A few fun facts from Susan:

1. I play competitive duplicate bridge twice a week at the local Phoenix Bridge Center.

2. I knit … current project: socks for my sister from a pattern Kate Hassen gave me.

3. I love classical music and have season tickets to the Rogue Valley Symphony.

4. Below are a couple of pictures of my cutting garden this summer.

by Cindy Williams 2014

It is my honor to introduce Susan Koenig, the 2019 Jackson County Master Gardener Associations President. I sincerely hope that you will embrace this great lady that I call a friend. Every president brings a new temperament, variety of skills and experiences to the table and Susan deserves our support. She has an interesting history and the tenacity to take the Master Gardener Association to new levels of success.

As a student in my 2015 Practicum she never missed a class, worked hard, asked great questions and supported the other students. Susan expected everyone to do their jobs as well as she did hers. As a Mentor it is tough to walk that fine line of, are we asking too much of student volunteers or just enough and she never let us down.

Susan has a great sense of humor. In getting ready to write her introduction I asked her if she had any pet-peeves; “No, but I have a pet. Her name is Rosie and she is a 14-year-old orange Maine Coon cat. She is my constant companion around the house, but she draws the line at the door. Beyond that, she tells me is the Wild, Wild West with lions, tigers, and bears. Actually, cougars, foxes and coyotes. We live on the backside of a hill that encompasses a 2,800-acre nature preserve called Look Far.”

She also said that the Master Gardeners are now her family. “When I moved here from the Bay Area, I wanted to join a community of enthusiastic gardeners to learn and contribute back to the community. My experience is that the JCMGA is warmly welcoming, knowledgeable and very capable! I found various roles where I could contribute and served as Practicum mentor, Grants Administrator, Apprentice Coordinator, Chair of Apprentice Curriculum (ACT), Board member for two years, president-elect and now President.”

Continued on next page…
Rain on My Window; Wind in My Sails

As we are about to begin the new year, I sit looking out over the Rogue Valley below, rain lashing my windows and wind rocking the tall Douglas fir across the street. I welcome the rain because we need it so badly, but I worry about the wind. My neighbor clocked it at 70 mph two years ago. Despite his mackintosh, my neighbor’s gardener is getting very wet as he cuts up fallen branches from the fragile elm tree in their yard. The wind was so strong here last night that the front porch furniture skidded across the porch to the edge of the stairs. Last year’s storms sent it flying down the stairs, into the driveway. I think about tying it down but settle for hauling it back in place and wedging it behind a heavy garden bench left by the previous owners. Now I’m a little wet, too.

Continued from previous page, Susan ...

I also asked Susan if she wanted to make changes and she said “I prefer to think of any new ideas not as changes, but as evolution. Anything organic, including an organization as well grounded as the Master Gardeners, will decay if it doesn’t grow and evolve. Changes should be an outgrowth of our organizational roots.”

Most of her working career was spent as a consultant to courts and criminal justice agencies all over the USA and in many parts of the world. Susan sounds like me, having been to all the states except Mississippi and many countries. “Lot of travel, jet lag, time away from home, friends and family. Don’t get me wrong, I had some wonderful assignments, met interesting people, and along the way I hope I helped the courts I worked with to enter the 21st century. Some of my fondest memories are of long overseas trips to give a seminar for 5 justices of the Supreme Court of the People’s Republic of China; helping the Jamaican court system to modernize its record keeping; working to improve the court systems in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore; providing consulting assistance to the judges of the newly established United Nations Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and designing a modern court information system for Hong Kong – as it was approaching the handover to China (such optimism to embark on improvements to a court system in a country returning to Chinese rule).”

Susan says now that she is a homebody living in Jackson County, just south of Medford, on ¾ of an acre, she can garden to her heart’s content, growing fruit and vegetables for the local food pantry and herself, roses and lots of flowers. She has two grandchildren, Luna (4 ½) and Terran (9) who live close enough to visit once in a while. They are a big joy in her life.

Again, my Master Gardener friends, please welcome Susan as your President and into your lives. It will be a rewarding experience.

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JCMGA can earn money every time you shop at Grange! How cool is that? Whenever you shop at any of the Grange Co-Op locations, tell the clerk you are a Jackson County Master Gardener and they will credit our account with the amount of your purchase. At the end of the year, JCMGA will receive a percentage of all our accumulated credits back in the form of cash! This is like free money since we all buy plants, tools, and garden supplies!

