

TEAM SPRINGFIELD

Photos display beauty of I-5 farms

By EMILY ZIGLINSKI
For The Register-Guard

Brilliant color first draws the eye to Jessica Maxwell's "Oregon Farm Series." Are they paintings or photographs?

Working with a "cheap digital camera," Maxwell chronicles a year of Sunday morning commutes on the Interstate 5 corridor between Salem and Eugene.

The speed of the car, and the gauzy dance of Pacific Northwest weather, account for the painterly nature of the photographs. Maxwell captures the early light illuminating the pastoral scenery to the west, and the golden western light of late afternoon across the farmland to the east.

Printed in large format, these soft-shouldered images take on French Impressionist sensibilities, using color and light to illuminate the bucolic elements we've all loved since childhood: barns, fields, tractors, horses and cows. Maxwell hopes these images help us



"Red Barn Pink Clouds" is one of the works in Jessica Maxwell's "Oregon Farm Series." Maxwell's work is on display in March at the City Hall Gallery.

remember the loveliness of the farms of the Willamette Valley, which can be missed while hurrying through it at 70 mph.

During a reception at the City Hall Gallery, you can linger over each lovely farm image that passes too quickly by the car window. Maxwell's "Oregon Farm Series" is part of Springfield's Second Friday Downtown Art Walk, staged from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

The Springfield Arts Commission will host the reception at the City Hall gallery, which will include music by Jet and Johnny, an upright bass

and acoustic guitar duo playing acoustic jazz and blues.

The Friends of the Springfield Library's annual book sale also will be open during the reception. Proceeds from this all-volunteer project will go to support vital Springfield Public Library programs and services. Book lovers will be able to choose from thousands of gently used and like-new books with nothing priced higher than \$2.

If you can't make the event, you can still see the art exhibit during regular gallery hours,

which are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday

Emily Ziglinski is Latino liaison with the Springfield Public Library. Team Springfield is a collaboration of the city of Springfield, Springfield School District, Springfield Utility Board and the Willamalane Park and Recreation District, which provide this column on a rotating basis.