

Green and solar tour great success

BY TOM CARSTENS

Applegate Valley's first solar home tour in 22 years was, by all accounts, a great success. The sold-out tour took place on a rainy Saturday, October 4. Two buses transported more than 100 participants to three solar homes and two businesses in the valley. The homes included the 12 year-old Everson off-grid earth berm home, the Adams' brand new grid-tied Energy Star solar home with a ton of energy-saving features, and the Carstens' two year-old award-winning EarthAdvantage home. The businesses included the Conner Vinery, which powers a portion of its pumps and equipment from solar energy, and the Wooldridge Creek Winery, which makes excellent use of passive solar construction to keep power bills low.

An organized tour at each site was conducted by each of the homeowners and the contractors who helped them put in their systems. Banking, design, real estate, and tax experts also were on hand to help out. Tour patrons, most of whom were from the Applegate Valley, said they really appreciated the opportunity to learn about the variety of systems, green measures, and tax breaks that are becoming increasingly available to the

average homeowner now. All participants received a complimentary tote bag filled with a variety of literature to take with them to augment what they learned on the tour. Everyone said that they felt they received excellent value for their ten-dollar ticket.

It wasn't all work. Delicious box lunches were provided by Eve's Cafe. At the end of the tour, the sun came out and everyone enjoyed relaxing and talking at the winery. Wine was provided by Wooldridge and broker Yolanda Haynes contributed delicious food prepared by Jacksonville Inn. The tour could not have taken place without the active participation by GACDC volunteers and a host of others who helped usher patrons and keep things on track for this action-packed event.

Tour organizers already are planning another great tour for the Applegate Valley and possibly the Williams Valley for next year. These tours are in conjunction with the state and national tours that all happen at the same time. If you have a green and solar home that you'd like to show next fall, please give me a call. When we get the word out, people see that going green and solar makes great sense.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



Above—Eric Hansen from Electron Connection explains solar installation at the Adams home. Photo: Tom Carstens

Below—Cecile Everson explains details about the construction of her interesting home on Sterling Creek. Photo: Linda Pinkham



J'Ville Tails

Pet Boutique & Supplies

PET SUPPLIES & BOUTIQUE SHOPPING IN HISTORIC JACKSONVILLE

Featuring:

Premium Natural Dog & Cat Foods from Merrick and Wellness
Frozen Raw Chicken, Beef and Bison from Kristi's of Azalea, Oregon
Locally Made Pet Treats and Baked Goods

Gift Items • Toys • Clothes • Puppia Soft Harnesses
Collars & Leashes • Grooming Products • Greeting Cards
Posters • Home Decor • Bird Feeders and Seed

Store Hours:
Monday 10am - 6pm • Tuesday through Sunday 11am - 5pm

Location:
150 S. Oregon Street • Jacksonville, Oregon 97530 • 541-899-9508
Located in Historic Jacksonville in the Orth Building below La Fiesta Restaurant

(541) 846-0540

APPLEGATE PLUMBING L.L.C.

David & Valerie Kennedy
1055 Thompson Creek Road
Applegate, Oregon 97530
applegateplumbing@snbb.net CCB# 175451

LEHI

PUMP SERVICE, INC

Pumps, Pressure tanks, flow testing & etc...

Selling, Installing, & Servicing
..Water Well Systems for over 25 years..

474-0752 or 846-6662

Ron, Jody and Dustin Hill ccb#96496

JIM BOTTROFF

BOTTROFF

EXCAVATION

15855 Hwy 238
GRANTS PASS OR, 97527
CCB # 180578

CELL 541.218.3907
OFFICE 541.846.7750
FAX: 541.846.7550
JAMESBOTTROFF@AOL.COM

THE LODGE AT PANTHER SPRINGS

688 PANTHER GULCH ROAD
WILLIAMS, OR 97544
PHONE/FAX: 541 846 6671
www.thelodgeatpanthersprings.com

Bed and Breakfast, Weddings, Seminars, Retreats, Reunions

CCB#177466
NV 42066
CA 809835

ACTION ELECTRIC

Industrial • Commercial • Residential
Design Build

Paul Crean

575 Thompson Creek Rd. Phn: 541-846-6440
Jacksonville, OR 97530 Cell: 541-415-1081
paul.actionelectric@yahoo.com Fax: 866-329-8339

Quality is doing the job right the first time.

ORL #000130

Nancy S. Fleischman

Residential Real Estate Appraiser

Specializing in Urban to Rural
1-4 Units Residences
Land, Manufactured Homes

P.O. Box 3274 • Applegate, OR. 97530
(541) 846-0230 • Fax (541) 846-0339