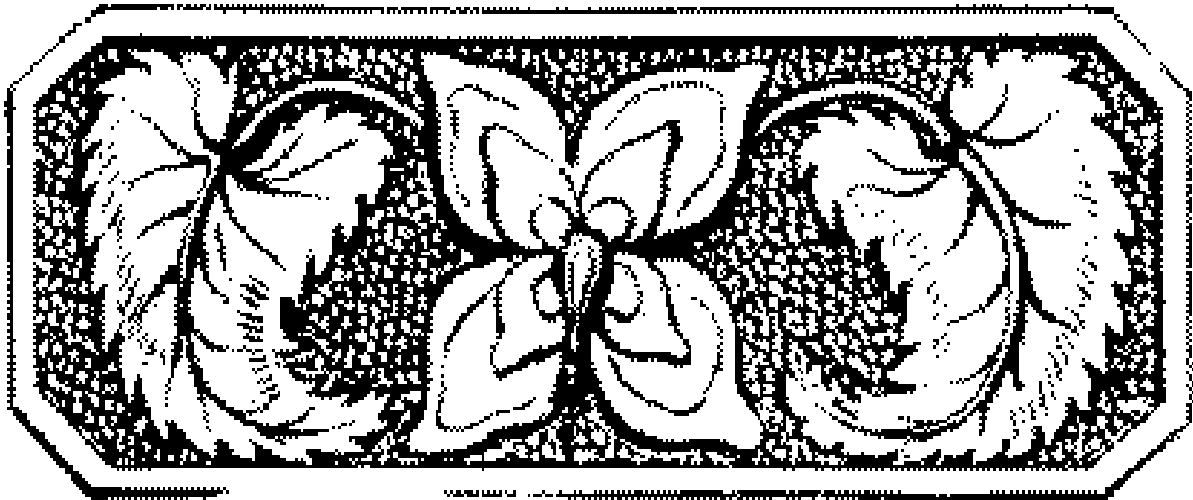




SHINING STARS STAR - Television and motion picture actor **Bruce Campbell** (center), who lives in Southwestern Oregon, was among hundreds of people who attended the second annual Shining Stars youth fund-raiser in Cave Junction on the weekend of June 6-7. Making his acquaintance were **Lance Curtis** and **Colene Talley**, of Bear Images in Cave Junction. Despite the warm weather, festival-goers enjoyed music from several groups, participated in workshops and sampled various types of cuisine. The girl below got a ride after going to a face-painting booth like the one in the bottom photo. Also for children, the Kids Village was a popular attraction.



Meadowfoam top Oregon commodity

From facial cosmetics to hydraulic fluids, an Oregon agricultural commodity called meadowfoam is drawing interest from potential customer intrigued with the oil produced by its seed.

Meadowfoam not only makes a good rotation crop for grass seed growers, its by-products are now being aggressively marketed.

“Oregon is the only place where meadowfoam has been commercially grown,” said Brent Searle, special assistant to the director of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). “It is a renewable product that can be grown year after year, and the use of its oil and other products is biodegradable.”

The dense fields of white-flowered meadowfoam have not been seen in Oregon for a couple of years now. Production has ceased for the time being, as supply exceeded demand. Oil from past crops is still viable and is being marketed in a variety of ways. The industry hopes that enough customers will seek out meadowfoam oil so that the current inventory will be reduced and new production can restart.

“It’s still too early to tell if a crop will be planted this fall,” said Jerry Hatteberg, executive director of the OMG Meadowfoam Oil Seed Growers Cooperative. “It is a very unique crop. The more we learn about it, the more potential uses we find.”

The last commercial crop of meadowfoam of any size was harvested in 1999. Growers are just now getting paid for that crop. It has been a case of catch-up since the growers’ cooperative was formed in the 1980s.

“Like many agricultural commodities, meadowfoam went through the cycle of producing before market development,” said Searle. “We saw the incredible production capability of growers, who were led to believe that the market was established for the pro-

Penasso tops in karate competition

Joseph Penasso of Cave Junction took first place in regionals and nationals of kata karate competition and finished second in the world championships.

