

National expert on grafting vegetables to be in GP

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

Harry Olson, formerly of Grants Pass, is one of the country's experts on grafting vegetables.

"I am a grafted vegetable evangelist," Olson says by phone. He's between teaching classes somewhere in Washington state and waiting for his wife to come out of a quilt shop.

On Saturday, he'll bring his show on the road to Grants Pass to teach two classes for the Josephine County Master Gardeners.

The Gardening with Grafted Vegetables class is from 1 to 4 p.m. and he'll talk about another passion, "vertical gardening," which allows gardeners to grow more in a smaller area, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Both classes are at the Oregon State University Extension Service auditorium at 215 Ringuette St. They each cost \$10 (\$5 for Master Gardeners) and signups are required by calling 541-476-6613 or stopping by the OSU Extension office.

Olson directed the probation and parole office for the state of Oregon in Grants Pass for about 15 years. His parents retired to the Williams area "and eventually we all ended up in the area."

He moved to Salem in 1996 for a different job and retired there "and had time for my real passion — gardening — and became



Harry Olson places extra large tomato cages in his garden for his grafted vegetables. Olson, an expert in grafted vegetables, will be teaching a workshop on it Saturday.

a Master Gardener."

Grafted vegetables are the hot topic for home gardeners these days, Olson says. "Year after year it's growing in popularity."

The idea is similar to grafting trees — choose a root stock that has "extraordinary vigor, extraordinary productiveness and extraordinary disease resis-

tance," Olson says.

"The grafted roots are at least 10 or more times larger than the regular roots," he says.

Then you graft a favorite veggie on top of the roots "to whole new levels," he says. "Typically you get two to 10 times the fruit on a grafted versus an ungrafted" plant.

Many types of vegetables have been tried, but some of the first trials have been with tomatoes.

He grew a Sweet Million cherry tomato plant with grafted roots that had 1,000 tomatoes on it at any given time.

"One really interesting thing is they produce at least a month longer than a regular tomato," he says. "It's almost like, if you could create a wish list for how you'd like a tomato to be, that's basically what a grafted tomato is. So very extraordinary."

Olson has a PowerPoint presentation "with beautiful pictures that stir the hearts of gardeners."

"I'm going to cover the history, which is very brief — I mean in 2011 they became available to all gardeners. And I did the original trials."

Now peppers, eggplant, melons and cucumbers have all been tested successfully and are available at some nurseries.

Olson also worked on the melon trials, using the Salem Master Gardener demonstration garden. He says the trials were

Get growing

- **WHAT:** Gardening with Grafted Vegetables workshop
- **WHO:** Taught by grafting expert Harry Olson of Salem
- **WHERE:** Oregon State University Extension Service Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass
- **WHEN:** Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
- **COST:** \$10 for the public; \$5 for Master Gardeners
- **SIGN UP:** 541-476-6613
- **ALSO:** Olson is also teaching a class on vertical gardening Saturday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Also \$10.

encouraging for an environment where melons don't grow well, due to the Willamette Valley's weather.

In the test for the grafted melons, "we grew Crimson Sweets and Ali Baba's just like they do in Hermiston," Olson says, with more than a little excitement in his voice.

While he notes that Grants Pass has excellent weather for growing compared to other places he's visited like Astoria or Spokane, he says gardeners everywhere can benefit from grafted vegetables.

He'll discuss grafting and how it's done, but also notes that our local Grange Co-op is now selling grafted vegetables.

Briefly

Scandinavians will celebrate Swedish Night

The Scandinavian Heritage Club celebrates Swedish Night at its next meeting, 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Grants Pass Masonic Center, at Third and E streets.

The program will be on glass making.

Anyone interested in Scandinavian countries is welcome to attend.

Direct questions to Esther Snyder at 541-476-6161.

Fleet Reserve potluck moved up to March 8

The Fleet Reserve Association's Caveman Branch is moving its monthly potluck dinner meeting to a different day for this month only.

