

Community news

Art off the wall: Dawn Ferrari



Photos by Wendy Thomas
The art of Dawn Ferrari is shown above and at right.



Gettin' into gourds

By Wendy Thomas
For the Port Orford News

I called Dawn Ferrari to set up an interview with her for this column. I'd never met her in person so we decided it would be nice to meet over coffee and chat. I arrived at the restaurant a bit earlier than she so I jotted down a few questions I thought might get us started as I sipped my first cup of coffee. I had formed a mental picture of her based on the sound and tone of her voice during our phone conversation. I envisioned a pleasant, soft-spoken woman with a warm smile. A moment later I looked up from my notepad as she approached our table. She really was pleasant and warm and she had a wonderful smile. I just knew this was going to be a comfortable, fun and informative interview. Her current artistic endeavors revolve around "Gourd Art." However, it became apparent that this demure lady wears a coat of many colors when it comes to artistic accomplishments.

Ferrari has always been drawn to the arts in some form or another. She was a professional dancer in her twenties, performing in San Francisco, Reno and Las Vegas. She studied drama as well. At Laguna Beach School of Art, which she attended on scholarship, she earned an AA degree. Somewhere in that time frame she became a wife and mother of two. Her artistic accomplishments include sculpting in alabaster, bronze and

wood. When I asked what kind of wood she worked with her reply was, "Oh I've used avocado, maple, and oak, redwood, black walnut and myrtle wood." Safe to say she knows her way around a tree or two.

Her interest in gourd art blossomed shortly before she moved to the beautiful Applegate Valley here in Oregon thirteen years ago.

When she first started to work with gourds she hand-picked each one from a gourd farm in Atascadero located off the 101 approximately 20 miles due east of Morro Bay, California. "I enjoyed walking around to choose each gourd. I looked for color, size and shape," she said. "Those fields are covered in homes now." These days she travels to Southern California to shop for just the right gourds. "I enjoy these trips because I also visit with my children who live in the Los Angeles area."

With her artistic eye Ferrari turns a simple dried gourd into wondrous and fanciful dolls, masks and abstract decorative art. Her one-of-a-kind art pieces can be found at the Raincoast Arts Gallery in Langlois, The Crystal Dolphin Gallery in North Bend, The Jega Gallery and Sculpture Gardens in Ashland and The Sage Gallery in Old Town Bandon. Dawn also exhibits during the Cranberry Festival in Bandon and she shows her pieces at the annual Port Orford Arts Council Summer Showcase.

'Midnight Serenaders' set for May 23

The Port Orford Community Building will be transported back to an old-time "Music Hall" with melodic songs of the early 20th Century on Saturday, May 23, 7 to 10 p.m.

Portland-based Midnight Serenaders will present an infectious blend of old-time jazz and early swing with titles like, "Squeeze Me", "You Got To Give Me Some" and "My Carolina Sunshine Girl".

This hard-to-resist dance music will stir memories for some and introduce others to the splendid music of yesteryears played by exceptional musicians. Members of the Midnight Serenaders have

created the mood and styling of early flapper days.

If you have not danced for a long time, this music will turn back the clock and coax you on to the dance floor. If you love to dance, you will not want to miss the opportunity to be swept away by charming tunes long forgotten that are reminiscent of more innocent times.

When the Midnight Serenaders take the stage in their vintage suits and dresses, you will be transported back to when dance halls were the rage and to the dance-happy era known as the Jazz Age.

Adding to the image of authenticity and stylings of the early years of jazz are musicians Doug Sammons, Dee Settlemier, Pete Lampe, Henry Bogdan, Garner Pruitt and David Evans.

Marvelous singing by Dee

Settlemyer and Doug Sammons complete the picture of a rich musical heritage of early Americana.

Wouldn't it be fun if those that had vintage garments from the 20's and 30's would show the younger generation the fashions of the jazz and swing era by wearing them to the dance? Rolled-down stockings, headbands with long strands of beads and dresses adorned with fringes of bugle beads were the fashion. Fun, fun, fun!

Tickets are available at the Downtown Funzone and at the door for \$10.00. This evening of music is sponsored by the Port Orford Arts Council and by a grant from the Kinsman Foundation.

For information call Port Orford Arts Council 541-332-0487, or email poac@portorfordart.org.

The other day ... 'Oh, deer'

By Sally Prince
For the Port Orford News

It isn't easy to admit defeat, but I am smart enough to know when to holler, "You win!" I am "throwing in the towel." I give up. I am through trying to outsmart the deer that keep coming for dinner in my yard.

My home, Huckleberry Haven, is nestled in a paradise of flora and fauna, close to the Pacific Ocean and near Garrison Lake. It is also home to many wild critters such as beaver, raccoon, skunk, possum and deer, to name a few four-footed creatures.

In the spring, many species of birds nest throughout this natural habitat. In summer and fall they feast on the grubs, seed and berries. Many winter through and receive a helping hand from Geer residents' feeders.

I realize I am the one who moved into the territory of wildlife and I have learned to live with all its original residents except for the deer.

There's plenty of natural vegetation, but their palates prefer posies not native to this area. They have grown fond of most commercially grown plants and lately, even those once considered deer-



Sally Prince

resistant.

