

TREE HUNT

Head for the hills with friends and family to find that perfect holiday tree.



ASHLAND DAILY TIDINGS

SATURDAY | December 15, 2012

Vol. 137, Issue 150 www.dailytidings.com Serving southern Jackson County since 1876 An edition of the Mail Tribune 75 cents

New lawsuit filed against Mt. Ashland ski expansion

Complaint claims new information must be used in project analysis, including impact of climate change on snowfall and skier visitation

By **Vickie Aldous**
Ashland Daily Tidings

Environmental groups have filed a new lawsuit to try and block a planned expansion of the Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

Filed on Thursday in U.S. District Court in Medford, the groups' complaint said the U.S. Forest Service failed to take into consideration new information that could impact the expansion.

In the complaint, attorneys for the

Sierra Club, Oregon Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity said the Forest Service's environmental and financial analysis of the expansion is outdated.

The expansion plan approved by the Forest Service in 2004 already had been the subject of a lawsuit and multiple appeals.

In August of this year, a judge lifted an injunction that had blocked the expansion.

The Mt. Ashland Association, which runs the nonprofit ski area, has

yet to begin any on-the-ground expansion work.

Among other issues, the new lawsuit said the expansion analysis failed to consider cumulative impacts on the Ashland watershed from the expansion and ongoing wildfire fuels thinning, potential climate change impacts on snowfall and skier visitation, and new state limits on the amount of sediment that can flow into Reeder Reservoir in the watershed.

Most of the Mt. Ashland Ski Area and the proposed expansion is in the

watershed, the source of Ashland's water supply.

"A large amount of information has been developed since the expansion was first approved," said Marianne Dugan, a Eugene-based environmental attorney working for the plaintiffs.

Federal law requires government agencies to update their environmental analyses of projects if significant new information comes to light, Dugan said.

SEE SUIT ON PAGE A3

Ashland Artists Abroad



ARTISTS CLAIRE BURBRIDGE AND MATTHEW PICTON, shown in their Ashland home, displayed their work at the prestigious Art Basel Miami Beach during Miami Art Week, an annual event where artists rub elbows with collectors.

The world's surreal art stage

Ashland artists sell their work at famous Miami Art Week

By **Janet Eastman**
Ashland Daily Tidings

Members of the world's most elite club — billionaire art collectors and blue-chip museum directors — jetted to sun-bleached Miami last week to shop.

The business of buying and selling contemporary works was conducted at dozens of art fairs, including the prestigious Art Basel Miami Beach, a phenomenon that stars in Tom

Wolfe's latest novel, dominates art news and gridlocks the Miami Beach Convention Center every December.

Paintings, sculptures and photographs were also displayed throughout the city in galleries, hotels and tents propped underneath a blue sky punctuated by gleaming glass skyscrapers, sleek Gulfstreams and artists' banners pulled by airplanes. "We're rich! We can do what we want," was the cloud-level statement devised by artist Jack Pierson.

Landing into this surreal,

days-long whirl of Picassos, Kahlos and other multimillion-dollar masterpieces up for grabs, were serious art collectors, fashion supernovas and the curious. P Diddy and Owen Wilson elbowed through

More Online

See this story at www.dailytidings.com to watch a slideshow and video of Miami Art Week fairs

the aisles amid casino magnates, a Libyan princess and a talkative Diane von Furstenberg.

Quietly in the Miami Art Week mix were Ashland artists Matthew Picton and Claire Burbridge. The two are respected for their painstaking, intelligent approach to art.

Without fanfare or a breathless media brigade, Picton sold his evocative paper sculpture and Burbridge sold an enchanting drawing at the smaller Aqua Fair, a few blocks from the hyperactive convention center.

After hours of explaining the intricacies of their work to collectors with varying budgets, the talented couple then took a stroll on Miami Beach's fabled shore.

Picton, who exhibits at Davis and Cline Gallery in Ashland and will have a show in San Francisco in June, presented his most recent work in which he uses text on upright ribbons of paper to create three-dimensional city maps.

SEE ART ON PAGE A3

'Our hearts are broken'



A MAN HUGS his daughters at a vigil in Newtown, Conn., following Friday's killings.

Gunman kills 26 at Conn. school, commits suicide

By **John Christoffersen**
The Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters cowered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying at least two handguns, committed suicide at the school, bringing the death toll to 28, authorities said.

SEE BROKEN ON PAGE A3

Southern Oregon wine continues upward trend

24 percent growth in wineries between 2010 and 2011

By **Greg Stiles**
For the Tidings

Southern Oregon's distinct viticultural areas have mirrored the growth of the state's nearly \$3 billion industry.

When Oregon wine production soared to new heights in 2011, producing 2.2 million cases for sale, the Rogue, Applegate Valley and Umpqua regions all saw their fortunes rise as well.

SEE WINE ON PAGE A3

Repercussions

Connecticut school shootings bring upsurge in calls for increased gun controls. **Nation&World**



Inner Peace

Holidays offer a time for reflection. **backpage**



INDEX

Classified	B4	Nation&World	A4	Sports	B1
Comics	B3	Obituaries	A2	Sudoku	B3
Crossword	B4	Opinion	A5	TV Listings	B3
Dear Abby	A3	Public Safety	A2	Weather	B3



Captain Lighthouse
brings you deals down the street!

No need to travel far and wide to redeem vouchers from other deal sites, Lighthouse Deals features deals at up to 90% off at YOUR local neighborhood businesses. Sign up today and never miss a way to save.

Lighthouse DEALS Live Local Deal Local
LighthouseDeals.com