

# COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

## JAN/FEB 2007



### Colestin Valley Website

Enjoy past issues of *The Buzz* and other great stuff!

<http://www.colestinvalley.org>

From time to time I have considered creating a Web site for the Colestin Valley, since building web sites is what I do. I went ahead and created the site, but I only told about 6 people about it. I didn't want many to see it at the 'idea stage'...but that was a mistake. The website has a lot of potential and the ideas of others in our community will indeed make it worthwhile.

Features included so far are: links to the Fire District's site, to the weather cams, some maps, the movie listings for Ashland and Medford, and the beginnings of a list of services available in the Colestin. It would also be a great place to post information on activities and events. Using the Web for this information may not be the style of all of us, but it is for some. I put a bunch of ideas on the main page, and welcome your feedback.

I have long thought that it would be great to have the Colestin Valley Buzz online -- so we could reference back issues of the Buzz. The Buzz has provided so much valuable information for residents; it would be great to have a way to get back to that information when you need it. Searching for old copies is difficult at best, and I think few of us actually organize or even retain our past issues. I hope that offering archived issues online will be a lot easier than the alternative.

With that in mind, I made a draft of my idea:

<http://www.colestinvalley.org/buzz.html>

I have posted 2004-2006 Buzz issues, and plan to follow with more back issues as available. Let's find out if this works for people. The draft site has a section for the BUZZ that allows searching each issue. In time, I can make it search multiple issues (by key word, date, author, etc.) and it could also help folks submit articles, events, classified ads (wanted and for sale) and probably a lot of things I'd never dream up on my own.

I invite you to take a look and give me feedback. Rick Eckel, [rick@rickeckel.com](mailto:rick@rickeckel.com), 482-4883

### Home Address Sign Feedback

The red, reflective home address signs have been up for awhile now and the sign committee would like to hear about any troubles or fixes that may be needed. Is your sign missing or broken or poorly placed? Call Teri at 482-3421 or Lisa at 821-5479 and let us know your concerns and we will do our best "address" your issues. ☺

### Donate Blood

Rogue Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross  
<http://redcross.jeffnet.org>

When: Every Friday 9AM – 2PM

Where: American Red Cross donor center, 1174 Progress Drive, Medford (next to the DMV).

Call: Christina Dunlap, 842-4707, for scheduling details

## **Jackson County Recycling Directory**

Hot off the press

The good folks at Ashland Sanitary and Recycling offer this new reference for all your recycling needs. It includes info for everything you can imagine - from grease to computers to athletic shoes to anti-freeze to concrete. Available at [www.ashlandsanitary.com](http://www.ashlandsanitary.com) or at their office, 170 Oak St (next door to the Northwest Nature Shop).

## **Recycle Your Ink Cartridges**

Reprinted with permission by Risa Buck  
ASR Waste Reduction Educator

Ashland Sanitary & Recycling (ASR) is launching a new Ink Cartridge & Toner Recycling Program. The proceeds will ensure the continuation of the Compact Fluorescent Recycling Program at the Recycling Center in Ashland.

About 85% of all empty ink cartridges are just thrown away. Over a million end up in landfills daily and don't decompose, even after 1,000 years. The other 15% end up in Guiyu, China and become electronic waste or e-waste.

Heaps of burned inkjet cartridges, toner and other e-waste have transformed this town into a toxic dump. Drinking water is trucked in due to high levels of lead and acid from FairTrade shea nuts and butter the e-waste leaching into the Lianjiang River.

It is controversial whether it's better to return e-waste to the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or send it to a remanufacturer. Our research has concluded that 80% of e-waste collected

by 'recyclers' ends up in Asia. ASR has carefully chosen Netinks of Medford because of their commitment to environmentally responsible recycling with the Toner Remanufacturing Industry. Netinks locates recyclers that reuse the plastic or stockpile it until it re-enters the recycling stream. None of our cartridges are disposed of in landfills or sent to Asia.

To get started or for more information, please stop by 170 Oak Street, call 482-1471 or go to [www.ashlandsanitary.com](http://www.ashlandsanitary.com). Prepaid mailing envelopes can be picked up at the ASR office, Recycling Center and the Ashland Food Co-op. Empty toner cartridges are accepted only at the Recycling Center & ASR office.