The monthly gathering will be on March 8 at the Redwood Grange, 1830 Redwood Ave., with a potluck at 5:30 p.m. followed by a meeting.

The group usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings will go back to the regular schedule in April.

Fleet Reserve Association members include veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines and Coast Guard.

For more, contact Nick Peters at 541-660-6842.

3 free estate planning seminars in March

The Salvation Army is hosting three free estate planning seminars in Southern Oregon. The public is invited to attend and learn about how to start the process of creating a personal will, trust and bequest for family, friends and loved ones.

Participants will hear from estate planning professionals about why they should have a current or valid will. They will also learn how to take advantage of generous tax deductions.

The following seminars are planned:

- March 13, Roseburg Corps multi-purpose room, 3130 N.E. Stephens St. in Roseburg. 541-672-6581.

- March 20, Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, 1357 Redwood Circle, Grants Pass. 541-441-0575.

- March 21, Medford Citadel multi-purpose room, 304 Beatty St. in Medford. 541-773-6965 ext. 102.

Coffee and tea will be served from 9:45 to 10 a.m. at all three events. Each seminar begins at 10 a.m. and lasts for two hours.

Although the events are free, it is asked that people interested in participating make a reservation by calling the local numbers listed above, or 1-800-481-3280.

Democrats to hear from 'Rogue Indivisible'

David Smith, a founder of Rogue Indivisible, is scheduled to speak at the March 14 meeting of Josephine County Democrats.

The meeting is being held at 129 N.W. E St. in downtown Grants Pass.

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting start time set for 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

Newly organized Rogue Indivisible includes former members of Three Rivers Progressive Action Caucus and Feminists of Southern Oregon. Its goals include grassroots organizing, equal rights and civil discourse.

Josephine County Democrat Central Committee Chairman Howard Owens says one focus of the committee is resistance to Republican policies "set to slide through Congress in the coming months."

For information, call 541-450-9560.

Rogue River poker walk fundraiser coming up

The fifth annual "Save the Boobies Green Beer Poker Walk" is scheduled for March 11 at Cattlemen's Saloon in Rogue River. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with the last person due in by 5 p.m. First poker hand is \$25, couples \$35, extra hands \$10.

The price includes a corned beef and cabbage meal, live and silent auctions, raffles, 50/50 and live music. Proceeds to benefit the Connie Fiske Memorial Foundation. Cattlemens is at 108 Depot Street. For more information contact via email at fuze@bfmc45.com.

IV Fire District board seats up for election

CAVE JUNCTION — The filing deadline for three open positions on the Illinois Valley Fire District board is March 16.

The positions are up for election on May 16, with winners seated for four-year terms beginning in July. So far no one has filed.

Applications are available at district headquarters, 681 Caves Highway in Cave Junction, or online at co.josephine.or.us.

Animal advisory group to discuss hoarding

The Josephine County Animal Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday to hear presentations about hoarding and relocating animals in a disaster.

Also on the agenda is continued discussion about updating the county animal ordinance, which has not changed in 20 years. The committee has been discussing changes for a year.

The meeting is scheduled to get underway at 5:15 p.m. in the conference room at Josephine County Public Health, 715 N.W. Dimmick St. For information, call 541-474-5238.

