the other 50% goes to the winning ticket
holder. If the pot is big enough we draw two
tickets!

February Winners were
Ann Barham & Terry O'Dell



HAND & FOOT, 5 CROWN, KINGS IN THE CORNER CARD GAMES

Elks Lodge
618 SE J Street, Grant Pass

1st & 3rd Thursdays

We start at **12:00 PM for LUNCH.**

We all must pay for our lunch in order to use the room to play cards. No pay—no play. Menu has many under \$10 items
Support and Elks and have fun too

Cash only

**April 2nd & 16th
May 7th & 21st**

**If you don't know how to play we'll
teach you. It's FUN! Come join us!**

Connie Hager (call or text) **541-218-2804**



3rd Monday of each month

Location is kept secret to avoid having
woman crash the party!

Contact Terry O'Dell for the monthly
location

503-812-0381

BOWLING

Good News from the Alley Cats!!
We gather at the tables in the area of lanes
4-8.

**Only \$3.00 a game and that
includes shoes and ball!**

Caveman Bowl

1230 Rogue River Highway

April 9th & 23rd

May 14th & 28th

**Practice starts at
9:45am**

Please RSVP

Any questions? Call or email Lynn Burke
541-244-8645
cherlynnb123@gmail.com



**DO YOU HAVE A
FAVORITE
RESTAURANT OR SOME-
PLACE YOU WANT TO
TRY?**

LET US KNOW!

We need space for a group of
10-30 people

Drop me an email with subject
"Lunch Bunch"

debrawilsonwn@gmail.com

Or text **541-660-7040**

Debra Wilson

DO YOU HAVE AN ACTIVITY
OUR GROUP MIGHT LIKE?
SOMEPLACE YOU'VE
WANTED TO GO?

LET US KNOW!

Drop me an email with subject
"Activity"
debrawilsonwn@gmail.com
Or text 541-660-7040
Debra Wilson



Back Porch Bar & Grill
605 N 5th St, Jacksonville



Beekman House
452 E California St

**Jacksonville Lunch and tour the
Beekman House
Saturday May 16th**

We will start off with lunch at 11:30 in
Jacksonville at the Back Porch Bar & Grill!
If you like BarBQ you will be very happy
after this stop!

After lunch we will travel a few blocks and
a few hundred years to tour the Beekman
House. It is a Victorian-era museum show-
casing the home of prominent pioneer
Cornelius C Beekman and his family,
furnished with original belongings.
Sign up at the March General Meeting 3/30
or

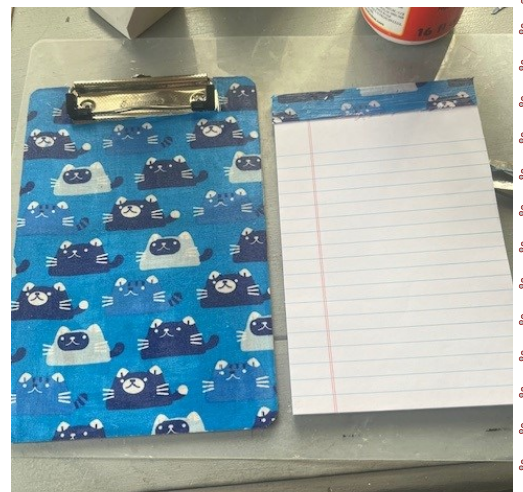
RSVP to Starr Terra
541-450-3784
starrterra4@gmail.com

CRAFTS @ CONNIES

On April 15th at 10:00 is crafts held at Connie's. We will be
making a decorated clip board with a matching note pad.
Nice to use at a meeting for notes or have by your front door
to leave a note. Makes a nice gift for a friend. Learn
something new & it's only \$10. Always a fun get together.
1255 Ironwood Dr. by the Sports park.

Connie Hager

Call **541-218-2804** to sign up or there will be a sign up sheet
at the general meeting.





WWN CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads are accepted only for member items or services.

Ads are \$3.00 (prepaid) for up to 25 words (\$5 for up to 50 words). Deadline is 10 days before the monthly Newcomers Meeting (last Tuesday of each month).
Business Card ads are \$36/6month

Ads may/may not require your name, phone number, address, description of the items for sale or wanted, price, condition of item or date of event.

WINDERMERE REAL ESTATE



Susan & Marian
Jaeger Szeu

CALL OR TEXT:

MARIAN:
541-778-3400

SUSAN:
541-582-8000

SUSANANDMARIAN@
GMAIL.COM

3/26



Launie Myers

Licensed Broker

CELL: 541-315-3385

Office: 541-476-6502

launiemyers@gmail.com

3/26
CENTURY 21

J.C. Jones American Dream

858 NW 6th St. Grants Pass, OR 97526



We treat you like family!



The Board for 2025-2026

Officers

President	Starr Terra
Vice-President	Launie Myers
Secretary	Sandy Antich
Treasurer	Diane Lewis
Auditor	Shireen Hartmann
Parliamentarian	Sandra Antich

Chairpersons

Activity Chairman	Annette Schmidt
Book Club	Susan Jaeger
Bowling	Lynn Burke
Calendar/Newsletter	Debra Wilson
Crafts	Connie Hager
Events	Sherrill Eads
Greeters/Hosts	Connie Hager
	Oleita Sanford
	Kathy Gray
Historian	Tom Wilson
Lunch Bunch	Jan Kloes
Membership	Sharon Kier
	Ann Barham
Policy & Procedures	OPEN
Publicity	Linda Angel
Ways and Means	Steve and Joan Knecht
Webmaster	Mark Simonds



Find us on:
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WWN's FACEBOOK QR CODE

