

Department of Oregon Award Winning Newsletter - Earle B Stewart American Legion Post 16



PO Box 1124 406 SE Oak Ave Roseburg, Oregon 97470 541-672-4392

January 2017

www.roseburglegionpost16.org/
Post website

Happy New Year

**Post Meeting
Begins at NOON on
Saturday
January 17th
Luncheon to
Follow**

Improvement noted locally in Roseburg

VA Roseburg's Secret Ratings Revealed

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The Department of Veterans Affairs has for years secretly rated its medical centers on a scale of one to five stars, with one star being the worst and five being the best. USA Today and Military Times has obtained internal documents listing the ratings and is publishing them for the first time. Searching the documents, the editor of the newsletter discovered local and regional results below.

The Department of Veterans Affairs maintains an internal star rating system for its medical centers based on their service quality, but officials argue they are for internal use only, according to the report published December 7, 2016.

The data released from those internal documents, which show the worst ranked centers are located in the south and southwest of the country. VA Medical centers in the Pacific Northwest aren't far behind the lowest rated VA's in the country.

After the release of this data, Jeff Miller, the Republican representative from Florida and chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said the VA should immediately

release all the ratings and data, because it's unacceptable that "VA officials often attempt to downplay and sometimes mislead the public about serious problems until it's too late."

The report shows that at the same time, veterans are experiencing higher rates of preventable complications during hospital stays, on average, than they did in 2014. Those on ventilators suffered more problems, such as catching pneumonia, and the rate of turnover for nurses has increased. The VA has also seen increases in the percentage of veterans who have to wait longer than 30 days for appointments when they are new patients. Overall, more than 500,000 veterans were still waiting longer than 30 days to be seen as of Nov. 15. More than 125,000 of them were waiting longer than two months, and 46,000 were waiting more than six months.

10 VA centers or systems received the one-star ratings as of June 30, 2016, one of them being right here in Southern Oregon, White City VA Rehabilitation Center & Clinic in White City, Oregon, the 2nd worst in the Nation out of the 146 VA medical facilities. Over Page 2



**Douglas County Veterans Forum
Meeting open to all Veterans Tuesday
January 17th 5pm @ the Post**

VA Secret Ratings

Those within our region fared with the following ratings: VA Roseburg Healthcare System, a two-star rating, 14th out of 146. Our primary Medical facility, VA Portland Healthcare System came in with a two-star rating. Portland claimed the 40th ranking out of the 146 facilities. Other notables in our Network include Alaska VA Healthcare System with a two-star 17th worst rating, and VA Puget Sound HCS at 44. Boise VA Healthcare System got the highest in the Nation with a 5 star rating.

The rating system showed that VA Roseburg has significant improvements, a one star in the past, a two star rating now and is nearly at a three star rating.

Much of this improvement can be attributed to the new Director Douglas Paxton. Director Paxton has brought in new leadership and has shown with example what true leadership looks like and how to apply positive changes.

At a recent Douglas County Veterans Forum meeting, Paxton was quoted as saying "it's still going to take a whole lot of work by the VA and help from the Veteran Service organizations".

Post Adjutant and Service Officer Record TV Interview

[Television Interview link](#)



L-R—Bud Bessey, Larry Hill, and Tyler Jones sit for interview

Post Adjutant Larry Hill and Service Officer Bud Bessey sat down with KEZI-TV news reporter Tyler Jones at the Post and talked about the last VA Roseburg Town Hall meeting. Other than normal issues at the VA, both Hill and

Bessey told Jones they have seen major improvements at the Center. They cite the leadership of Director Doug Paxton who took over a little over a year ago. "This is a far improvement over the past administration" Bessey told KEZI.

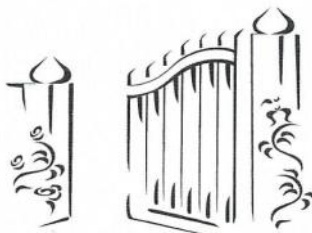
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"Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other is gold."



