

Applegate winners (again!) at Smoked Salmon Festival

BY PAUL TIPTON

Pleasant fall weather was the order of the day at this year's Southern Oregon Smoked Salmon Festival on September 23, held as before at Medford's Pear Blossom Park. This year a panel of five judges chose first-, second-, and third-place winners, and event attendees voted for the People's Choice Award.

Once again, the Applegate was well represented in the winners' list. Mike Gervais, from the Upper Applegate, who won first place in 2016, was given the People's Choice Award. In the judged competition, Luke Grimm, of Portland, won top honors (after placing in previous contests). Second place was awarded to Cyn Torp and the Applegate Country Club in Applegate, while third place went to Todd Wolgamot of Central Point. Congratulations to all of them! (The author didn't even place, but had a good time anyhow.)

Only nine contestants took up the challenge this year, making it necessary for the tasting public to get there early to sample the offerings. As usual, though, a large crowd came out for the event, and the tastings were supplemented by smoked salmon from several local vendors. Adult beverages flowed, live music resounded, the sun shone, and there was plenty of smoked salmon to sample. Who could ask for more?



Cyn Torp, owner of Applegate Country Club, displays her winnings for placing second in this year's Smoked Salmon Festival.

The festival, of course, is a major fundraiser for the Maslow Project of Jackson and Josephine Counties, which supports homeless youth in our area in a variety of ways, making sure their basic needs are met. Thanks to the support of a large number of sponsors, as well as the contestants, who provided the best smoked salmon possible, the group raised nearly \$28,000 at this year's event.

Fans of smoked salmon should consider firing up their smokers and entering next year or simply come out to taste the best smoked salmon around while supporting a valuable nonprofit organization doing good things for kids who need help.

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Community website update

We are making progress! Our plan is to have the Applegate Valley Connect (AVC) website completely functional at the end of January 2018. In the meantime, visit applegateconnect.org to see what we've done so far. You can also do the following right now:

- **Register** and log in.
- **Post** your events on the calendar.
- **Add** your information to the directory of local businesses and service organizations.

Here are some additional features that will be available in early 2018:

- **Community projects.** Learn about projects of interest to the public and submit your own community projects.
- **News and Stories.** Read about local organizations and submit your organization's news and stories.

The intent of this new community website is to become the primary connection and source of information about what's going on, where you can find services, and who's doing what throughout the Applegate Valley.

Thank you to The Ford Family Foundation and Community Systems, LLC, for their ongoing support of this project.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email gater@applegater.org.

Note: Effective December 1, 2017, the *Applegater's* calendar of events will be transferred to the calendar on AVC. The *Applegater's* Facebook page will be accessible through the AVC website too.

WANTED Ad representative for Josephine County.

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Must know Excel and be able to meet deadlines.
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Gentle Heart Animal Advocacy. A new local nonprofit organization, Gentle Heart was founded by RiverSong Sanctuary helper Chris Fifield "to be a support system and advocate for all animals in our community and region." Chris says cats are the species especially at risk. Through donations by the community, Gentle Heart Animal Advocacy helps to create multiple animal sanctuary spaces and foster homes, coordinates and provides spaying and neutering of feral cat populations, and helps pay for emergency medical care for animals. To donate, go to gentleheartanimaladvocacy.org/donate. For other ways to help, call Chris at 541-450-1669. 3600 Cedar Flat Road, Williams • gentleheartanimaladvocacy.org.

Onyx Restaurant. Nestled in the carriage house of the Nunan Estate in Jacksonville, Onyx Restaurant offers an eclectic menu, with classics like burgers and steaks, as well as some creative Asian-influenced dishes like shrimp pad Thai and fried rice. There are small, medium, and large plates with a variety of flavors sure to please any palate. Chef and owner Mario Chavez, a veteran of the southern Oregon food scene, has worked all over the valley, including at a restaurant that used to be in the Nunan Estate. The elegant location made such an impression on Mario that when it was time to open his own restaurant he chose the Nunan Estate. Onyx has an open kitchen, surrounded by the onyx counter for which the restaurant is named. Diners can watch the magic of their meal being cooked, sit in the beautiful bar or dining room, or take in spectacular views from the patio.



We were delighted with our meals and can't wait to return for another Onyx experience. Tuesdays - Saturdays, 4 to 9 pm • 635 N Oregon Street, Jacksonville • 541-702-2700 • onyxjvilleor.wixsite.com/onyx.

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Rebel Heart Books. Rebel Heart Books brings the dream of owning a bookstore to fruition for proprietor Eileen Bobeck. A writer and former ER doctor, Eileen finds excitement as a business owner, without the life-and-death drama of the emergency room. The inviting environment of Rebel Heart Books beckons you in from California Street. Peruse interesting selections or special order almost anything. Check out their website for special events like book readings and book clubs. Open every day from 10 am to 6 pm. 157 W California Street, Jacksonville • 541-702-2665 • rebelheartbooks.com.



Suzanne E. Sky, L.Ac., MTOM. Suzanne is expanding her Ashland-based acupuncture and Chinese medicine practice to offer her services several days a week at Jacksonville Chinese Medicine. Practicing since 1989, Suzanne integrates gentle acupuncture with nutritional and herbal medicine to support wellness and healing from stress, injury, and pain. Some of her specialties are women's health, digestive issues, mental and emotional issues, supportive cancer care, and healthy aging. Voted one of Ashland's best acupuncturists since 2004. 235 W Main Street, Jacksonville • 541-887-7742 • ashlandacup.com. (See Suzanne's ad on page 16.)

Time Machine Records and Boutique. Time Machine Records and Boutique specializes in vinyl records of every genre, from underground to classics. Owner Jessie Ostreicher not only buys and sells record collections but he also stocks his shop with vintage clothing, art, and other interesting creations by local artists. In addition, Time Machine Records hosts special events like live music. And, because the Speakeasy Taproom and Wine Bar share the same building, event attendees can even enjoy a cold beer or glass of wine. Check out their new stock and upcoming events on Facebook at Facebook.com/Timemachinevinyl. Open Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12 to 6 pm • 208 NW 6th Street, Grants Pass • 541-292-8186 • timemachinerecords.com.