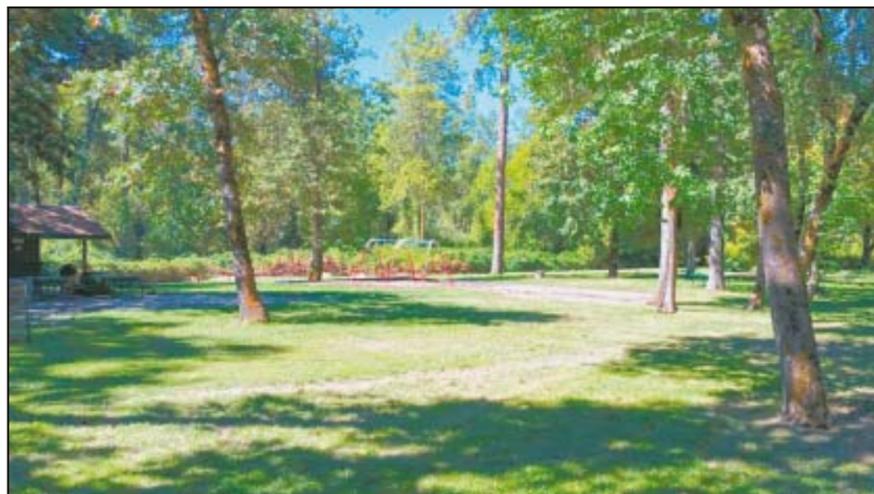
Kindergarten registration event is Thursday

Grants Pass School District is hosting Kindergarten Launch, the district's annual kindergarten registration event, on Thursday at 6 p.m. There will be Kindergarten Launch sessions at each of the district's six elementary schools, with each hosting an orientation program for parents and children.

The district requires that kindergarten students be 5 years old on or before Sep. 1. Required documents to register a child for kindergarten include a birth certificate, proof of residency and immunization records. Parents still waiting for the necessary documents are still encouraged to attend a Kindergarten Launch session.

Those unable to attend Kindergarten Launch can still stop by any of the Grants Pass School District elementary schools or complete online registration for their child.

For more information, call the Grants Pass School District main office at 541-474-5700.



Photos courtesy Josephine County Parks Department

Whitehorse Park, developed in 1956, is Josephine County's oldest county park, and it's showing its age. It still has great river access but its infrastructure is in need of upgrades and renovation. Improvements would help attract visitors, pay expenses and help the economy.

County seeking letters of support for Whitehorse Park improvements

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

The public is being asked to submit letters of support for improvements to Josephine County's Whitehorse Park, located about 7 miles west of Grants Pass and along the Rogue River.

Engineering work is underway for improvements at the 60-year-old park — the county's oldest — but money is needed to actually pay for the work.

Letters of support could help the county land a state grant that would pay for some of the work, according to Sarah Wright, director of Josephine County Parks. The deadline to apply is April 1.

"We would love a letter of support," Wright told members of the county's parks advisory board on Tuesday.

The park is showing its age. A master plan done three years ago calls for new bathrooms, showers, electrical work, water system upgrades and road improvements.

In particular, the improvements would make the park more RV-friendly. An upper section of the park right now is tent-camping only.

Parks board Chairman Doug Richardson believes that improvements will attract more visitors, which in turn helps pay expenses and helps the economy. As with the county fairgrounds, the county parks department is a self-sustaining operation.

"You've got the river right there," Richardson said. "That's what brings in the tourism."

The park's location is just upstream from the mouth of the Applegate River, and is a favorite bird-watching site, according to Wolf Creek resi-

dent Boyd Peters, a member of the Siskiyou Audubon Society. The group holds an annual gathering at the park.

"It's the place to visit for every birder in the Northwest," Peters said after Tuesday's meeting. "Whitehorse Park is our favorite Park."

Jon Bowen, tourism consultant for the City of Grants Pass, was in attendance and agreed that park improvements would help attract visitors.

"It has a lot of potential, but it's being underserved," he said.

Bowen asked if the county was interested in leasing the park to a concessionaire who would manage it, but Wright preferred to keep it a county operation. Park hosts currently stay in their own RVs at the park, which is maintained by county employees and volunteers.

The park is located at 7613 Lower River Road, next to the Whitehorse Country Store & RV Village, and adjacent to Bureau of Land Management property along the river. The BLM has plans for walking trails there, according to Wright.

Engineering work currently underway is costing \$56,000, which is being funded by Oregon Lottery economic development funds and by park user fees. The grant Wright is seeking for improvements might be close to \$500,000.

Comments may be sent via email to parks@co.josephine.or.us or by letter to 125 Ringuette St., Grants Pass, 97527.