DOUGLAS COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Every Monday, 10am - New Claim sign-up

Mondays, 1pm-4pm - Walk-in

Tuesday thru Thursday, 8:30am-4pm - By appointment only

Friday - Closed

(541) 440-4219

1036 SE Douglas Ave, Room 8

(800) 224-1619 x4219

Douglas County Courthouse

Fax: (541) 440-6166

Roseburg, OR 97470-3090

Email: veterans@co.douglas.or.us

Blog: www.douglascvso.com

www.co.douglas.or.us/veterans



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION Branch 328

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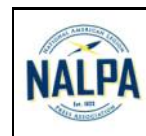
Meetings Held 2nd Thursday 1300 @ Dianne's Deli

For information call: 541.863.3144

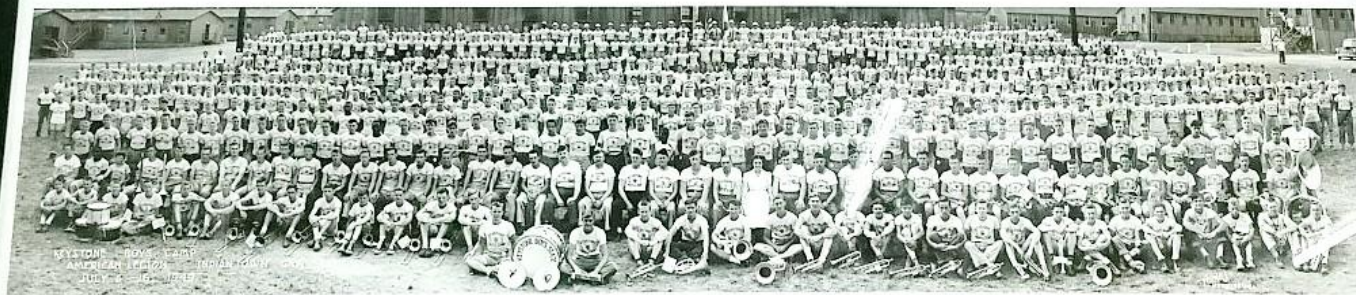
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Press Association—NALPA



Fort Indiantown Gap



Picture of Ft Indiantown Gap "Keystone Boys Camp" of the American Legion dated July 6-16 1949

The picture was donated to the Post by Post member Mark Long, who attended the 2nd Annual Pennsylvania Boys State and is pictured in this historic photo. Fort Indiantown Gap a former US Army Post is located in Lebanon County Pennsylvania, now serves as an active National Guard Training center. The frame and mounting was donated to the Post by Jim and Ann Barnett.

The picture is hanging on the wall in the main meeting room with other historical photos.

Wreath's Across America



The annual Wreath's Across America Ceremony took place at the Roseburg National Cemetery on Saturday December 17th. Pictured (Top) are two presenters, carrying a wreath and (left) Keynote speaker 1st LT John McDonald, US Army National Guard. The event was attended in bitter cold by approximately 100 people.

Arrest made by RPD

Security Camera Records Garbage Thief & Drug Deal



With the security system online and recording all activity in and around the building, this incident was caught on camera in an early December morning. Post Officers showed up on a Monday morning and found that the trash had been gone through and small amounts left on the ground that had to be cleaned up. A check of the recording and this person was observed pedaling up on a bicycle with a trailer attached, opening the can and pulling out the trash bags. With no major damage caused we let it pass, but we do know what the perpetrator looks like, and the bicycle and trailer they ride.

see Security on page 4



Annual Post Everlasting Ceremony

A Post Everlasting Ceremony will be held at the regularly scheduled meeting on Saturday, 14 January 2017 at noon.

The draping of the charter to honor our comrades who have gone on is performed on as needed basis at each scheduled meeting. However, the Post Everlasting Ceremony is held on an annual basis to honor all our comrades at arms who were members of Post 16 who went ahead during calendar year 2016. Taps will be played along with the reading of their names as we honor 19 members with a combined total of 324 membership years. The most senior had 32 years and there was a member with one year.

While short in duration the Ceremony is dignified, sad and yet congratulatory to our comrades because they are now transferred to Post Everlasting.

I believe that this is a fitting end to 2016 and an auspicious beginning for 2017. The books have been closed, our members have transferred and they are holding a place for us in Post Everlasting.

It is my hope that attendance will be high for this Ceremony. The Executive Committee are looking forward to seeing you there.

Legionally yours,

Larry Hill, Adjutant

F-4 Phantom Makes Final Flight

The US Air Force made its final flight of the iconic F-4 Phantom on December 21. Introduced in the late 50's, it was a primary combat aircraft in Vietnam flown by the Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Middle East service in the 90's during the Gulf War saw the Phantom II serving with the Israeli Air Force.