If you have a personal account with Grange, you cannot receive the credit for both your account and the Master Gardener account; you will need to make a choice. With that one caveat aside, this is one of the simplest and easiest fundraisers.
Continued from Previous Page, President…

My cat Rosie, who is recovering from oral surgery, wants to be close, so she chooses a spot on the couch next to me. She is still a bit sleepy and wobbly from the anesthesia. I can enjoy the tumult outside because I am in a warm cocoon with the wood stove glowing faintly through the glass door. Having a fire in the stove is a rare occasion for me because I am usually on the go so much that I don’t have time and resolve to go a little slower this year. After all, I am retired (it says here in fine print). And then I remember – I’m going to be the JCMGA President this year, and I will be even busier than before. Oh dear, I’ll have to put all that retirement stuff off for a year. No snoozing in front of the fire stroking Rosie. Will I have time to care for those roses I am rooting in a nursery bed by the back door? Will I be able to start those two new flower beds I had dug up this fall? And what about the expanded vegetable garden I have been working on – will it have to wait a year? I get a little unsettled as I think of the demands on my time.

Then, I start to think of all the opportunities JCMGA presents and my mood blossoms to one of excitement and optimism. I am by nature an optimistic person. JCMGA is a vibrant, lively organization with many dedicated volunteers ready to lend a hand. I can’t wait to get started!

Here’s an overview of some of the opportunities I see. The new JCMGA organizational structure, which organizes our standing committees into 9 Working Groups, was approved by the Board this year. Now, we have several new Working Groups to make functional in 2019, and others need new leaders. The new Member Services Working Group has much promise. It’s purpose is to focus on creating new opportunities within the organization for members to connect with one another while engaging in study groups, garden trips and events that enable us to learn, practice and teach the art and science of gardening in the Rogue Valley. In other words, have fun while we’re making friends and learning something new about gardening. This group also encompasses the Membership Secretary’s responsibilities and what we have called the Social Committee in the past. The Member Services Working Group is chaired by Keltie Nelson (2016), the Membership Secretary for 2019 is Patrice Kaska (2016) and the newly-minted Member Involvement Committee under this WG is chaired by Gina Velando (2018). Those of you who know these women will recognize that this is a happening group that will create exciting new activities for JCMGA members. Gina is now recruiting members to help form the Member Involvement Committee. If you want to be in on the ground floor, helping to create a new committee with an exciting purpose, call Gina (541)301-7230 or me (541)897-4238. We’ll fix you right up!

After a very successful symposium in 2018, the Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Working Group Chair wants to pass the baton and the wonderful, detailed documentation she is creating to the incoming chair. But, who will be the new chair(s) of WD/SG? This is still a mystery. Do you have the answer? If you would like to explore this opportunity, call Jo Terrell (541) 841-2453 or Jane Moyer (541) 890-8561. Co-chairs welcome (You don’t have to do it alone.)

See what I mean about opportunities? There are more than I can mention this month. More in coming months in the President’s column.

I look forward to serving as your President for 2019. My door is always open, and I welcome your suggestions. See you around the Extension!

Happy New Year
Jackson County Master Gardener™ 2019 Board

WELCOME

President Elect
Ronnie Budge

OMGA Representative
Barbara Davidson

Jane Moyer
Recording Secretary

Annette Carter
Treasurer

Patrice Kaska
Membership Secretary

Pam Hillers
Archives

Member-at-Large
Kathy Apple

Member-at-Large
Eileen Beall

Member-at-Large
Rod Bumgardner

Member-at-Large
Rebecca Jurta

Member-at-Large
Gina Velando

Happy New Year
The OSU Land Steward Program is pleased to announce a new Land Steward Short Course that allows an additional option to participate in this award-winning program in an abbreviated format. In this course, you will gain essential insights into wildfire risk reduction, woodland management, encouraging and controlling wildlife, stream ecology, pasture management, growing healthy soils, small acreage infrastructure, stewardship planning, and more.

