

# New gallery opens, farm changes hands

**By Judy Hoyle**  
*IVN Contributing Writer*

Ownership of Kerbyville Farms has changed hands and a new arts gallery has joined the Cave Junction street scene.

Watercolor artist Deborah Ann Dawson has moved her studio and gallery to the Century 21 building at the corner of Redwood Highway and Lister. The entrance for the new Artful Being Studio is on Lister, accessible via a small footbridge.

A Grand Opening for the cozy watercolor gallery will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Nov. 9. Dawson has also created a line of cards printed with her unique watercolors that available for purchase. Visitors are welcome to view Dawson's latest paintings at the Saturday event which features live music and refreshments. Regular gallery hours are Monday through

Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dawson has taught watercolor painting since 1988 and will be offering lessons at the new location beginning in January. Costume designer Jill Shidler will continue to use the adjacent studio space.

In addition to her own work, Dawson will create new collaborations with poet Michael Spring; including combined poetry and art presentations or publications. Dawson recently interpreted the title of Spring's new book of poems by painting a blue wolf. In the future, Spring will occasionally employ the same studio space to teach writing workshops.

"We've know each other for a long time," Dawson said. "I've always enjoyed creative writing. Then Michael took one of my expressive painting classes and now helps me by critiquing my writing. We have a fun give and take. It's really exciting to

share creativity in this way, inspiring each other back and forth. It's like two kinds of poetry, verbal and visual."

Dawson can be reached at 541-415-1191.

Joseph and Marliiss Andrews recently bought the Kerbyville Farm and produce stand, which boasts regional renown. For many travelers living in coastal cities, the eclectic bakery, fresh produce and garden business has offered a welcome break in the drive to Medford for shopping and doctors appointments. Previous owner Dale DeVors recently passed away following a lengthy illness and the business was auctioned off last month.

The new owners intend to make the farm completely organic, and continue with the bakery and garden products as well. They've just reopened the produce stand for the final weeks of the season, selling pumpkins, seven varieties of winter squash,

potatoes, tomatoes and onions while supplies last.

The couple has 12 children and moved here from San Marcos, Calif. with their three youngest; a son, 17, and two daughters, 15 and 12. They'd long dreamed of creating a self-sustainable lifestyle, but farming in Southern California was beyond their reach due to astronomical property values and limited water resources. Joseph and three adult children toured this region, seeking potential communities, then monitored properties for sale. When Kerbyville Farms became available, they jumped at the chance.

Once they bought the farm, they were able to quickly sell their home, pack up and return to Kerby in a matter of weeks.

"It's been almost miraculous the way everything has come together," Marliiss said.

Joseph earned master's de-

grees in physics and engineering and worked as an electrical engineer for 23 years while the couple raised and home-schooled their children. He became so fascinated with our country's founding documents, he earned a third master's in political science.

He went on to teach courses in math and the U.S. Constitution through the University of Phoenix and also taught physics, engineering and physical science at Palomar Community College. He's authored the textbook, "A Guide to Learning and Teaching the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution," which is available on Amazon and will be for sale at the farm. Contact [jandrews@teachconstitution.org](mailto:jandrews@teachconstitution.org) for information.

Folks who would like more information about the Kerbyville Farms can call 1-760-917-0708 for current business hours and produce availability.

## The State of Jefferson: by Greg Walters

*The second part of a two part series on The State of Jefferson*

By mid-November 1941, the leadership would shift to California where representatives from Curry, Del Norte and Siskiyou met in Yreka and designed a plan for a six county alliance "for the express purpose of promoting development of the mineral resources of northern California and southern Oregon". The board of supervisors named a commission to find means of securing better roads to the mineral area but, they also declined to act on the proposal for a new state. The primary goal was to secure government financial aid, (both state and federal subsidies) for road and bridge construction in the chrome, manganese and copper districts in the region. This was, in part driven by Port Orford Mayor Gilbert Gable and his successful campaign in getting national attention to Curry County to promote mineral production, but actual secession seemed incidental and not the focus of the group assembled.

Nonetheless, the next day the Yreka Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution to examine the process of creating a forty-ninth state dubbed "Midwestcoastia". Also at the time, very briefly, Modoc County would step into it declaring seces-

sion, but withdrew four days later, the supervisors declaring their satisfaction with the California government. Similarly, a delegation from Del Norte failed to enlist Jackson County, as Judge J.B. Coleman stated "It was purely an advertising stunt and as such this county would delay in joining in the stunt".

On Nov. 19th the Siskiyou Daily News announced the winner in a naming contest which was won by J.E. Mundell of Eureka, California for the name of Jefferson State. Other names submitted were "Siscurdelmo, Delcuriskiyou, New West, Orofino and my personal favorite; 'The State of Discontent'".

On Thursday, November 27th, 1941 a Proclamation for Independence would be issued in patriotic rebellion and promised to secede every Thursday until the negligent governments would take measures to ramp up road building for mining. This proclamation was handed out to travelers on Hwy 99 and Yreka was chosen as the "capitol". Sales, income, and liquor taxes were outlawed with much fanfare. Other counties would join in briefly, for this created an opportunity to air their grievances. This would all move to a planned parade and inaugural on December 4th, 1941 that travelled through Yreka and stopped traffic on Hwy 99. The newsreels were rolling as the throng of several hundred

marched past with placards that read "California Forgot Us" or "Our Roads are not Passable, Their Hardly Jackass-able". This was Jefferson State, the 49th state at its height including Curry County in Oregon, Siskiyou, Del Norte and Trinity in California comprising of just under 12,000 square miles. And, though larger than Massachusetts, the "state" only had 41,707 inhabitants.

Three days later, on Dec. 7th, 1941 Pearl Harbor would be attacked, fully engaging the nation into war which in turn would bring about re-newed interest and funding to go after the minerals. It was thus announced that "in light of the national emergency, that all officers will discontinue any and all activities involved with secession".

The State of Jefferson was originated for the sole purpose of calling attention to the authorities the mineral resource wealth in the region and gaining access to it with state and federal help. This was accomplished, the mines were discovered and accessed, dug up and currently in many stages of remediation. Many seek out the region for its clean, wild waters and recreational opportunities that has its own promotion and business growth like our citizens tried to accomplish back then.



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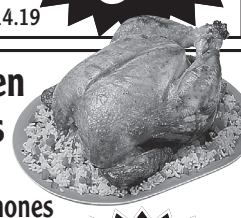
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