

The business of taking care of wetlands

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Driving around familiar rural Turner/Marion stomping grounds on a mid-April weekday, Luke Fitzpatrick pointed to Duckflat Road and underscored the gravel drive's good condition as a unique testimonial to wetlands protection.

In what has been a comparatively wet winter and spring season, the road has seen almost seamless open passage relative to previous years when flooding issues would frequently force road closures.

Fitzpatrick said Duckflat closures this year have probably amounted to a total of about 6 hours.

That's one peripheral windfall to the work he and his mom, Kathy Bridges, are doing with their Santiam Valley Ranch area acreage off Hunsaker Road.

Collectively, their efforts stretch into management of neighboring properties, adding up to more than 400 acres that include the regional flyway for migrating geese and other waterfowl and a favorable habitat for native flora and fauna indigenous to the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Coinciding with the family's eco-friendly vision is a recent purchase

Online

Bridges Foundation: www.thebridgesfoundation.info

Craft3 conservation: www.Craft3.org/LandConservation

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts: www.oregonlandtrusts.org

of 80 acres of savanna white oak, acreage they envision as a contributor to the area's riparian health. A number of processes can help facilitate this, including the attainment of a conservation easement or covenant.

In early April the Bridges Foundation formally announced its intention of protecting the savanna, described as a regionally rare habitat type in the Willamette Valley. The project was financed by Craft3 with bridge capital from Portland-based Meyer Memorial Trust.

The Foundation, originally formed by Jack and Nancy Bridges in 1987, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for young adults and those challenged with disabilities, among others, while engaging in a range of ecosystem protection and habitat restoration activities.

Kathy Bridges is now executive director and



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Luke Fitzpatrick detects the work of a beaver with newfound high water as he and his mom Kathy Bridges survey 80 acres of Oregon white oak savanna, a regionally rare habitat type in the Willamette Valley.

trustee of the foundation and oversees the work with her three sons as trustees.

Bridges describes Craft3 as an "innovative lender," that strives to "help unusual people and habitat."

That works well with the intentions at Santiam Valley Ranch.

"Our work on the property has changed through the years as we've learned more about the land, diversifying when possible

and prioritizing what the land conveys to us," Bridges said. "Not all land was meant to be agricultural. The soils and water-holding capacity told us that the land wanted to remain wetland, so we shifted our goals in some areas from cropland to agritourism."

"We have prioritized our best land for farming which now includes aquaculture, wild rice and lamb production, and organically certified crops.

We are encouraged by people reaching out to us to learn how we got started with wetlands restoration and what we will learn as we transition 18 acres of organically certified sweet corn and beans into organic industrial hemp production."

Fitzpatrick, a 2004 Cascade High School graduate, studied forest management at Oregon State University. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and Oregon Department of Forestry as a wildlife biologist prior to undertaking his aquaculture business and managing the farm lands.

The addition of the savanna white oaks fits well with that management.

He cites BLM sources showing that less than one percent of the protected oak is within public lands, such as parks, putting the vast majority of it in private hands.

"The key for our situation is that (99 percent) of all potential oak habitat is owned by private landowners; so if anybody wants to protect it, it has to be landowners," Fitzpatrick said.

The 80 acres coming into his custody almost had a different fate.

"Literally, it was actually in escrow to loggers," he said. "They intended to clear cut it and put it into hazelnuts."

The livestock previously raised on the land helped protect it by grazing off shrubbery and young trees that could have crimped the oaks healthy growth.

When the property was up for sale, and after they determined it would work well with their aims, Bridges and Fitzpatrick set out to secure financing from a traditional lender, but the bank turned down their request.

Bridges contacted Kelley Beamer, executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), hoping that she could suggest a program or different lender.

"When I got Kathy's call, I knew how frustrated she was," Beamer said. "It can be very difficult for small trusts and foundations to get funding quickly for time-sensitive projects. I knew from her description of the property that it was a special place that needed protection."

And a good fit for Craft3. "Craft3 has been a strong partner to COLT on conservation lending in the past and I was sure they could help the Bridges Foundation," Beamer added.

After visiting Santiam Valley Ranch, Craft3 senior lender Brad Hunter concurred.

"Helping the Bridges Foundation secure their vision for local, grass-roots conservation, is a type of investment that few traditional lenders would ever risk," Hunter said. "But it's exactly the kind of project that Craft3 looks for and is proud to support."