2019 Land Steward Short Course

Throughout the course, you can expect to spend up to two hours per week on each self-paced online lesson and related activities. Through the online materials and in-person sessions, you will develop property management and planning skills, see real-life examples of land stewardship in action, network with other landowners, and meet natural resource professionals and learn how they can support you.

2019 Land Steward Short Course
Location: Jackson County OSU Extension
Time: Feb. 14 – Apr. 13
Instruction format: 1 in-class, 2 in-field, 8 self-paced online lessons
Contact: Rachel.Werling@oregonstate.edu
Early Bird Discount Through Feb. 5
Registration Deadline: Feb. 12
Online Registration: https://pace.oregonstate.edu/catalog/land-steward-short-course

Another Course Option: The Full Land Steward Program!
Are you interested in the traditional field-based Land Steward program? This award-winning course is based in Central Point and is held on 11 consecutive afternoons in September. Watch for the posting of dates in the near future.
Contact: Rachel Werling, 541-776-7371, rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu or visit https://extension.oregonstate.edu/land-steward

Click HERE for more Information
Happy New Year Gardeners!

by Erika Szonntag

I hope that the slower days of winter have been relaxing, cozy, and that plenty of time was spent with family and loved ones over the holidays.

With the dropped leaves, something I have noticed more recently during walks in the woods is mistletoe. It got me thinking about which plants might have significance around the winter solstice and the holidays and it turns out, quite a few!

Mistletoe (from the Saxon word mistl-tan, which means “different twig”) is a parasitic evergreen with white berries and yellow flowers that looks like a globe hanging in the canopies of conifers and hardwoods. There are several stories surrounding mistletoe. The most common, kissing underneath the green sphere goes back to Norse legend, which designated mistletoe to promote peace and love. Druids thought mistletoe was sacred because it did not grow from roots on the ground. When found in an oak, the most sacred of trees to Druids, the mistletoe was thought to be the soul of the tree.

Yew represents death of the old year, while the birch tree symbolized new beginnings. Pines are for peace, healing, and joy, while oak symbolized eternal life, protection, and strength.

Perhaps the most interesting botanical story around the winter solstice and Christmas is that of the fly agaric (Amanita muscaria) mushroom. This Old-World mushroom is thought to be the foundation of the story of Santa Claus and his flying reindeer.

In northern Europe and Asia, this fungus typically appears underneath firs and spruce in the days leading up to the winter solstice. Shamans from these regions would dress in special red garments trimmed with white fur and black boots (sound familiar?) to collect these mushrooms. Upon returning to the village, they would enter their yurts through the smoke hole, as this was the portal to the spirit world. When the mushrooms were ingested, one’s face would flush (think rosy cheeks and noses) and gave a sense of well-being, visions, and even the feeling of flying, as the Sami (Laplander) people would say when riding on their sleighs with reindeer. The reindeer from these northern regions even have a documented taste for the fungi. In addition to being shared as gifts, dried fly agaric mushrooms were historically strung with popcorn and cranberries as mid-winter decorations.

With the winter solstice past, enjoy the coming longer days and continued beauty of winter!

Lemons or Lemonade?

by Jane Moyer 2005

As you may remember from Erika Szonntag’s December column, in an effort to limit the spread of soil-borne diseases and pests in Oregon, ODA will no longer allow Master Gardener associations to accept or sell any donations grown in garden soil. Please help us pass the word that perennial divisions, bulbs, etc. should no longer be left by the greenhouses for the Practicum to use if they were taken from garden soil.

Continued on page 13….

Sandy Hammond, Roberta Heinz & Annette Carter have become great friends as Master Gardeners
Oregon State University
Master Gardener™
Certification Training

Now accepting applications!
Are you interested in gaining in-depth skills and knowledge in home horticulture, plus giving back to your community? Consider becoming an OSU Master Gardener! This 17-week horticulture program develops knowledge and skills in:

- Botany
- Soil science
- Insect and plant disease identification and control
- Care and culture of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs

Weekly classes are held Wednesdays, Jan 16 to Apr 17, 2019
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (one hour for lunch)

Weekly, three-hour Practicum sessions are held Jan 31 to May 11

Location: Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

“We learn, practice and teach the Art and Science of Gardening in the Rogue Valley”

Cost is $300 and includes the 500-page manual
For More information visit jacksoncountymga.org or

