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Directions: Central Point is located off I-5 between Rogue River and Medford. Take the OR-99, EXIT 35 toward Central Point/No. Medford. Turn LEFT onto OR-99/Blackwell Rd. Auctioneers: Chris Fain, Wayne Liska, Danny Vest.
Folks make plans to attend this great event. Get discount hotel reservations at The Wild River Inn in Grants Pass, Oregon 541-479-5381.

Season for mandatory weed removal is over

Why is the old Miles Field property, which was purchased by Wal-Mart, overgrown with tall dried weeds, which are a fire hazard? Isn't a property owner responsible for taking care of this danger?

— Ellen N., Medford

That's an excellent question, said Medford Code Enforcement Officer Joe Jimenez.

He said, yes, the municipal code states that a property owner must not let weeds and grass grow higher than 10 inches during the fire season. However, the fire season has just ended.

Weed-abatement season is considered to be between June 1 and Sept. 30. The fire department hires a temporary full-time person during weed-abatement season, and that person is responsible for the whole city, he said.

He said grass grows fast, too, and it's something a property owner has to stay on top of during the summer months.

So the weeds are OK for now, he said.

To see the particular city code, visit www.ci.medford.or.us on the Web and click on "municipal code," and look at 7.001 and 7.003.

mother's boyfriend

By CHRIS CONRAD
Mail Tribune

A 21-year-old White City man faces a murder charge for allegedly bludgeoning his mother's boyfriend to death inside her home, police said.

Jackson County sheriff's deputies responded late Thurs-



Butler

day, lying in the bedroom with "significant" blunt force trauma injuries to his head, officials said.

"It was a disturbing scene," Jackson County Sheriff Mike

7700 block of Ingalls Drive in White City. They arrived and found the body of Scott Evo Venturi, 37,

saulted Venturi and then fled on foot with the weapon used in the deadly assault. Winters would not describe the weapon.

"We don't reveal a lot of intricate details early in an investigation," Winters said.

Six deputies and units from the Central Point and Medford police departments were dispatched to the area around Ingalls Drive to search for Butler. Though Butler

Neighbors described Kimberly Butler as "hysterical" after the murder, Winters said. She cooperated with police during and after the search for her son, Winters said.

Butler eventually surrendered at around 11:15 p.m. by calling 9-1-1 and revealing his location. Police soon arrived and arrested him without incident. He also directed them to the spot where he

Winters said it appeared there was a struggle inside the house before the murder. He would not comment on the circumstances surrounding the killing.

"If somehow drugs were involved it would not surprise me," Winters said.

Before the killing, Butler had been scheduled to appear in

see **MURDER CHARGE**, Page 2B

Another man's treasure



Mail Tribune / Bob Pennell

Above: Marvin Reed of Medford checks out a turn-of-the 20th-century bicycle that will be part of an auction scheduled for today at Hidden Valley Ranch north of Central Point. Below: Jacksonville antique dealer Paul Hayes

Forest thinning plan wins support

By PARIS ACHEN
Mail Tribune

A preliminary proposal to thin trees and restore northern-spotted-owl habitat on 5,000 acres on the south side of Mount Ashland in the Klamath National Forest has won initial support from both the timber industry and environmentalists.

The U.S. Forest Service will accept public comment on the Mount Ashland project until Nov. 7.

"The main purpose of the project is habitat restoration, meaning older forests, and fuels reduction to reduce the loss of said habitat to wildfire," said Susan Stresser, wildlife biologist for the Klamath National Forest.

The joint project by the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service involves thinning trees with trunks

“The main purpose of the project is habitat restoration and

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We're sorry, but the volume of
questions received prevents us
from answering all of them.



PANCAKES. DIRECT FROM THE SOURCE. Butte Creek Mill hosts an open house from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today. Start the day with a pancake breakfast made with the mill's own mix. Stacks will be served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and proceeds benefit the vocational agricultural program at Eagle Point High School. Stick around to see how the grains are ground, preview a new antique store at the mill, taste other local foods and hear the Old Time Fiddlers between 1 and 4 p.m. The historic mill is at 402 Royal Ave., Eagle Point. Call 826-3531.

YIPPIE-YI-YO, it's the Red Rock Ranch Rodeo. All weekend at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, 1 Peninger Road, Central Point, teams will compete for cash prizes in ranchhand events such as roping, branding and a saddle cow race, as well as junior rodeo events such as mutton busting, a boot race and roping. The fun starts at 8 a.m. today and continues Sunday with participants registering at 6:30 a.m. The rodeo is sponsored by Red Rock Cowboy Church. Admission is free. A steak barbecue will be served at 6 p.m. today. Stay for cowboy church at 7 p.m. today or get up early for a 7 a.m. Sunday service.

CATCH SOME TUNES as David Boone plays with James Wasem at 7 p.m. tonight at The Vinyl Club, 130 Will Dodge Way, Ashland. Call 388-4690 for more information.

Hidden Valley Ranch's 'eccentric millionaire' left quite an estate



By **BILL KETTLER**
Mail Tribune

If the one who has the most toys at the end really wins, Earl Morris might have the gold medal.

"He never threw anything away," said Barbara Ritter of Central Point, one of the treasure hunters who looked over Morris's possessions Friday during a preview of the estate sale that begins today at 10 a.m. and continues through Sunday at 8785 Blackwell Road.