It was also flown by the Iranian Air Force before the revolution. F-4's in Vietnam claimed 164.5 kills.



McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II

Continued from page 3

Security Camera

Another incident was observed when Post JAG officer Doug Page showed up at the Post and found a man passed out along the back fence. Wasting no time, JAG Officer Page called the Roseburg PD and reported that someone had defecated on

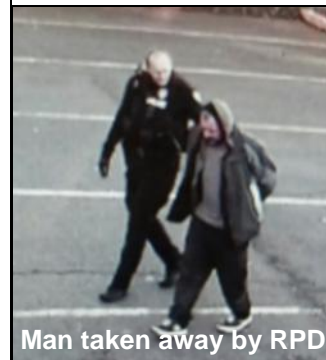
the side of the building and was passed out in the parking lot.



Man handcuffed by RPD

The video surveillance shows on Dec 25 two

people walking to the back of the parking lot, a man and a woman. The man urinates on the fence, then shortly there after



Man taken away by RPD

another camera records a drug dealer meeting the man next to the garbage can as they exchange money for drugs.

The next series of video show

the man and woman engage in drug use, and the paraphernalia being dumped in the garbage can.

Following that incident the man passes out by the back fence for over two hours after the woman leaves. That is when Doug Page drives up and sees the man passed out and calls the RPD.

The next series of video shows the man getting up, caught in the act of urinating in public as RPD walks up. The man is arrested, handcuffed and hauled off.

The Post will turn over video if requested to the police so they can ID the drug dealer and aid in his conviction.



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1st Vice



Rick Sciapiti

Steve Bergadine

2nd Vice

Adjutant

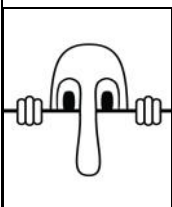


Mike Harper

Larry Hill

Finance Officer

Chaplain



Kilroy



Ted Blann

Sgt. At Arms

Service Officer



Bob Smith

Bud Bessey

Historian

JAG



Kirk Conner

Doug Page

membership update

District 9 Leads Department in Renewals

1st Vice Commander Steve Bergadine is reporting that at the time of this publication, the Post is sitting at 74% of renewals.

We don't have to tell you what it means to belong to the nation's largest veteran organization, but we will. The mission of the Legion began in 1919 as a patriotic organization. As in our constitution the organization is devoted to mutual helpfulness. We are dedicated to mentoring youth with our Oratorical Programs, and Boys and Girls State. Earle B Stewart along with hundreds of other Posts that support local American Legion Baseball.

Our Post provides funding

through trusts and fund raisers to these programs, which makes your membership vital to the success of these endeavors.

Finally The American Legion is the largest Veteran advocate lobby at our Nations Capitol. The legislative work being done in behalf of the Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs is vital to secure healthcare and benefits for future generations of veterans.

If you haven't sent in your \$40 renewal, please do so.

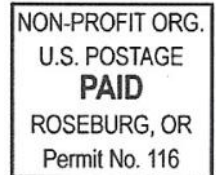
You can renew in person at the Post Monday or Friday 12-3, mail it in, or go online to the national site. [\(Renew\)](#)

River Rises by the Legion Building



Roseburg and Douglas County experienced a winter blast that caused power outages and dropped nearly 4 inches of rain in one day. Coupled with many days of measureable rainfall the South Umpqua River in front of the Post rose danger close to flood stage. Pictured from the Post parking lot (above) is the Washington St bridge with the high water in the S. Umpqua.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 16
PO BOX 1124
ROSEBURG, OR 97470





Post Meeting @ Noon Saturday January 14, 2017



January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day	2 Post Open 1-3	3	4 American Legion Post 62 7:30 PM Senior Center	5	6 Post Open 1-3	7
8	9 Post Open 1-3 American Legion Post 152 3:30pm Oakland City Hall	10 American Women Veterans Association 5PM @ the Post	11	12	13 Post Open 1-3	14 Post Meeting NOON
15	16  Post Open 1-3 MLK Birthday	17 DCVF Meeting 5pm @ the Post	18	19 MOPH 539 4PM @the Post Legion Post 123 6 PM Vets Mem. Hall Tri-City	20 Post Open 1-3	21
22	23 Post Open 1-3	24	25	26	27 Post Open 1-3	28
29	30 TET 1968  Post Open 1-3	31				