Back at the savanna, Fitzpatrick and Bridges slog through sludgy grounds amid livestock-sheltering out buildings before trekking through the environs of their new charge. A spring day provides newly seen plant growth and assessments of other phenomena, such as the freshwater buildup in a previously dry spur of Marion Creek, complements of a beaver Fitzpatrick spotted and the critter's dam work.

Surveying the vegetation – even the native poison oak – is a welcome task at these infant stages of caring for this land.

"That little walk surprised me," Fitzpatrick said, revealing how he finds something new each pass through. "It will be good to find a productive use for this land."

"And to find use you can feel good about," Bridges added.

jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com or cell 503-508-8157 or follow at twitter.com/justinmuch

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Mt. Angel Fire District, Marion, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, will be held at Mt. Angel Fire District, 300 Monroe St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362. The meeting will take place on May 11, 2017 at 8:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 3, 2017 at 300 Monroe St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362, between the hours of 9:00pm and 5:00pm.

Silverton Appeal April 26, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A Public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Silverton Fire District, Marion and Clackamas Counties, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 01, 2017 to June 30, 2018 will be held at 819 Rail Way NE, Silverton, Oregon. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget.

This public notice can also be found on the Silverton Fire District's website at www.silvertonfire.com. A copy of the proposed 2017-2018 budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 9, 2017 at 819 Rail Way NE, Silverton, Oregon, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Silverton Appeal April 26, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Mt. Angel School District #91, Marion County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, will be held in the Mt. Angel School District Office 730 E. Marquam Street, Mt. Angel, Oregon. The meeting will take place on the 8th day of May, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the budget meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 8, 2017 at the Mt. Angel School District Office, 730 E Marquam Street, Mt. Angel, Oregon, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Notice published on the Mt. Angel School District website: www.masd91.org

Silverton Appeal April 26, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICES POLICY

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LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE DEADLINES

All Legals Deadline @ 1:00 p.m. on all days listed below:
***All Deadlines are subject to change when there is a Holiday.

The Silverton Appeal Tribune is a one day a week (Wednesday) only publication

• Wednesday publication deadlines the Wednesday prior

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE RATES

Silverton Appeal Tribune:

- Wednesdays only - \$12.15/per inch/per time
- Online Fee - \$21.00 per time
- Affidavit Fee - \$10.00 per Affidavit requested

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION Probate Department

In the Matter of the Estate of
ROBERT SPENCER MORFITT,

Deceased.

No. 16PB06929

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given that Tina Turner Morfitt has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers attached, to the personal representative or her attorney, Patrick E. Doyle, 429 N. Water Street, Silverton, OR 97381, Phone: (503) 874-1600 within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and first published on April 12, 2017.

TINA TURNER MORFITT
Personal Representative

Silverton Appeal April 12, 19, & 26, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

In the Matter of the Estate of
ARNIM V. FREEMAN,

Deceased.

No. 16PB08650

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ROBERT FREEMAN has been appointed personal representative for the above-noted estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Attorney for the Personal Representative, Ken Baker, Attorney at Law, 10365 SE Sunnyside Road #240, Clackamas, OR 97015 within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and first published April 19, 2017

/s/Kenneth Lee Baker
KENNETH LEE BAKER, OSB# 77106
Attorney for Personal Representative

Silverton Appeal April 19, & 26, and May 3, 2017

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CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Scientists have busy brains that lead to great things.

Now the Silver Falls School District is hosting a busy event for families to be scientists for one night.

Thursday, May 4 is Family STEM Night at Silverton High School. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, so the evening will feature activities ranging from an

indoor planetarium to science fair and rocket club presentations. They'll run 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., scientist Daniel R. Adamo will speak in the auditorium about the solar eclipse expected for Aug. 21. Specializing in human space-flight trajectory design and operations, he was a contractor for the NASA-Johnson Space Center for 29 years. Since retiring in 2008, he's been engaged in full-time astrodynamics research, consulting and outreach.

CRIME LOG

SILVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Received calls from April 10 to 16.

April 10

Burglary, 9:31 a.m., 400 N Second St.
Motor vehicle acci-

dent, 5:22 p.m., Fairview St. and South St.

April 15

Motor vehicle accident, 11:06 a.m., senior center parking lot
Stolen vehicle 11:10 a.m., 700 Oak St.