Morris
1999 file photo

Morris, who died May 12, accumulated a vast hoard during the 60-some years he lived at Hidden Valley Ranch, an 883-acre spread that straddles Interstate 5 between Gold Hill and Central Point. Morris and his brother, LaRue, who died in 1991, collected countless antiques for the Gold Gulch tourist attraction they ran in the 1960s and 70s.

They also acquired farm implements, tractors, steam engines, firearms, saddles and a little bit of everything else made during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The auction catalog only hints at the bounty: 23 cars and trucks; 20 railroad pocket watches; three potbellied stoves; a fire hydrant; four chrome stools from a diner; Meissen china figurines; cap-and-ball revolvers from the Civil War.

"I've seen a number of items I'd enjoy bidding on," said Ray Spor of Grants Pass. "Some of this stuff I haven't seen since I left the ranch. I haven't seen a butter churn in years."

Some people came to the preview looking for one thing, only to be seduced by something else.

"I heard he had some antique cars that I might buy," said Don Babb of Rogue River, admiring several antique horse buggies. "I didn't know they had these, too."

Many who came to the preview knew Morris, or at least knew of him. He

see **ESTATE**, Page 2B

"This is a no-brainer for fall chinook using the system. But the potential is there to help a whole host of other species as well."

Dan Van Dyke, ODFW fish biologist in Central Point

New ladder helps fish migration

By **MARK FREEMAN**
Mail Tribune

EAGLE POINT — For the first time in more than a century, the chinook salmon chugging up Little Butte Creek have a faster lane to upstream spawning grounds.

A new fish ladder is allowing chinook to zip past the Butte Creek Mill's concrete diversion, which has blocked or slowed the upstream swimming of chinook and other salmon species since the 1880s.

The recently completed ladder neutralizes the effects of the diversion, which has been identified as one of the top 20 worst impediments to native salmon and steelhead migration in the entire Rogue River Basin.

"Little Butte Creek is one of the biggest producers of juvenile salmon in the Rogue Basin," says Janelle McFar-

Open house

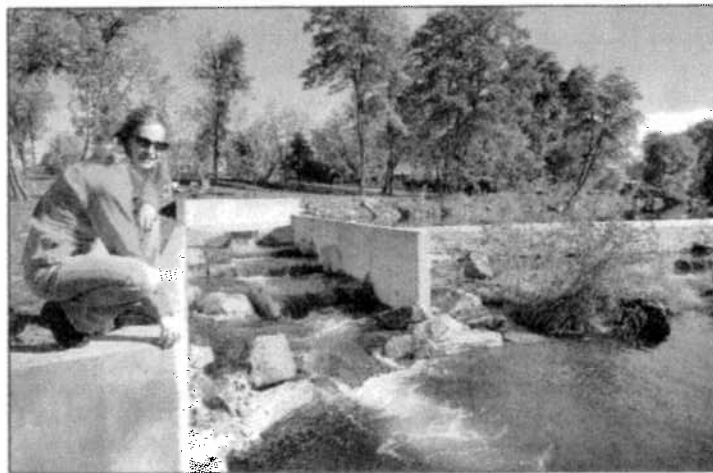
The public will get a chance to see the new Little Butte Creek fish ladder during an open house from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the Butte Creek Mill, 402 Royal Ave., Eagle Point.

The Little Butte Creek Watershed Council will lead tours to the ladder from the mill.

For more information on the tours and the mill's open house, call 826-3531.

land, an Oregon State Police fish and wildlife trooper who was the project's volunteer "manager".

"Opening up this first, and worst, barrier opens up more spawning area for these fish," McFarland says.



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

Janelle McFarland, an OSP fish and wildlife trooper, helped direct the fish ladder project on Little Butte Creek in Eagle Point.

The \$250,000 project was overseen by the Rogue Basin Fish Access Team, a group of agency officials and other vol-

unteers working to remove barriers to migrating salmon.

see **LADDER**, Page 2B

eter on 2,500 acres of forest and carving fuel breaks along ridges on 1,700 acres to defend against wildfire. Hand-thinning and burning of brush, saplings and other wild-fire fuel are proposed along streams on 400 acres. Fuel would be removed through underburning and chipping on another 300 acres.

About nine miles of temporary roads would be constructed for logging equipment and closed after the completion of the project. Another 30 miles of existing roads would be also be closed at the conclusion. Harvest methods would include helicopter removal on 600 acres.

About 80 percent of the project is in Oregon with the other 20 percent in California.

The hope is the effort will allow older trees to flourish, creating more habitat for the endangered northern spotted owl and other rare old-forest species, such as the northern goshawk, the Siskiyou Mountain salamander and the Pacific fisher, Stresser said.

There are now only about five small pockets of northern-spotted-owl habitat in the area, said Dave Johnson, a wildlife biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The area was logged in the early 1900s and again in the 1960s, Stresser said.

"That's the reason the forest is not providing older forest habitat, and the lack of fire has allowed small trees to come up," she said. "Hopefully, this project will achieve the older forest characteristics sooner than if

see **FOREST**, Page 2B

Open house

Public comment on the Mount Ashland restoration proposal may be sent to Susan Stresser, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA, 96097. The deadline is Nov. 7. For details, call 530-841-4538.

A public meeting on the proposal is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, at 1195 E. Main St. in Ashland.

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Susan Stresser,
wildlife biologist