

Local artist contributes to Healing Reins

Horses have been discovered to have a very special gift. They can help people who are physically and emotionally injured to heal. There are some things that only a horse can do.

If you have lost the use of your legs, you may be fitted with prosthetic replacements, but as good as they can be, there is always discomfort when you wear them. A horse gives you legs that let you fly over the ground. You can find a freedom with a horse that is beyond anything you imagined when you were first injured.

If you are emotionally scarred by war or abuse, you'll never be able to fully function in society until you are able to overcome the deep, often hidden, fear that can choke your social adjustment. A horse will help you overcome that fear as no other counselor or program can do. In Colorado, a prison has been using violent inmates to gentle wild American horses. The result of this collaboration between the BLM and the prison system has produced the most successful inmate rehabilitation program in the country.

Healing Reins, in Bend, is a non-profit organization which offers horse therapy to the public. This growing industry is a natural for Central Oregon, and Healing

Reins has enjoyed a successful 20 years serving the community. As a non-profit, they depend upon community support. This year they decided to invite local artists to submit a painting, which will be sold, with the proceeds supporting their horse therapy program.

Sisters artist Jean Russell Nave decided to join the project. Nave grew up with horses and had a dream about a piece of art she has painted and is offering to the program. When Jean was young, her family was dysfunctional and her horse was her way to escape the chaos. She would canter across the fields and dream that her little mare, Ginger, could fly. Her painting is titled, "Sunrise Magic—the Gift of Freedom," in honor of the freedom Healing Reins' horses give their clients.

The completed works of art are a minimum of 18 by 24 inches, either horizontal or vertical.

The art will be delivered at the end of this month to Kelly Thiel at The Wilds in Bend. The exhibit will show the entire month of July at Lator Art Supply, 1000 NW Wall St., #110, Bend.

The first reception will be downtown Bend's "First Friday," July 5 at 5 p.m. The second reception will be "Meet the Artists" on Thursday, July 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ALLEN: Supervisor retired on June 21 after 40 years

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Allen said.

While he grew up in the San Diego, California, area, Allen's mother's family was from Oregon, and he spent considerable time here in his youth, working on a farm near Madras.

"I quickly figured out doing farm labor — I'd look up at Mount Jefferson and think I'd rather be up there," he recalled with a smile.

Allen spent all his time outdoors, no matter where he was, and that's where he wanted to work.

"I knew from early high school that I wanted a job where I was paid to be outdoors," he said.

He got his degree in forestry from UC Berkeley in 1979 and worked on crews in the woods for 15 years. While working on the Umpqua National Forest, a mentor advised him to move into management.

"I was 36 at the time, and starting to see that there was a bigger world out there and I was interested in that world," he recalled.

Allen has served as a Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Gallatin National Forest in Montana and a District Ranger for the McKenzie Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest.

Allen's entry into the Forest Service and into leadership positions coincided

with a transition from a get-the-cut-out mentality of the "old" Forest Service to a more ecologically based approach that fit well with Allen's education, training and temperament.

spot, and Allen has proved adept at cultivating it.

"I think it takes time" he said. "You have to build up community support. And the best way to do that is to get them involved."

Allen is confident that community involvement and engagement will continue under his successor.

As for himself, he and his wife will stay in Central Oregon, though travel to Ireland, Scotland and the Alps are in the cards. He plans on taking advantage of the recreational opportunities he's sought to accommodate.

"I tell everybody unabashedly that I'm going to ski midweek from now on and I'm going fishing when I want to, not when I can fit it in," he said.

Allen expressed appreciation for a high-quality staff across the forest — and they in turn salute him as he heads out to the river.

Deschutes National Forest Public Affairs Officer Jean Nelson-Dean spoke for many of her colleagues in assessing Allen's tenure:

"I've never worked with anyone who showed as much leadership as John Allen."

“ It’s finding that sweet spot of those social, ecological and economic goals...”

“I was real excited about that,” he said.

He feels that the Deschutes National Forest is a good example of how competing and sometimes conflicting needs can be balanced.

“We are one of the most intensively managed forests in the West,” he said.

Yet ecological values are still at the forefront.

“It’s finding that sweet spot of those social, ecological and economic goals,” he said.

Getting community buy-in is critical to finding that sweet

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