The deer population in Port Orford is growing. They seem to sense their protection and when residents feed them and other wildlife it becomes a problem. There is, in time, an imbalance.

Don't get me wrong. I like deer. I enjoy all of nature. Geer Circle is unique in so many ways and Geer residents take pride in keeping the area in its natural state.

My solution has been to keep the posies that the deer like in pots on my upper deck where they cannot reach them. Then, to plant ground cover and shrubs that are supposed to be distasteful to the deer.

It is irritating that deer will nip off the tip of a so-called "deer-resistant" shrub and then spit it out. I can understand doing it once, maybe twice, but over and over again?

I have never considered animals dumb, they operate by instinct. However, where taste is concerned, maybe?

Therefore, I surrender deer. Continue to nibble at what may possibly give you a tummy ache. You were here first. I do not intend to move and I know you intend to stay.

This peaceful paradise is too precious to fuss over my preference in plants. The other day, "Bambi" rested peacefully in my backyard, unafraid of my presence as I moved around the yard. Mama Doe was watching from nearby.

It gave a whole new meaning to the phrase, "Oh dear!"

July Jubilee is just around the corner

Team Jubilee is dusting off the sound truck, painting signs and getting ready to pass out the parade and event forms.

On a quiet evening as you walk down HWY 101 just past Ray's Market, tilt your ear toward the north end of town. Do you hear the faint sound of a fire truck blowing its horn? If you look carefully you can almost see folks opening fold-up chairs and vying for the best spot along the parade route.

No doubt about it, we've had quite a bit of drama this past year.

Team Jubilee would like to suggest the perfect all-around "pick-me-up" and "smile-maker". Help

us put on a wing-ding of a parade! There's no free will fill out the parade form and decorate your car, truck, bike, horse or each other! A parade does wonders for your sole. Let's celebrate our good fortune, our great country and our lovely community.

To help everyone get in the mood we have a theme we hope will appeal to everyone.

Are you ready? drum roll please... brrrrrrrr; Whales, Sails & Fishtales.

So, pick up a parade form and/or an event form (for the brochure) at HWY 101 liquor, True Value, Hard Rain Cafe, Chetco Credit Union, Sterling Bank or the Fun Zone.

The public is invited to Wilderland School

Parents and prospective preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade students for the 2009-2010 school year are invited to visit the Wilderland School on Thursday May 14th between the hours of 9am and 6pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to observe classes in session, tour the learning facilities and speak with staff members about the Wilderland program.

The Wilderland School is located on HWY. 101 in Langlois and offers a specialized curriculum and class setting designed to engage students through creative hands-on activities, foster community awareness, and above all instill a life-long love of learning. Questions about the open house day or the school can be answered by calling 348-2414.



Contributed photo
Some of the kids at Wilderland School in Langlois are shown enjoying themselves at right.

A big gathering is held for Esther Conley's 90th

By Lee Kincaid
For the Port Orford News

When Esther Conley turned 90 on April 28, there was a celebration she isn't likely to forget.

She expected dinner at Lord Bennett's with friends, Dave & Lee Kincaid, and neighbors Duane and Mickey Byer and Monty Matheson. But when her long-time friend, Wilbur Jensen came into the restaurant playing Happy Birthday on his trumpet the party took on a new dimension.

Wilbur was followed by Esther's son and daughter-in-law, David and Connie Conley of South Carolina; granddaughter Lisa Conley of Ohio and grandson Shawn Conley of Colorado. They had flown in from various points that very day. Esther was overwhelmed and everyone was happy for her obvious joy.

Esther was born in 1919 in Jerome, Idaho. She came to Port Orford in 1933 where she lived in the Historic Knapp Hotel and cared for the Knapp children. She graduated from Port Orford High School in 1937, married Ed (Barcus) Conley in 1938 and gave birth to David in 1940.

From 1942-1944 the three Conleys lived in a cabin on Long Ridge, 30 miles east of Brookings and manned a lookout tower, keeping a watch for forest fires or enemy aircraft. In 1944 they moved to the present Conley home on the Elk River. An interesting note is that the home was built over the

site of a camp occupied by Chinese miners and Esther has an opium pipe found under the house.

Over the years Esther has been very involved, early on with golf at both Cedar Bend, where she won two Club Championships and a Presidents Cup; and played often with Vicki Courtright at Face Rock where she also won Club Championships.

Her lovely cottage home still has the braided wool rugs she made many, many years ago and the China painted plates which Lisa hopes to call her own some day. Esther was an avid knitter and made dozens of sweaters for family members and friends over the years.

Esther and Ed were very competitive bridge players and had an on-going competition to best Fred and Sammy Starkweather of Gold Beach. They played duplicate bridge for 10 years until Ed's health called for a less stressful hobby. After Ed's death Esther started a bridge club in Port Orford and then played regularly in Bandon. She is a serious and competitive player to this day.

A lifelong love of her garden, both vegetable and flower, gives Esther rewards on a daily basis. She has a Magnolia tree, which is magnificent, that was a Mother's Day gift from son David when he was 10 years old.

Esther, at age 90, is a beautiful person, and what we all hope to be if and when we make it to that stage in life.



Chef David Smith
Homemade Desserts

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Port Orford's family restaurant

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Salads, pizza, pasta, steaks, fresh fish