

Bigger, better berry crop forecast

Warmer weather means an early harvest of "bigger and better" strawberries, according to local grower Joanne Seeger.

Seeger owns and operates a small berry farm south of Sandy with her husband Lee.

Like most growers in the area, Seeger raises the Hood variety of strawberry. Other varieties include Totem, Benton, and Olympus.

"They are wonderful berries this year," said Seeger. "They not only seem to taste better, they are larger."

Seeger expects to have even better tonnage than last year which produced a good harvest.

Most growers should expect about the same harvest as last year, said Dean Bradenkamp of Scenic Fruit Company.

"Overall, it may be a little better quality berry than last year, though," he said.

Bradenkamp said the strawberry season started about a week early, beginning early in June. Raspberries also are beginning early with some already coming into the Bluff Road cannery.

In addition to four acres of strawberries, the Seeger farm also produces blackberries, raspberries, and Marion berries. Seeger said she expects to begin picking



Martha Drew and field owner Joanne Seeger search among the rows of strawberries for those ripe for the

picking. The crop this year is expected to be plentiful and tasty.

Photo by Hank Emrich

blackberries early next week.

The majority of pickers for Seeger are local youth, although some growers use almost exclusively migrant laborers. Seeger said the

younger pickers usually make around \$10 a day in strawberries but there are some adults who can make as much as \$50.

Raspberries seem to be more suited for young people she said, with

some averaging \$20 a day. Adults seemed to fare about the same in raspberries said Seeger.

Seeger's husband left a teaching position three years ago to devote full

time to their farm. She said the berries have meant some long hours for them and their children who also work in the berries, but it looks as though it has "paid off" so far.

Welches postmaster on job

Stephen Nelson, 32, was installed last month as the new postmaster of the Welches Post Office.

He replaced Naomi Blaisdell, who served at the Welches Post Office for 30 years before retiring in January.

Nelson and his wife Pam recently moved to the

mountain area with their 9-month-old daughter. With interests in camping, hunting, fishing, photography, and golf, the Welches area should be ideal, according to Nelson.

The Eagle Creek Post Office was his last assignment.



Stephen Nelson

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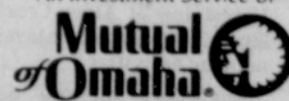
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Survey pinpoints government land

Surveyors working under contract to the Forest Service will be surveying in the Government Camp area and other locations in the Mount Hood National Forest this summer as part of a continuing program to survey and post the boundaries between National Forest land and private property.

"The program was mandated by Congress about five years ago," said Forest Land Surveyor Glenn Clevenger, "because of increasing land and timber values."

Clevenger explained that in the past when planning a timber sale foresters often used a hand compass and measuring tape to determine the property boundary.

"When they figured they knew where the line was, they would move in about 50 feet and begin marking the

timber sale," he said.

The 50-foot setback was to create a buffer that ensured no trees on the adjacent property were cut during the timber sale. But the setback resulted in two continuing problems for the Forest Service.

It created small strips of timber that were very costly to manage, and it fostered confusion over where the actual forest boundaries were located.

The confusion over boundaries often resulted in adjacent property owners harvesting timber in the buffer strip and led to extended disputes over property lines and timber values.

These days when Forest Service timber sales or other project work comes close to private property, the Forest Service conducts surveys and marks the exact property boundary.

dary.

This year the Forest Service is contracting for surveys in the Government Camp, Still Creek and Faubion areas on the Zigzag Ranger District.

While the survey work is often connected to a timber sale, that isn't always the case.

According to Church Smay, Zigzag District ranger, the district has been planning to survey the Government Camp area for two or three years "because of the high level of private land development in the area."

ment in the area."

"Whether it's private development or some forest management activity, it's important to know where the property lines are so we can avoid inadvertent trespasses," Smay said.

The survey work in the Still Creek and Faubion areas is related to two timber sales, according to Smay. The Backside Timber Sale is located on Still Creek Road, south of the Multnomah Ski Area. The Cook Creek Timber Sale is located on the east

slope of Hunchback Mountain, just south of Faubion.

Around developed areas the survey results will be as unobtrusive as possible, according to Clevenger. The contractor will use blue or brown paint to mark trees, and where blazes are required they will be on the forest side of the property line.

Strawberry social, rummage sale set

A rummage sale and strawberry social will be held at the Damascus Pioneer Craft School Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sale items will include clothing, books, tools, furniture and textile craft supplies. Fresh strawberry shortcake with whipped

cream will be served.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward the cost of maintaining and repairing the old schoolhouse, now listed in the National Registry of Historic Buildings.

The school is located one block off Highway 212 in Damascus on Anderson Road.

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