



**Harvest Hoe-Down  
Dinner & Dance**  
October 6 - Modoc District Fairgrounds  
Harvest Stew • Basque Bread • Salad • Dessert  
\$10 Pre-Sale at Poge's, Surprise! SV Chamber, InR, Seab's  
\$12 at Door. Raffle Prizes & more. Fund Raiser for SVCC.

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# Modoc Independent News

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Serving All Of Modoc County Since 2004

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Ray A. March

## Modoc Minute



So, the healer left our forest.

Tears of joy flowed through our forest and for the time there was solidarity among all us little forest animals. We neighbors became friends. At least for the time being.

Who knows how long so many different forest animals of so many temperaments and early training will get along?

Now, we are all scurrying around our forest, cleaning house, so to speak, smiling at each other like everything's going to be alright.

It's like that when no one really wants to face the ugly thing they did. So, no one talks about it.

But, before long, the soapbox animal will take credit for bringing peace to our forest even though that's not true.

And others, in the name of harmony, will say, "You know, the healer wasn't such a bad guy after all. Just look at the good things he did for us."

But that will all be tokenism. You know, tokenism like goodwill among animals after the war is over, so to speak.

After all, it's in our own best interests to get along, find something we can all agree on. Simple as that.

So, the forest animals got together, held meetings, said "Hey, we're all in this thing together. Whatever this thing is. Trust us."

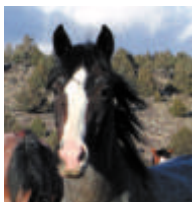
This all happened so long ago that we had no history. We had nothing to look back on, measure our mistakes, avoid making them again when another healer comes to town.

Another healer?

Oh, yes. You can count on it. We can't live without a healer, you know.

And, it will all start over again. The war, the name calling, the soapbox derby. The ugliness. You can be sure when the next healer comes to our forest that history will repeat itself.

Put your hard-earned acorns on it.



## An Analysis Modoc's RAC: The Good, the Bad and the...

*Editor's note: This is the second article specifically addressing issues of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The previous article headlined "What the SRS Act Did for Modoc County" appeared in the February 2007 issue of the Modoc Independent News.*

"RAC."

When you say the acronym for Resource Advisory Committee it carries a kind of guttural, abrasive tone to it.

### Muir Offers Rides For Disabled

Free horse drawn carriage rides for people with disabilities will be offered this Friday and Saturday in Cedarville.

Rides A4

It's not a completely unfair assessment. The Modoc RAC has a reputation for at times being antagonistic and abrasive to unsuspecting applicants who appear before it.

Too frequently there are advance warnings like, "You aren't going before the RAC are you?" and "What chance do you have, you know the RAC is a cattlemen's club."

For a group of people appointed by such high authority as the Under Secretary of Agriculture, it would seem that its reputation for an unfriendliness that sometimes spills over to abusive and antagonistic grilling of applicants is unfair.

Maybe RAC members are just tired. Perhaps some of them should resign and make room for new people with new ideas. In the RAC's defense, the following agenda items are specifically outlined

by federal legislation and vary little from year to year:

- Road, trail, & infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds
- Reestablishment of native species

There can be no argument, these are essential projects necessary to maintaining Modoc National Forest's integrity. Consequently, it appears that the vast majority of applications for RAC money comes from government, quasi-government agencies or private interests contracted to complete the projects.

RAC A4

Author William Kittredge, left, returned to Surprise Valley Sept. 21 after a long absence to deliver the keynote speech to over 90 visiting writers and local audience attending the Surprise Valley Writers' Conference. Kittredge, who grew up on the MC Ranch near Adel, is the author of numerous works including "The Willow Field." He retired as Regents Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Montana. Photos by Vicky Sjoberg



40 Year Reunion - Bill Kittredge reminisced with Clevon and Enola Dixon of Lake City about their days together on the MC Ranch near Adel.

## If You Asked Me

### Hospital Is No Political Football

By Ray A. March

Some thoughts on the plight of the Modoc Medical Center and the well-meaning intentions of the "Save the Hospital" movement.

The purpose of this article is not to look backward, as some are inclined to do

for their personal satisfaction, but to look forward in behalf of all those who know that without a hospital there will be no town.

The easy part in this effort to bring people together to form a hospital district will be going out and asking people to open

Hospital A3

## We're Three-Years-Old

Who would have thought! With this issue the Modoc Independent News is three years old, proving not only that time goes by quickly but that we are here to stay. Barbara and Ray March, co-owners of the newspaper want to thank all of their advertisers and readers for their loyal support these last three years.

"We look forward to working with everyone in

Modoc County by giving them the best newspaper advertising exposure anywhere and the most comprehensive and accurate news coverage in the county," Barbara March said.

The Modoc Independent News is a monthly newspaper, coming out the first Wednesday of each month. For advertising, news or local club events call 279-2099 or e-mail: ramarch@frontiernet.net

## Bulletin Board

### Grange Meeting Cedarville

A meeting to form a Grange for Surprise Valley will be held Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center in Cedarville.

For more information contact Jim McDaniel at (530) 926-2303 or by e-mail at pamcdaniel@sbcglobal.net. Coffee and other refreshments will be served.

### Hoe-Down Fairgrounds

Put on your dancing shoes because the Surprise Valley Chamber of Commerce is holding a "Harvest Hoe-Down" Oct. 6

—this Saturday—at the Modoc District Fairgrounds. The evening, which includes dinner and dance, kicks off at 5 p.m. with a no-host bar, dinner at 6 p.m. and then swings into a dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. Advance tickets at \$10, \$12 at the door. Call 279-2001



### SV Hospital Cedarville

In case you don't subscribe to the Advance for Nurses magazine, the August issue featured a cover story on Surprise Valley District Hospital.

The article, with numerous photos of patients, nurses and downtown Cedarville, covered the subject "nurses in rural settings find rewards through community connections." The magazine's web site is [www.advanceweb.com/nurses](http://www.advanceweb.com/nurses).



**What's Inside**  
Selling Them Off, B1

Around the County . . . . .A5  
The Book Page . . . . .B4  
Biz Notes . . . . .B5

Editorial . . . . .A2  
Gardening . . . . .B2

Modoc Life . . . . .B1  
Opinion . . . . .A3