

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ashland Branch Library, 774-6996

"Empire Builders" Lecture Series Kicks Off January 7

Historian Jeff LaLande will present "An Ornerly Tradition: 150 Years of Southern Oregon Politics" in the first of a yearlong series of talks celebrating Oregon's 150th birthday.

The brown-bag lecture series will be offered twice each month, 12 noon to 1 p.m., on the first Wednesday at the Medford Branch Library, and on the second Wednesday at the Ashland Branch Library. LaLande will speak January 7 in Medford and January 14 in Ashland. He is an archeologist and historian with the Rogue River National Forest.

LaLande's talk will cover Southern Oregon's unusual, distinctive, and often entertaining political history. He will cite examples—as well as myths—of the area's "ornery" tradition and cultural history. Attendance is free and listeners are encouraged to bring questions and a brown-bag lunch.

The series, titled "Land of the Empire Builders" after the first line in the Oregon state song, will offer a variety of history topics and feature a different historian each month. It is cosponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society and Jackson County Library Services as part of the Oregon 150 project.

Series Schedule:

Medford Branch Library (205 South Central Avenue): first Wednesday of each month, 12-1 p.m.

Ashland Branch Library (410 Siskiyou Boulevard): second Wednesday of each month, 12-1 p.m.

January: *An Ornerly Tradition: 150 Years of Southern Oregon Politics*, Jeff LaLande

February: *The Women of Hanley Farm*, Stephanie Butler

March: *Going Places: From Pacific Highway to Interstate 5, the History of Travel in the Rogue Valley*, George Kramer

April: *Oregon Trails, Oregon Tales*, Tom Nash

May: *The Lithia Park Story: The Power Struggle that Determined the Fate of Ashland Creek Canyon*, Marjorie O'Harra

June: *Boomers, Charlatans, and Thieves of Early Medford*, Ben Truwe

July: *Chaining and Taming: The Lasting Impact of the 1851-1855 Oregon Land Survey*, Kay Atwood

August: *Pioneer Women Photographers*, Suzanne M. M. Warner

September: *Harbingers of Doom: The Chinese of Jacksonville*, Larry Smith

October: *Roxy Ann: Stories Behind Place Names*, Anne Billeter

November: *The Applegate Trail of 1846*, William Emerson

December: *Whistles in the Canyons: The Coming of the Railroad to Southern Oregon*, Larry Mullaly



JACKSON COUNTY
Library Services

LIBRARY DIRECTOR: DENISE GALARRAGA

Telephone: 774-8679
205 South Central Avenue
Medford, Oregon 97501