

# COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

**Nov/Dec 2005**

## **Tickle Your Funny Bone !**

thanks to Taylor Sloan

A northerner walks into a bar down south around Christmastime, and there's a little nativity scene on the bar. And the guy says, "That's a nice nativity scene. But how come the three wise men are wearing fireman's hats?" And the bartender says, "Well, it says right there in the Bible – the three wise men came from a fire."

## **Request for a Donated Computer**

by John Ames

One of the larger continuing expenses for the Hilt & Colestin Fire Districts is maintaining our radios. In addition to the nine radios in the engines and rescue units, we provide over twenty portable radios to the volunteers to facilitate coordination both while responding and on the fire ground. We have saved a considerable amount recently by purchasing some of our radios used on e-Bay, but they must still be repaired on occasion and programmed every time one of the frequencies we use is changed, usually by another agency. For this and other reasons, we seem to be programming at least a few radios every couple of months.

Programming by a radio service shop costs around \$35-\$150 for each radio, requires taking the radio, or an engine, out of service for a few days, and trips to the shop in Medford.

For the past two years we have been doing our own programming to save on the cost and inconvenience of taking the radios to a shop for this service. We have acquired software and

special cables to do this, but are way ahead on cost and convenience.

A key element of the system used to program radios is a computer. The frequency lists are entered in to the computer, and then transferred to the radios. We have been using an old HP laptop and an even older Compaq for this. Portability is needed for programming the engine radios. The HP recently died (broken hinge and faulty serial port), and the Compaq is unable to load the newer software because it lacks a CD-ROM drive, and its battery charger is dead.

The upshot of all this is we need a "new" laptop/notebook computer to be able to continue programming our radios. One possibility might be that someone in the valley has a working laptop that could be donated or sold to the fire district for a small amount. An advantage to obtaining a computer this way is that it could be tested before buying, as there are technical issues that prevent some computers from doing the programming job.

The basic requirements for a programming notebook computer are that it runs Windows 95, 98, or XP, have a serial port, CD-ROM and floppy drives, and 20 or 30 MB of available disc space. We recognize that we would probably need to buy a new battery for a donated computer.

Any donation to the fire district is deductible on income tax as a charitable expense.

Anyone with a computer or suggestions please call John Ames at 488-5016.

## Schmaltzy Words of Genuine Gratitude

by Mouna Wilson

Another year has passed here in the Colestin Valley, where the peace generated by the trees, the streams, the neighbors (distant yet always available when needed,) the birds and deer and all the four-leggeds, the calm beauty of the Buddhists' Sanctuary, the well organized and skillful Fire Department, the daily rumble of our morning train right on schedule, Indigo's magical garden of flowers, orchards, and open welcome, makes coming home a great relief from the "news of the day" in the "outside world." Here we can kick off our boots, stoke our fires, enjoy our suppers, read a while, and fall asleep in the silence that permeates this lovely place. Gratitude is ever present in this heart. And to Lisa Buttrey, who keeps us all

connected and informed year after

year after year, I offer this special thank you! It wouldn't be the same without our "Buzz," Lisa. Wishing all souls of this pleasant, peaceful Valley the most rewarding Holidays in All Ways.  
Mouna

## Birthday Website

► [www.paulsadowski.com/birthday.asp](http://www.paulsadowski.com/birthday.asp)  
You type in your birth date and the website offers an interesting, if somewhat odd, array of facts about you and your birth year. Learn the moon's phase on the day you were born or how many births, marriages, divorces and deaths there were. My favorite stat is the number of persons per square mile in the U.S. (dare to compare with the current figure for a newborn!). A bit of fun to break up your computer workday.

## A WEB OF PEACE AND WAR

by Nancy Bringham

The hummingbirds have long gone across the Gulf of Mexico,  
their little hearts beating 1,260 times a minute.  
How fast, I wonder, does the human heart beat  
trapped on the 70th floor of a fiery building.

Pecking at our suet, the red-shafted flicker  
keeps watch for a passing hawk,  
the way the Afghani must eat his samosa now.  
Since the rains, the cougar has taken to high ground.  
For awhile the rabbits rest easy. Soon the snows will come;  
the bear will settle in his cave safe in knowing  
with the spring comes velvety green new life.

Deep under the old fir tree trunk, a heap of rattlers –  
a tangle of sleeping threat -- will one day awake again.  
The mephitic brown recluse has no season of rest  
and no forgiveness in his bite.

The oaks release their leaves  
and, like the lupines and lilies, trust the world  
will welcome their return when the earth spins its way.  
Can a heart hold such faith in the midst of carnage?  
So easy, that faith, in the midst of mountain glory.

## Available

---

### **Mouna's taking orders for her Big Mother's legendary prune cake**

▪ A great holiday gift ! ▪

Made with all organic ingredients (of course!) this cake is spicy and richly delicious--great for an after-Thanksgiving breakfast with coffee or tea. One cake serves 12 people and is \$25.00. A double cake serves 30 people and is \$45.00. They ship well and the flavor improves as long as the cake lasts--which won't be too long! Call 488-1469 to place orders.

## For Sale

---

Set of winter tires that were only used for a few months and are in great condition. Studded Winter Trax 215/65R for 16" rims (rims not included). If you can use them, make an offer. We need to clear out our garage! Karen Scheer [karen@monkeyhouse.org](mailto:karen@monkeyhouse.org) 541-301-4911

## Upcoming Events

---

### **COLESTINE VALLEY'S "UNIQUE BOUTIQUE"**

Join us on December 3rd, 2005 at 2205 Hilt Road from 10 am to 4 pm for a preview of our exciting line of handcrafted gift, fashion, and décor items, Our friends in the Colestin Valley and Hornbrook will have an exclusive first chance to preview and purchase unique and affordable holiday gift and fashion items at lower than retail prices before we show them at area craft fairs and in local stores. Several local craftpersons will be showing items at this open house as well as some from Ashland.

Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome to come anytime during the open house. For more information, call Joy McKinley at (530) 475-3228 or Shari Peterson at (541) 488-8256.

**NEW DATE, DEC 3<sup>RD</sup> ! WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!**

# Colestin Valley Buzz

**Lisa Buttrey**  
**1211 Colestin Rd**  
**Ashland, OR 97520**

Next BUZZ  
Deadline  
Jan 15, 2006



## Subscribe Now !

Cost for Buzz Year July 2005-July 2006 is \$8 for bi-monthly issues. Any additional donations are very much appreciated and help to ensure that everyone in the valley receives the Buzz. Snip the subscription strip below and send it along with your cash or check to:

Lisa Buttrey  
(not "The Buzz" per "The Bank")  
1211 Colestin Rd  
Ashland, OR 97520  
Buzz Submissions/Info/Questions:  
541-821-5479, [lbuttrey@starband.net](mailto:lbuttrey@starband.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