Email Erika.Szonntag@oregonstate.edu

Please Print and Give to your Friends that are not Jackson County Master Gardeners™
40th annual Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Spring Garden Fair 2019

Jackson County EXPO
1 Peninger Road
Central Point OR 97502

Free Parking
General Admission: $3
Ages 12 and under: free

Saturday May 4th 9 - 5pm
Sunday May 5th 10 - 4pm
Over 100 Exhibitors

http://www.jacksoncountymga.org
541-227-1358

Visitors interested in having their well water tested should bring a one cup sample

digital artist: luigi boghi, master gardener
Oregon State University Extension Service

Master Gardener

2019 Community Education Classes

Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd in Central Point, OR 97502
Classes are $10 if pre-registered & pre-paid at least 24 hours in advance.
Classes are $15 at the door (unless otherwise noted)
Additional $5 discount for Master Gardeners & other Extension volunteers.
All classes are eligible for MG recertification education hours
Refunds only available 48 hours before class

Saturday, January 19
10:00 am – 12:00 noon
**Polyculture: Companion Planting for Healthier Garden**
Regina Boykins
Master Gardener
Learn about the benefits of polyculture – how plants can help each other, how to attract pollinators, and other techniques for a more productive garden.

Tuesday, January 29
5:30 – 7:00 pm
*Grapevine Pruning*
Dr. Alexander Levin
Oregon Wine Research Institute
Learn the basics of grapevine pruning for home or small-scale grape production in the Rogue Valley.

Monday, February 18
6:00 – 8:00 pm
**Plants for School Gardens**
Christie Mackison
Shooting Star Nursery
How to select attractive, functional, and educational plants for school gardens.

Tuesday, February 26
6:00 – 8:00 pm
**Urban and Container Gardening**
Master Gardeners
Eric Suing and Toby Habeck
Build your garden up! Learn different techniques for trellising, creative ways to use containers, and vertical gardening.

Saturday, March 2
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
**Fruit Tree Pruning**
Terry Helfrich
Bear Creek Orchards
Bring loppers and gloves to this fun, hands-on pruning class for several species of popular fruit trees.

Monday, March 11
6:00 – 8:00 pm
**Firewise Landscaping**
Kara Baylog
OSU, My Southern Oregon Woodlands
Protecting your home from wildfire begins with prevention. Learn how to incorporate attractive, fire-resistant plants and landscaping techniques into your property.

Monday, April 1
6:00 – 8:00 pm
**Weed Management**
Maud Powell
OSU Small Farms Program
The first step to conquering weeds is learning to identify them. A management plan can then be formulated using an integrated weed program.
Announcements

1. The June 7, 2019 Board Meeting was changed to Tuesday, June 11, 9:00-11:30 due to a conflict.

2. Barbara Davidson reported she went on an OMGA retreat at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Oregon City, Oregon. She announced there is a Vice-President vacancy in the OMGA, that person will be the coordinator for the mini-colleges. There will be no mini-college in 2019, instead the leaders will go around and visit all the different chapters.

Treasurer's Report

Annette Carter reported there isn’t a lot going on. There was a $960 profit from the Bulb sales at Winter Dreams.

Unfinished Business

1. Jane Moyer reported the JCMGA portion of the Electric Bill comes from the Practicum Classroom, Prop House, Propagation Garden Greenhouse on one meter and Greenhouse #1 and Greenhouse #2 on the other meter. Roberta Heinz worked hard putting together all the charts to show the JCMGA portion of the Electric Bill. We appreciate and thank her for all her hard work with that. We also thank Rich Roseburg from SOREC for being very generous with JCMGA on the Electric Bill.

Motion: Jane Moyer moved that JCMGA agree with SOREC to share the monthly electric bill as follows: SOREC will pay the first $300 each month for meter #34882339 and JCMGA will pay the remainder plus SOREC will pay the first $25 each month for meter #35967916 and JCMGA will pay the remainder. SOREC will provide the monthly bills to the JCMGA treasurer for information and will request six-month payments from JCMGA in June and December. The motion was seconded by Sherri Morgan. One abstention. Motion approved.

2. Jane Moyer reported the catering by Emily Moore got rave reviews. Due to a misunderstanding there was only one lunch line. Based on returned evaluations, the food was the “best ever”, very healthy and everyone enjoyed the classes and were able to take the classes they wanted.