Generous grants from the Conservation Commission are ending and the Ink Cartridge Recycling Program earnings will continue the Compact Fluorescent & Fluorescent Bulb Program. Residential customers can bring up to 10 fluoresce light tubes or compact fluorescent bulbs to the Recycling Center per visit.

## **CHECK IT OUT !**

[WWW.MEDFORDNICKEL.COM](http://WWW.MEDFORDNICKEL.COM)

I was delighted to find that The Medford Nickel is available on-line. In spite of my best intentions, I forget to pick up The Nickel, hot off the press on Thursdays. You know what that means...You Snooze You Lose! It is easier for me to make a quick on-line check in a more timely manner and here's the great part - it is all categorized! If you need something particular as I usually do, it is much easier to navigate directly to your category of interest. No more leafing through page after page after page. In one respect, the paper Nickel is still superior - it's marvelous for starting a fire!

WINTER MUSING  
BY MOUNA WILSON

Out my kitchen window flittery little brown birds feed on the seeds scattered from the bird feeder by raucous blue jays. Two and a half feet of snow blankets the area, unperturbed except for the sinking footprints made from trips to the compost bin. I wonder as I watch this winter gathering, if these are the very same birds who fed in this very same place at this very same time last year. I smile at my latent curiosity which seems to emerge through my (supposedly) unscientific mind.

Diverted from my bird watching by movement that catches my eye on the counter tiles, I see ants crawling randomly. They, too, have returned with the winter to search out any crumb or spill that could lead to more abundant scavenging. I seek their trail, which, as I watch, becomes more distinct. What message have they received from their scouts? Invasion, I know, is imminent. Already they have besieged my ninety-eight-cents-a-pound organic sugar. Hundreds of them, visible through the glass canister, burrow through the off-white granules with speed and determination. I grab the canister and set it on the snow-covered bench outside the kitchen door, knowing as I do so, they will simply sink into “ant meditation” from which they will emerge when the temperature rises above freezing. This temporary measure does not resolve the problem of remaining hordes gathering in a solid line from the ceiling down the wall, over the window sill, and across the counter to the sink, where they scramble among the dirty dishes awaiting my attention. My curiosity dissolves into frustration. To kill or not to kill.

Some winters past I returned from town to discover a four-inch-wide column of blackness, like an Andy Goldsworthy creation, moving in a gentle serpentine across the west wall of my geodesic dome over the arched entry way, behind the spinet piano, across the octagonal picture window sill, behind the window frame, and into the wall—a twenty-two-foot solid body of hundreds of thousands of nature’s harvesters. Having learned from some spiritually oriented Japanese gardeners that it is the job of insects to remove dead and diseased matter, I surmised that there must be a very large dead thing in the wall to warrant such a massive onslaught. Remembering that the Balinese place sugared rice at the outside corners of all their structures to appease the ants, I took my half-full honey pot (which the incorrigible invaders had already confiscated) and placed it on the sill across their path. It took them three days to clean the honey pot slicker than any detergent. Mission accomplished, they returned on the same path—behind the spinet, over the archway, across the west wall and gone.

In the ensuing years since that artistic invasion, I have continued to feed said creatures and to observe that when they have sated themselves, they leave. A visiting friend of mine--a lab technician from U. C. Davis--obviously uncomfortable with the ease with which I let my home be invaded--suggested that a boric acid, sugar-saturated cotton ball placed across the ants’ trail would rid the nuisance of having the inner walls of my dome home consumed by said varmints. “They will take the contaminated sweet to the queen, who will die, destroying the entire colony.”

This seemed an easy solution to rid myself of these oncoming tormentors.

Before carrying out this act of biological warfare, I remembered the Buddhist nun who, at times, assisted my mother with her house cleaning. The nun would place each single ant found in Mom's kitchen on her finger nail and carry the precious creature outside, placing it on a leaf or stone. Although Mom realized that she was paying by the hour for this act of compassion, it amused her enough to be entertaining and, I assume, worth it. She certainly was not about to suggest to someone whose religion forbade the killing of any living creature that the nun go against her belief. Besides, her youngest child, gone from this earth, had given the family a book entitled "Believing As Though the God in All Life Matters", which we all read. Even to think of killing a living creature, whether it was destroying "property" or not, now brought questioning, guilt, and self-doubt. Southern Baptists seem to feel that God's having given "man dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, . . . over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" obliges them to kill or not to kill whatever is deemed necessary of God's created, based on the "literality" of

Genesis 1:24. Mom was a Southern Baptist (as was I at one young point in time.)

