

around the county



Blacksmith Dan Brosseau still loves shoeing horses, but the Boring man has become well known for his creative art designs.

For creative art

Blacksmith gaining reputation

by GWEN BOGH
Post Correspondent

Horseshoeing may be his first love, but blacksmith Dan Brosseau is making a name for himself in another side of his work.

Brosseau, owner of the Blue Feather, draws, designs and creates pieces of art from iron and steel.

After just two years of blacksmithing in the Boring area, Brosseau has already made a name for himself — designing gates, door handles and other items for businesses and individual customers.

"The fancier, the better," Brosseau says.

Many mistake ornamental iron working and welding as blacksmithing, but Brosseau insists that there is a difference. Not only is the process different, but so is the end result.

"I can't replace a welder and a

welder can't replace me," Brosseau said.

From a coal burning stove to his anvil, Brosseau hammers out his creations. He makes them from mild steel, spring steel and wrought iron. His most recent projects are a door handle resembling a cobra, a hanging lantern and an intricately designed gate.

Another project in the works is a candle holder, which will be made from a covered wagon brake assembly, steel from an Australian freighter and part of a gas line from the old Hoyt Hotel.

Brosseau has already designed a window guard for the Clackamas County Bank, a sign for Le Bon Petite restaurant in Sandy and is currently contracted to renovate the hardware at Fort Vancouver.

When Brosseau is contracted, he may sketch as many as four drawings, varying in cost. The customer can then make a choice depending on how much

he or she wishes to spend.

Making house jewelry is Brosseau's favorite work. He claims he can spend hours working on a door handle or window frame and totally lose himself in the work.

"I like to make beautiful and usable things," he said, "and I'm at the point now where I won't do anything I don't enjoy."

Blacksmithing is a craft which is ordinarily performed alone, but Brosseau feels it needn't be a lonely job. He welcomes onlookers and usually has a few while he is working. Blacksmithing has been an open affair through the decades where people were drawn to the blacksmith's shop to watch the activity, Brosseau explained.

Brosseau's Blue Feather will be relocating in the Sandy area, hopefully by June 1. The blacksmith will continue his trade and, of course, welcome onlookers.

Highway 35 repairs to begin soon

The Oregon State Highway Division will begin work to repair the flood-damaged Highway 35 around the first of June.

Approximately six miles of the highway was severely damaged in a Christmas Day flood which effectively closed the Mt. Hood loop. A

detour has been employed, but because of its condition, only light-weight vehicles have been permitted to use it.

Bids will be opened May 14 in Salem on the first phase of the repair work. This project calls for the resurfacing and widening of portions of Cooper Spur Road, which is serving as the detour around the washed-out sections of the highway.

Work under the contract will begin about June 1, and when it does, the detour will be closed until July 31. After July 31, the contractor will be required to maintain one lane of traffic in each direction for the duration of the project.

The area of the project is 2.5 miles long. Completion time, about 110 calendar days, is scheduled for mid-September.

ESD board to meet

The Clackamas County Education Service District (ESD) Board of Directors will meet Monday, May 18, at 8 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the ESD offices in Marian Hall on the Marylhurst Campus near Lake Oswego.

Items on the agenda in-

clude discussion of the ESD's education program at the Kerr Center for Handicapped Children, the summer school for severely handicapped children and the state and federal revenue situation.

There will be an executive meeting at 7:30 p.m. before the regular board meeting.

Block grant meeting scheduled

The Citizens Advisory Committee for Clackamas County's Community Development Block Grant Program will hold its monthly meeting at May 20 at North's Chuckwagon in Oak Grove.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The committee is a county-wide group that assists in planning and assessing Clackamas County's \$7 million, three-year block grant program.

Damascus hosts used book sale

The Damascus Friends of the Library will sponsor its annual spring used book sale this Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Damascus Square Shopping Center.

The sale will be outside in the parking lot near the junction of Highway 212 and Foster Road. If it rains, the sale will be postponed a week until May 27. The same hours would be in effect.

"There will be hundreds of

paperbacks and hardbacks which will sell for 25 cents each," said chairman Dorothy Kerr. The sale will also include a bargain box filled with books priced at 10 cents each.

Proceeds from the sale will enable the Friends of the Library to provide various activities to the community at the Damascus Library, a branch of the Clackamas County Library.

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County Demos slate meeting

The Clackamas County Democratic Central Committee will hold a general meeting May 21 at 8 p.m. in the Clackamas County Courthouse.

The meeting is open to the public.

Guest speaker will be State Sen. Walter Brown of Lake Oswego, who is chairman of the business and consumer affairs committee and vice-chairman of the elections committee.

Topics of discussion at the meeting include reapportionment, election law reform, business and consumer legislation and controversial bills.

Juvenile group to convene

The Clackamas County Community Juvenile Services Commission will hold a public meeting May 26 at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Clackamas County Juvenile Court, 2121 Kaen Road in Oregon City.

The meeting will be to review and make funding decisions on the Request for Proposals for the evaluation design.



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