Jo Terrell suggested putting together timelines of when and what needs to be done to make the job as easy as possible for future people doing Winter Dreams. She and Jane will work on that together.

Kari Gies announced a person to Chair Winter Dreams is still needed.

Motion: Jane Moyer moved that JCMGA agree with SOREC to share the monthly electric bill as follows: SOREC will pay the first $300 each month for meter #34882339 and JCMGA will pay the remainder plus SOREC will pay the first $25 each month for meter #35967916 and JCMGA will pay the remainder. SOREC will provide the monthly bills to the JCMGA treasurer for information and will request six-month payments from JCMGA in June and December. The motion was seconded by Sherri Morgan. One abstention. Motion approved.

3. Susan Koenig presented a motion to

approve the By-Laws that have been updated.

Motion: Pam Hillers moved to approve the By-Laws that have been updated to include the changes to our association that have been voted on during the past year. The motion was seconded by Linda Holder. Motion approved.

Sandy Hammond, Maxine Cass, and Linda Holder delivered a “thank you” gift basket to the employees of the Medford Grange in appreciation of their long-standing support of our TV series, “In the Garden.” They generously loaned us plants all summer and always with courtesy and a smile! We truly enjoyed working with the Grange!

Thank you
Grange CO-OP
New Business

1. Susan Koenig presented a motion to approve Keltie Nelson as the Chair of the Member Services Working Group.

Motion: Susan Koenig moved the Board approve Keltie Nelson as the Chair of the Member Services Working Group. The motion was seconded by Sherri Morgan. Motion approved.

2. President Hassen reported on the JCMGA Audit, we are doing well (Audit attached).

Motion: Barbara Davidson move the Board accept the audit thru October 31, 2018 as printed. Motion was seconded by Jo Terrell. Motion approved.

3. Jane Moyer proposed a request from Rich Roseburg, the Research Director from OSU to raise Hemp for research. He has permission from the Federal Government to do this research. He would like to rent, with grant money, the tiny greenhouse. He would make the improvements needed to the greenhouse and make it lockable. Erika Szonntag expressed that Rich would like to know if the Board is willing to discuss it or not. A straw vote was taken and all Board members were open to further discussion on the topic.

4. Annette Carter reported, the 2019 budget does not get voted on until the January 2019 Board meeting. Any questions about the budget are directed to Annette.

5. Kari Gies suggested having a Working Groups Board Report Policy where the Chair of each Working Group for every committee submit a report each month. If there is nothing to report the report that.

Motion: Kari Gies moved the Board adopt a policy whereby each working group chair is responsible for reporting on the business of each of the committees under their working group to the JCMGA Board on a monthly basis via Dropbox. The motion was seconded by Linda Holder. One abstention. Motion approved.

6. Jim Buck reported that Ross Jones is still interested in continuing as the coordinator for the Speakers Bureau. Hanley Farms would like to have speakers 10 Sundays. Eagle Point Golf Course would like speakers on Turf grass, CCR's, and Drought resistance. We are looking to fulfill those needs. Jim suggested having mentors for people who don’t like to speak in front of people.

Some ideas for ways to increase visibility are, the Garden Beet, emails to garden clubs to increase public awareness and expand the outreach program.

7. Jane Moyer brought to the JCMGA Boards attention that the June 7, 2019 Board meeting conflicted with the Practicum. That date was then changed to June 11, 2019 9:00-11:30am. Also, the Graduation date was changed to Saturday October 12, 2019. There is a master calendar on the JCMGA website.

President's Report

President Hassen would like to thank those Board members who are leaving the Board for all their hard work, Michael Riding, Sherri Morgan, Roberta Heinz, Jo Terrell, Chris Hjerrild and Juliette Van Weeghel.

She would like to welcome the New Board members and wish them a great year in 2019.

Next Meeting: Friday January 11, 2019 at 9:30am in the SOREC Auditorium.