For information, call 541-474-5285. The county parks website is at co.josephine.or.us.

Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3722 or shall@thedailycourier.com.

Vietnam veterans sought for book

Vietnam veterans interested in being included in a Vietnam commemorative book have just about two weeks to get involved.

The book, "Josephine County, Oregon, Vietnam Veteran Honor Roll," is being compiled by the Applegate Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Organizers hope that all veterans of that war, who were born, raised or ever lived in Josephine County, will be listed in the book.

Chairman Diana Hale says that number is just over 550 now.

"The most challenging part of the project has been to collect the same information on our deceased vets that we have on our living ones," Hale says.

Veterans, or representatives, are asked to submit the veteran's name, dates and branch of service and occupation while in Vietnam and what part of the country they served in. Photos are welcome, but not necessary.

Submissions must be received by March 15 in order to be included in the book.

Relay that information to Hale at diana.hale69@gmail.com or send it to her at 236 Hansen Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

Or, call her at 541-450-4814.

Each veteran's family will receive one free book when it's completed, Hale says.

Hale's other challenge has been raising funds to publish the book. Costs so far have been supported by the Applegate Trail DAR members, Vietnam veterans and local military organizations.

Businesses or groups interested in helping support the project, should contact Hale.

Obituaries

Billy J Wright

Billy J. Wright, 90, of Grants Pass died Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, at Laurel Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Terrie N. West

Terrie N. West, 70, of Grants Pass died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at home. Arrangements are pending with Chapel of the Valley-L.B. Hall Funeral Home.

Laurie K. Stewart

Laurie K. Stewart, 53, of Grants Pass died on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Mar. 4, 2017, at 10 a.m. at Chapel of the Valley-L.B. Hall Funeral Home.

Teri Nielsen-MacDougall

Teri C. Nielsen-MacDougall, 68, of Rogue River died Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, at home. Arrangements with Stephens Family Chapel.

To place an obituary, call Tamara Stuebing or Caroline Pitts at 541-471-7702 or email obits@thedailycourier.com

Police

Grants Pass police

Someone entered an unlocked car inside a garage and stole CDs and a back brace, in the 1900 block of Kelly Way, Monday night. Spray paint cans were also stolen from the garage.

An elderly man wearing no shoes was seen walking along Williams Highway at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, near Curtis Drive. Deputies contacted the man and took him to his son's house, where he had been staying.

Lanette Denise Poteat, 62, Grants Pass, was taken to jail at 3:38 a.m. today after creating a disturbance in the emergency room at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center. She had been released from jail on Tuesday afternoon, and created a disturbance in the jail parking lot. Her charge is criminal

trespass.

Nicholas Adam Patton, 27, Rogue River, was jailed on warrants for felon in possession of a weapon, unlawful possession of a machine gun, short barreled shotgun or silencer, and meth possession, after an arrest at 8:20 a.m. Tuesday at Wal-Mart, 135 N.E. Terry Lane.

Josephine County Sheriff's Office

A 1998 Volkswagen Golf got taken for a joyride after it was left idling but unattended at the Merlin Ray's Market about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The car was later found down an embankment along the Rogue River at Stratton Creek below Hellgate Bridge, about five miles away.

A black truck ran a red light

at the intersection of Monument Drive and Merlin Road, struck another vehicle, then took off, at 2:43 p.m. Tuesday. No one was injured.

Oregon State Police

Christopher Michael Tyscka, 37, Grants Pass, was jailed on parole violation charges, after OSP contacted him in the vicinity of 1500 South Side Road at 7:19 a.m. Tuesday. He was reportedly trespassing.

Jade Charleton Yandell, 27, Cave Junction, faces DUII charges after rolling his car in the 500 block of Waters Creek

Road, in the Wonder area, at 2:08 a.m. today. Yandell and his passenger were both taken to Asante Three Rivers Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. At the hospital, Yandell became combative and had to be sedated. He will be cited for additional unnamed crimes, according to OSP.

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