

Leap of faith...



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Clearing that fence was no problem for this bold young Sisters resident.

Tracking endangered sucker fish

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Biologists hope a new underwater monitoring system will be able to give them an idea of how some endangered fish are using Oregon’s Link River.

In early December, crews will install 240 feet of plastic pipe equipped with a transponder detection system near the mouth of the Klamath Falls river, reported *The Herald & News*. Small electronic tags with a unique ID number will be inserted into Lost River and shortnose

sucker bellies, allowing the pipe to detect fish as they pass over the sensors.

The detection system will be an array of two rows of 12 pipes, each in 20-foot sections, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Klamath Falls office lead fish biologist Darrick Weissenfluh. They’ll be fastened with concrete anchor bolts and ratchet straps just upstream of a natural reef, where the water is shallow.

The Klamath Falls branch of the Fish and Wildlife Service is funding the

\$109,500 project. The system will run entirely on energy generated by solar power panels set up on city property adjacent to the river.

The array could be used to study Lost River and shortnose sucker growth, survival and movement for the next 10 years.

“It really depends on what information we get,” Weissenfluh said. “We need to better understand sucker movements up and down the Link River and through the Link River Dam.”

DINNER: Volunteers worked with a \$500 budget

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a bank account for donations and, most importantly, planned the menu.

“This year was a real community effort,” Seher said. “It was wonderful to provide this for the people of Sisters. I couldn’t do it alone!”

Volunteers worked within a small budget of under \$500. They were able to secure the use of Sisters Community Church and their kitchen at no cost. Mission Linen donated tablecloths and napkins. Ray’s Food Place provided nine turkeys, Sisters Bakery donated 11-dozen dinner rolls and Sisters Market contributed 50 pounds of potatoes.

“My good friend Kimber peeled all those potatoes,” said volunteer Deri Frazee.

Overall the group had 13 turkeys and four hams. Dinner also included green beans, corn, traditional stuffing, mashed potatoes with turkey gravy, green salad, corn bread and candied yams with marshmallows. Several local families donated desserts — traditional pumpkin pies with whipped cream, fruit pies, cookies and several gluten-free treats. The favorite was the gluten-free pecan pie made and donated by Lisa Zapponi. It received rave reviews from

all who attended.

Approximately 150 meals were served, and everyone left with a full “to-go” box so they could enjoy leftovers throughout the weekend. In addition, Circle of Friends was able to take four uncooked, thawed turkeys for needy families.

The extra food was sent to the Sisters-Camp Sherman fire station this year.

“Sending the additional food to the firemen was a brilliant idea, I wish I’d thought of it,” joked Frazee. “We wanted to make sure we have enough food — which means we always have extra. I was glad to see it go to the men and women on duty at the fire hall.”

The event provided a sense of community and belonging for all those who attend and volunteer. Many guests at the dinner spent hours socializing and chatting with friends from Sisters both old and new, and several stayed to help clean up.

“I loved seeing everyone who wouldn’t have otherwise had a hot holiday meal sitting down together enjoying the food and company,” Seher said.

There is a bank account set up at Washington Federal throughout the year for monetary donations or visit the Sisters Community Thanksgiving Dinner Facebook page for more information on how to volunteer for the 2016 event.



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