Submitted by Keri Couvrette, Recording Secretary, Master Gardener 2017
Julie’s Garden
by Julie Engleson 2012

Again, we get a fresh, clean canvas in front of us – to paint and decorate as we please. Perhaps this year you’ll choose a bold color palate for the season. Maybe trying something totally different and new for the year? As you look through your catalogues and decide what to order, dare yourself to be unusual and bold. Try a new vegetable out on your family – or perhaps one in a funny color. Or think about planting your garden in a circle – provided you’ll have the space! Another fun thing to try is to plant in an indigenous fashion: The Three Sisters way. Stalks of corn, with beans growing up the stalks and squash growing around the base of the corn/beans. I have yet to try this, but in my opinion, this would be very water-conserving. As the squash shades the roots of the corn and beans, you’ll get the benefit of three plants for the money spent on water for one!

Thank you for doing a little rain dance for the Rogue Valley last month. The ground is now soft enough to move if you’d like to put in a new walk, construct a garden hard-scape of some sort, or put bricks, rocks, or other mortar materials into places where you’ll need to move a bit of earth. This is my favorite time to add these features, as the ground is pliable and will lock anything into permanent place once the sun appears again! I’ve found that the rain works wonders in melting in all that new mulch and compost into my garden boxes as well. As we get more rain, continue adding more soil to your boxes so that the rain also settles all soils into place for the growing season.

Another reason I’m delighted to have this lovely soft earth beneath my feet is that I still need to plant more bulbs. I may not have the flowers in a timely early-spring fashion, but at least I won’t have to hire a jackhammer to put them in! Of course, I will be planting any tulip bulbs in wire baskets as to not feed them all to my gophers…they are only too happy its been raining! I must have 40 new mounds a week. I am grateful to report that most of their activity is outside my garden area, but at some point, they’ll find it, I’m sure!

Continued on next page…
Reflecting back on the heat and smoke of this past summer, and thinking about the real ‘garden-apathy’ that sets in at the end of the season, I am always reminded of the New Year as a lovely reset button: the opportunity to change things up, to try new things, to delight in the chance to do it all over again, and maybe this time better! As gardeners, we have a new beginning each year to reeducate ourselves from season to season how to make our gardens thrive, perhaps how to save more seeds, and how to share our new knowledge with others. I can’t think of a better ‘job’ to have than to be excited about a new gardening year again…a chance to experiment if one chooses to do so; the gift of sharing time, knowledge and skill with others so that they can do the same, year after year. The Garden being a perpetual gift for us all. A chance to experience renewal from Mother Earth – the opportunity to enhance our landscape, not only for our eyes and taste buds, but for all those wild creatures that visit our sacred spaces too. May peace, joy and love be in abundance for you all this New Year. I really am so excited to start anew. Aren’t you? Happy Gardening!

Continued from page 6
Lemons…

At first, this was concerning to the Practicum mentors, but we have decided to see it as an opportunity to expand our program into other means of propagation. “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!”

Perennials will continue to get too big for the space they are in and will still have to be divided. Storage organs will continue to multiply, requiring digging and dividing. And gardeners will continue to want changes in their gardens. Therefore, we will continue to have a dig and divide lesson as a demonstration in the Practicum because it is a necessary skill for home gardeners to learn. We will have to explain to students, though, the concerns about sharing divided plants with friends and neighbors.

We have come up with the following recommendations for replacing the donated perennials we have always sold:

1. Plant more seeds than we have in the past (both annuals and perennials).
2. Buy perennial plugs and grow them on in gallon containers.
3. Develop a plan for carrying perennial plants over the summer if they aren’t ready for sale in May.
4. Find funding (grants?) for an automatic outdoor watering system as part of #3.
5. Raise more plants from cuttings.
6. Ask local nurseries to donate or discount perennials (in soilless potting mix) they don’t want to carry over the winter.
7. Specialize in plants that are more difficult to find locally including native plants, plants for pollinators, etc. (Imagine us becoming THE local source for native plants!)

We are looking for additional ideas so put your thinking caps on and send any suggestions to janemoyer@connpoint.net. We are determined to turn what originally seemed like a problem into a great opportunity to expand our curriculum and have even more to sell at the Spring Garden Fair!
Beet Box

Editor........Cindy Williams .cindy@clwrv.com
Photography....Kenda Swartz, Glenn Risley, Maxine Cass, Jolene Monheim

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All articles and photos are due by the 15th of the preceding month and have a maximum of 600 words. Photos submitted cannot be less than 600x800 pixels.

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