

OregonLife

ONLINE

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INSIDE

MARY LOUISE VANNATTA
Comcast employees help Boys and Girls Club. Page 2D

K. WILLIAMS BROWN
Dialing customer service pushes wrong buttons. Page 2D

TASTE OF OREGON
Oregon riff on Saltimbocca alla Romana. Page 5D



Square dancing at the Independence Hops Festival.



Author Jane Kirkpatrick poses with a quilt by Emma Wagner Giesy. The quilt inspired Kirkpatrick to write three novels partially set in the Old Aurora Colony. SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Books bring visitors to Aurora museum

By Barbara Curtin
Statesman Journal

AURORA — Jane Kirkpatrick's popular trilogy about a young pioneer wife has drawn thousands of visitors to the Old Aurora Colony Museum.

They want to explore "Emma's House" (the Kraus House) and other settings important to Emma Wagner Giesy, the books' real-life heroine.

'REMEMBERING EMMA'

What: A fund-raiser for the Old Aurora Colony Museum

Where: Second and Liberty streets, Aurora (one block east of Highway 99E)

When: Saturday

10:30 a.m.-noon: Book signing in Emma's house with Jane Kirkpatrick

1-2 p.m.: "New Emma Stories" — book talk with Jane Kirkpatrick

2-2:45 p.m.: "Walk Where Emma Walked" — easy walking tour of Old Aurora Colony

3-4 p.m.: Visit to Emma's grave at the historic Aurora Cemetery.

4-5:30 p.m.: Reception with light refreshments with Jane Kirkpatrick at the Frederick Keil House

Special event admission: \$35. Reserve through Old Aurora Colony Museum, (503) 678-5754 or at info@auroracolony.org.

Regular hours, prices: www.auroracolony.org

The museum will capitalize on that interest with a fund-raising event on Saturday: "Remembering Emma" day.

"This is our third event with the wonderful Jane Kirkpatrick," said Kathleen Mason, who took over public relations a month ago for the museum and the Aurora Colony Historical Society.

"It was a mutual admiration society when she latched onto Emma Wagner Giesy. It fired her imagination."

No wonder, Giesy's life story confirms that fact can be more exciting than fiction.

She was 19 and pregnant in 1853 when she came west in a wagon train with nine German men. She had married in defiance of her family's wishes, and now she and her new husband were scouting possible sites for a Christian communal society founded by Dr. William Keil.

But young Mr. Giesy drowned in 1857, the year after the Aurora Colony began. Emma

married her brother-in-law.

Her new husband turned out to be an abuser, and Emma fled with her young children. Desperate, she appealed to her family to forgive her and come west. They did so, settling in what now is the Charbonneau area near Wilsonville.

Kirkpatrick's interest sparked when she read "Treasures in the Trunk: Quilts of the Oregon Trail." She was touched by a red and blue quilt evidently made by Emma for her late husband. Kirkpatrick decided to tell her

See MUSEUM, Page 4D

Celebrating abundance:

OREGON CROP FESTIVALS

Local photographer documents small-town festivals

Story and photos by Phil Decker
Special to the Statesman Journal

Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, I enjoyed visiting and photographing various small-town crop festivals.

I am intrigued with this unique Oregon tradition. Growing up in Maryland, I remember crab festivals and music festivals but never festivals dedicated to each small town's local crop. Once the picking season begins, you can find an Oregon fruit or veggie festival just about every weekend (not to mention festivals devoted to flowers, such as daffodils, irises, tulips, dahlias.)

I was attracted to how these festivals foster a sense of pride and identity for rural communities. These rich rituals celebrate our diverse agricultural abundance, whether the crops are a current source of income or a nostalgic memory of life prior to urbanization.

In addition to honoring the harvest, these festivals affirm values of family and community. Folks come out of the woodworks to reconnect, and to enjoy classic American events such as pa-

ONLINE

See more photos from different crop festivals in Oregon at StatesmanJournal.com/Entertainment

rades, eating contests, library book sales, food booths, craft booths and music concerts.

For this photo essay, I have selected one image per festival photographed.

"Oregon Crop Festivals" is a work in progress, as there are so many festivals that I still haven't visited, yet.

I encourage you to attend at least one crop festival this upcoming harvest season. They are wonderful excursions to share as a family, with friends or flying solo. You'll have a chance to savor and support local abundance: our crops, our people and our communities.

Phil Decker is a documentary photographer who studied at the International Center of Photography in New York City. He is a facilitator with the Salem Photo League, a local group of documentary photographers. Phil is also an elementary school principal in Salem. You can see more of his images at www.phildeckerphotos.com.

LOCAL CROP FESTIVALS

Lebanon Strawberry Festival: May 31-June 3, www.lebanonstrawberryfestival.info

North Plains Elephant Garlic Festival: Aug. 10-12, www.funstinks.com

Aumsville Corn Festival: Aug. 25, www.aumsville.us

Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival: Sept. 15, www.scappoosecommunity.org

Independence Hops Festival: Sept. 21-23, www.independencehopandheritage.com

Bauman Farms Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off: Oct. 6, www.baumanfarms.com

Sherwood Onion Festival: Oct. 6, www.sherwoodchamber.org

Lincoln City, Wild Mushroom Festival: Oct. 6, www.oregoncoast.org/calendar

Weston Potato Show: Oct. 26, <http://www.westonoregon.com/chamber>

Hood River Heirloom Apple Celebration: Oct. 27-28, www.hoodriverfruitloop.com/calendar/heirloom.html

For a calendar of Oregon festivals, go to www.oregonfestivals.org.



Corn-eating contest at the Aumsville Corn Festival.



Wild mushroom booth at the Lincoln City Wild Mushroom Festival.



Cabbage Bowling at the Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival.

SAA gives artists their space

By Boz Schurr
Special to the Statesman Journal

"Time, studio space, money, sleep: choose only two."

When I was in college a professor presented our class with this little gem. Apparently she read it on a bathroom wall in her old university art building and the truth of the statement has stuck with her through and through. As a student I scoffed and thought "Not me!" but as a young working artist I find it nevertheless to be more and more true. Time, studio space, money, sleep: choose only two.

Sometimes the hardest thing for an artist is to just find some space

to get a little work done. I can't speak to the time, money or sleep but at least one organization is helping out with the legroom. The Salem Art Association has graciously opened the Bush Barn's Annex doors to local artists as a working studio space. For a two month period artists can have 24 hour access, open studio hours (available for the public to see an artist in action!) and a gallery show of their artwork at the end of their residency. The Studio Annex Artist in Residence Program is a great opportunity for artists in transition, students, emerging, or mid-career artists.

SAA's AIR artists for March and April were abstract/graffiti artists

Leo Cuanas and Eric Tautkus. Leo and Eric were originally working as street artists, putting their work on walls and abandoned buildings, before they started working on paper and canvas. Their previous spray paint art practice could be considered many things; art, vandalism, writing, tagging, etc. However, after Leo was arrested several years ago for graffiti and Eric went through some life-changing events, the two artists decided to focus on more legal forms of art-making. I had a chance to sit down with Leo and Eric and we talked a little bit about their individual art practice.

See SPACE, Page 4D

RED LION HOTEL
Salem

Mother's Day

at the Red Lion Hotel Salem

Champagne Brunch

Mother's Day Brunch at the Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center
Sunday, May 13, 2012 10am - 2:30pm

Make your reservations now!

503.376.7887

<p>Mother's Day Giveaway! Entry form link located on our Facebook page!</p>	<p>Adults: \$25.00 Seniors: \$22.00 Kids: \$12.00 Children under 5 FREE</p>
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