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**Local Winemaker Wins the Pastel Art that Inspired the Wine Country License Plate!**

**SALEM, OREGON** – Sandee Piluso, the first graduate from the Northwest Viticulture Center at Chemeketa Community College, and owner/winemaker at Piluso Vineyard and Winery in Aumsville, Oregon has won the Travel Salem raffle for the pastel artwork that inspired Oregon’s newest specialty license plate. In anticipation of the new license plate, Travel Salem, who initiated SB442 to create the wine country license plate, raffled this original pastel art of a scenic Oregon vineyard by local artist, Judy Phipps.

“I had long, tiresome day in the vineyard and when I hit the back porch, my husband told me I had won and it made my day! I’m excited to win this artwork that I plan to hang in my tasting room to celebrate Oregon viticulture and what’s really putting Oregon on the map.”

Proceeds from the raffle went directly to the artist, Judy Phipps, who volunteered to create the visual element of the wine country license plate to help promote the initiative.

The winning ticket was chosen October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Travel Café on 181 High Street NE in Salem.

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*\*\*\*Travel Salem is a non-profit organization that promotes the greater Salem area as a premier, year-round destination for conventions, events and leisure travelers. Tourism economic impact for the region is \$496 million annually. Travel Salem manages the award-winning Travel Café, the official Salem area destination visitors center located at the historic Grand Hotel building (181 High St. NE, Salem), two I-5 satellite visitor information locations at the BEST WESTERN PLUS Mill Creek Inn (3125 Ryan Dr. SE) and the Red Lion Hotel (3301 Market St. NE), and a full-service travel planning website [www.TravelSalem.com](http://www.TravelSalem.com).\*\*\**