I am no closer to resolving this dilemma than I was when I first started this musing. Because I am against the pre-emptive war still raging in Iraq, it's easy for me to see myself as this "power" metaphorically determining the fate of (implied) "lesser beings" who are "out to get me by destroying my property." In seeing the situation in this way, I can justify my aggressiveness against these minute "beings" without considering their place in the scheme of life--without bothering to learn their "language, their culture, their own motivations" (which MUST play some vital part, even though I cannot fathom what it might be.) Recently I read of a soldier who, after having to march shouting, "Train to kill. Kill I will," became a conscientious objector. His choice will result in his imprisonment. In this moment I choose to support the determination not to kill, in hopes that in some very, very small way I honor the God in all Life--not because some religion or book or person tells me to do so or not to do so--but because I have not done the homework necessary to guide me in making such a vital decision about allowing or not allowing the ants to do their job.

## For Sale

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**Sustainably grown no-pesticide almonds.** \$5.00 per lb. These almonds are from a grower in Arbuckle who cares about sustainability and quality.

**Fresh-off-the-trees lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruit** from the same grower in the coming days and weeks. I look forward to serving you! If you would like to order some, call Mouna at 488-1469.

## Expressions of Gratitude

From Rick Eckel

I'd like to share my appreciation to the folks in the Carriage House for the wonderful lights we've enjoyed through these dark cold nights. They shine like a beacon. I wonder about days gone by, when coaches drove the road -- the folks back then must have done something similar to light the road. The light is very reassuring and comforting and I have really appreciated them.

### A YEAR OF SERVICE FROM COLESTIN AND HILT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Our local volunteers have offered assistance in many types of emergency situation in the past year. These tables describe the breakdown of the number of call-outs in various categories. I would like to extend a hearty thank you to all those neighbors who dedicate hours and hours of their time training, maintaining buildings and apparatus, serving the community, and responding to emergencies.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

New members are always welcome. For information, call Chief Steve Avgeris at 488-1768.

| <u>Year</u>         | <u>2006</u> | <u>Alarm</u> | <u>Summary</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Fire                |             |              | 23             |
| Hazardous Condition |             |              | 1              |
| Medical             |             |              | 21             |
| Public Service      |             |              | 1              |

## Local "Freecycle" Exchange Group

Have good stuff that you are willing to give away to a good home? Looking for free goodies? Join 1683 other folks who are participating in Ashland Freecycle. It is a web-based clearinghouse run through Yahoo Groups. To subscribe go to Yahoo > Groups > AshlandORFreecycle > click again on AshlandORFreecycle > Join This Group. At that point you can either sign in if you are already registered with Yahoo, or you have to option to register. It takes a bit of time to register (less than 10 mins), but it is easy and you may find other Yahoo groups of interest to you.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Vehicle Accident with Injuries                      | 7  |
| Structure Fire, Other                               | 1  |
| Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire              | 10 |
| Power Line Down                                     | 1  |
| Person in Distress, Other                           | 1  |
| Passenger Vehicle Fire                              | 1  |
| Outside Fire, Other                                 | 5  |
| Medical Assist, Assistance Provided to Other Agency | 1  |
| Medical Assist, Other                               | 1  |
| Grass Fire  | 2  |
| Forest or Woods Fire                                | 1  |
| EMS Call (Transport by Ambulance Co.)               | 11 |
| EMS Call (No Transport)                             | 1  |
| Building Fire                                       | 1  |
| Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire              | 2  |
| Total   | 46 |

Check out [www.crfd.org](http://www.crfd.org) for all the latest about your Volunteer Fire Departments

# Colestin Valley Buzz

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Next BUZZ  
Deadline  
Mar 15, 2007



## Subscribe Now !

Cost for Buzz Year July 2006-July 2007 is \$8 for bi-monthly issues. Snip the subscription strip below and send it along with your cash or check to:

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