Penasso also captured a

duction.

“Production was ramped up 10 fold in a couple years period,” he said. “Unfortunately, the market wasn’t there, and so a lot of market development work had to be done.”

Oil from the crop has long shelf life. Product development and strong marketing efforts during the past four years have allowed the oil to be used. As a result, growers are finally getting their money. Eventually, the demand will be greater than the current supply and more meadowfoam will need to be planted, said ODA.

There has been a strong correlation between meadowfoam and environmental improvements since Oregon State University at Corvallis researchers developed a new commercial crop in the early 1960s. With a mandated “phase-down” of field burning in Willamette Valley. Grass seed growers needed to find an alternate crop that could be rotated with the grass.

Meadowfoam fit the bill, although it wasn’t until the mid 1990s that successful extraction and refining of oil from the meadowfoam seed occurred.

By the late 1990s more than 80 Willamette Valley grass seed growers were producing meadowfoam.

“Meadowfoam is a very good rotational crop,” said George Pugh of Shedd, who grew meadowfoam. “It has qualities that seem to enhance the growth of the following year’s crop of grass. On the marketing end of it, grass seed has not suffered from underproduction in the past decade.

“If we can rotate a field out of grass seed production, it takes some of the grass off the market and that always helps,” he said.

Japan and Korea are already enjoying meadowfoam oil in the beauty industry.

“Products include everything from high-end cosmetics

bronze medal in regional and at worlds and finished fourth at nationals in the Kumite competitions.

Penasso will next compete in Las Vegas, Nev.

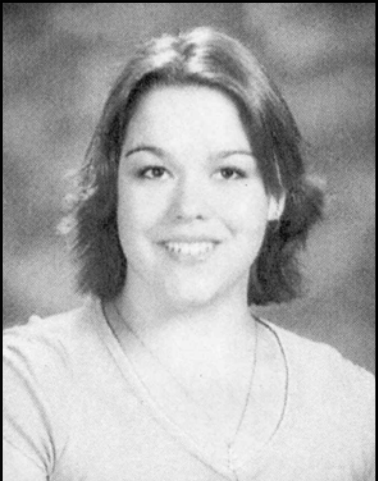
and facial creams to hydraulic oils,” said Searle. “Products can be used in sensitive environments because they are biodegradable. So they can be useful in marine and forested areas.”

The marketing wing of the growers’ cooperative is interested in working with the Port of Portland and other port authorities on trial projects that use meadowfoam oil in a marine environment. The U.S. military is also taking a look at meadowfoam as a hydraulic oil alternative to petroleum-based oils.

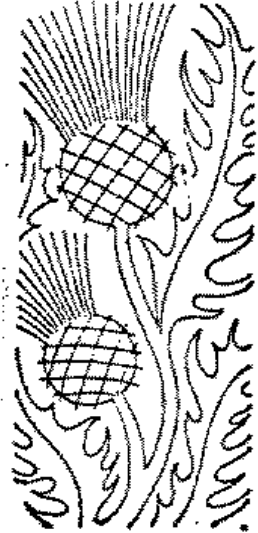
A provision in the U.S. Farm Bill and other federal legislation require federal agencies to use bio-based products when they fit the need and are cost-effective.

The value of meadowfoam isn’t confined to the oil.

A byproduct of the crushed crop includes the meal, which provides growth enhancement to plants and has an herbicidal effect on weeds. The nursery industry is looking at potential applications for the meal, said ODA.



PAMELA A. CHARBONNEAU was mistakenly identified on last week’s IVHS graduation page. She received \$7,500 worth of scholarships.



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The Toyes

- Happy Ending featuring Rosie Barty
- Madi Simmons
- The Soul Survivors

Saturday

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums featuring Miss Carmen Getit

- Annieville Blues
- Dr. Ross & the West Coast All Stars
- Rosie Barty (small stage)

Sunday

The Flying Other Brothers featuring Pete Sears

- Ettouffee
- Francis Vanek and Zone
- Mike Selfridge (small stage)