



Belt Masonic Lodge #18 Worshipful Master Michael Yanase (left), Senior Warden Randy Kent and Student-of-the-Month Chaise Robbins pose with Robbins’ certificate. The varsity football and basketball player was IVHS Lineman of the Year and participated in high school rodeo. He plans to study criminal justice or sports medicine.

## County seeks Timber Board members

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is currently accepting applications to fill two vacancies on the Josephine County Advisory Committee on Forestry Affairs.

The duty of this Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners relating to timber management policies on County forest lands. The Board is composed of 12 members.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on February 27, 2014 Applications are available at the Commissioners Office at the Josephine County Courthouse, Room 154, Grants Pass

If you have any questions, please call (541) 474-5221.

## Apply for grants now

Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) Reminds Students to Apply for College Grants and Scholarships at OregonStudentAid.gov

Nearly \$70 million awarded each year to help students pay for college

Oregon students – do you need cash for college? The Oregon Student Access Commission, or OSAC for short, is a state financial aid agency that awards nearly \$70 million dollars each year in grants and private scholarship funds to help students pay for college.

More than 450 scholarship programs are available and cover a wide range of student interests and needs, including funds for graduating high school seniors, college undergraduate and graduate students, community college and vocational school students, single parents returning to school, and more.

There is no cost to apply. Visit OregonStudentAid.gov and complete the online OSAC scholarship application by the final deadline of March 1 at 5:00 p.m. Submit by February 15 and you may be eligible to win a \$500 OSAC Early Bird scholarship.

Students are also encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA, to determine eligibility for federal grants and the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state’s largest need-based grant. Limited funding is available for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, so students should apply as soon as possible.

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Go to OregonStudentAid.gov and begin your applications, or to learn more about financial aid for college.

## Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

### Pines and Other Conifers

For sheer loveliness and variety of form, the group of pine species of our area is surely in the country’s top bracket. The great Sugar Pine, one of the most coveted of all our forest trees by the lumber industry, is undisputed queen of the pines. It is the largest of the White pines, with relatively short needles in characteristic bundles of five. The bark is a peculiar reddish-grey, covered with shallow indentations where the small scales have flaked away. Its massive cones, occasionally 18 to 24 inches long, are sought after for decorative purposes and as souvenirs. It grows at our lower elevations as well as higher in the mountains.

Western White pine, also called little sugar pine, is our only other 5-needle pine. It grows only at the higher elevations. On mature trees the whitish bark is characterized by horizontal as well as vertical fissures, forming conspicuously attractive small rectangles. The cones are rather slender and curved, giving rise to another of the tree’s common-names – fingercone pine.

Ponderosa, or western yellow pine, is another giant of the group, larger but similar in appearance to Jeffrey pine, also in our area. Both are 3-needle pines, and at a certain stage of development can scarcely be told apart. To an amateur the simplest distinguishing feature is the cones. Those of Ponderosa are usually 3 to 6 inches long and are prickly to handle, having hard, sharp, outward-turning scale points; Jeffrey cones are much longer and broader with a characteristic “beehive” shape, and have the scale prickles turned inward. Our only other 3-needle pine is so different from the others as to need no further description than the 3-needle feature. It is Knobcone pine, found mostly on the higher ridges, but also on both sides of Redwood Highway between Rough and Ready Creek and Ten Eyck Motel south of Cave Junction. Here it is small but at its loveliest, with spreading branches and dense foliage from top to ground. The oddly-shaped cones grow in whorls on both limbs and trunk and are so toughly compact and durable that sometimes the trunk cones are completely overgrown by the expanding tree trunk. For this reason the

tree is sometimes called the cone-swallowing tree.

Our lone 2-needle pine grows in the hills just west of the Valley. You can see it along the old O’Brien-Smith River road, the first of them 4 or 5 miles above Whisky Creek. It is Lodgepole pine, slender and straight, but not very high here. The foliage seems to be thickest at the slightly upturned branch-ends – giving them a sort of “fox-tail” effect. The cones are small, somewhat curved and of irregular shape, something like those of knobcone pine, but not in whorls. It is of the same species as the dwarfed and oddly misshapen shore pine along the coast.

Our two cedars of the Valley and near hills are easily identified. The Incense cedar has yellowish-green “windblown” foliage, while that of Port Orford cedar is darker, sometimes bluish-green and grows in neat, flat sprays. The cones of Incense are smooth, a quarter-inch thick at base, tapering to a narrow tip, about 1 inch long. On opening at maturity two outer parts curl outward from the tips, leaving a thin straight partition, the whole remindful of

a duck’s bill and tongue. The seeds are sandwiched between these parts. Cones of Port Orford-cedar are roughly spherical, ends of the several scales forming nearly flat plates placed edge to edge. When ripe these spread apart and release the seeds.

Our most famous tree, luckily of no interest to the lumbermen, is Brewer’s spruce, commonly, weeping or Siskiyou spruce, which has already been described. It grows at the higher elevations in small stations on all sides of us.

The beautiful, high-growing Mountain Hemlock, the rare Siskiyou Cypress, and very rare Alaska cedar, as well as the hardy little Pacific Yew, which need no further description, complete the community of conifers that make their home in our Valley and surrounding mountains.

To know them is to enjoy them to the fullest possible extent. In late summer, on your trail hikes, horseback rides or drives in the mountains, its lots of fun to see how many you can identify.

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