



## Cantrall Buckley Park news

BY TOM CARSTENS

### Restroom renovation delayed

In January, Jackson County Parks decided to delay renovation of the park's day-use restroom. This is disappointing for all of us; in its current state the restroom is difficult to maintain and just not very welcoming.

As you may know, this facility has not seen any improvements for over 40 years. In 2015, Jackson County Parks won a grant from Oregon State Parks and Recreation to finally address this sad facility. Plans were put in place to tear down the surrounding deteriorating wooden structure, put on

a new roof, and replace all the fixtures.

Your volunteer Park Committee has plans to landscape the area around the restroom to make it a lovely place for family. We also have a beautiful art mosaic mural ready to be placed on the exterior walls facing the playground. This mural was designed by Applegate Valley kids, who also made the tiles with their parents with support of lead artist Jeremy Criswell from Upper Applegate. Our community donated \$20,000 for this colorful piece of art that honors all donors to the mural and to our new playground. All of these plans, too, will have to be delayed.

**In explaining the delayed renovation,** Jackson County Parks program manager, Steve Lambert, wrote that "the restroom rehabilitation project at Cantrall Buckley Park will be completed in the fall of 2017. The project was originally scheduled to take place this winter, but due to our current project load and the active winter weather patterns that have kept our crews busy the past month or so, we think it is best to start the project in September when weather is more suitable and time allows. The rehabilitation of the facility is of utmost importance to the Park Program, and we are committed to seeing the project through to completion as it will be a great addition to the recent playground renovation. Thanks for working with us on this project."

So, Jackson County Parks told us that they'll start work in September and finish by the end of December because that's when the state grant expires. The Park Committee is heartbroken to have to ask everyone to undergo yet another season with this facility in such disrepair.

### Campground upgrade begins

We're starting Phase 3 of our campground renovation project. In Phase 1, we put in a new state-of-the-art environmentally friendly wastewater treatment system, including new pumps and tanks. Phase 2 was the new campground restroom and shower facility. Additionally, we have put in new water lines and paved the entrance road.

All in all, we've spent almost \$600,000 over the past ten years for these needed improvements. We can thank our local contractors, the US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Jackson County Roads and Parks Department, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their generous support.

**Now we aim to finally complete this project.** We will bring our campground up to current recreational vehicle (RV) standards with full electrical, water, and sewer hookups, a new restroom for the group campground, reconditioned campsites, and a new loop road that can accommodate all classes of RVs. These improvements will cost another \$400,000. We'd like to thank BLM who got us started on Phase 3 with a \$5,000 grant. With this money we have added two RV sites to the group campground and brought electricity to our camp host site. We have also begun receiving individual and group donations. Jackson County Parks plans on helping us with a matching grant from State Parks in August of 2018.

**This means we have a year and a half** to raise \$200,000. We will be calling on many of you to help us with this terrific project, which will bring more tourism dollars to our valley. For those who'd like to get a jump on things, you can send a check to GACDC Campground Fund, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530. You can also donate directly to the campground fund using the contribution link on the GACDC website at [gacdc.org](http://gacdc.org).

Donations of \$1,000 or larger will be permanently honored at the campground. Thank you!

Tom Carstens, Chair  
Cantrall Buckley Park Committee  
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Steve Lambert (left), Jackson County Parks program manager, and Laird Funk, GACDC board member, discuss the restroom renovation.  
Photo: Tom Carstens.

### Dangerous tree felled in the playground

Last year we asked the US Forest Service at Star Ranger Station to take a look at the trees in the park and identify any safety hazards. The dendrology folks did find some problem trees. One in particular caught our attention: a huge old ponderosa pine with a scary lean right over the playground. The tree was over a hundred feet tall and could have caused some real excitement down the road.

On a cold Friday in January, Chuck Dahl, owner of Pacific Slope Tree Company in Williams, strapped on his tree-climbing equipment and shinned to the top of that old pine. Several volunteers below held their breath as massive trunk chunks thudded to the ground with thunderous quakes. *Thunk... thunk... thunk!* Chuck worked for hours to bring down this granddaddy. We are milling some of the downed wood to make new picnic tables.



Top photo: Chuck Dahl on his way to the top of a huge ponderosa pine. Bottom photo: Wood from the pine tree is being milled to make new picnic tables.  
Photos: Tom Carstens.

### Free passes for park cleanup on March 11

We would like to invite all of you to a community park cleanup on Saturday, March 11, at 9 am. This was a tough winter for trees, and we have a lot of downed wood to pick up. To sweeten the pot, we're offering free season passes to everyone who gives us a hand. Bring work gloves. We'll provide coffee, water, snacks, and bags. If you have a pickup, wheelbarrow, scoop shovel, rake, or chain saw, you can bring those too.

See you there!

### Park fees to rise

Fees at Cantrall Buckley Park have not been increased in many years, while operating costs have continued to rise, creating a deficit. Therefore, after much discussion, the board of the Greater Applegate Community Development Center (GACDC) has decided to increase the day-use entrance fees to Cantrall Buckley Park effective May 1. These new fees, outlined below, are consistent with state parks fees and those for Applegate Lake.

- Day-use vehicle fee increases from \$4 to \$5.
- Season Pass increases from \$20 to \$25. Season passes can be purchased at Applegate Store, Ruch Country Store, and Tiff's Trading Post.
- Senior Season Pass increases from \$10 to \$15.

Campground fees are unchanged. Thank you for supporting our park!  
GACDC Board

### To the "civic-minded, community-oriented individuals"

**who recently removed our large 600-pound barbecue grill from Cantrall Buckley Park**

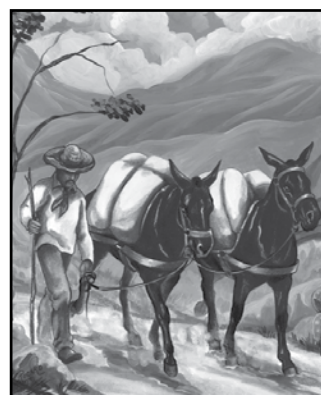
Most people would assume that the barbecue was stolen, but we can only hope that you have taken it out to be repaired and refurbished and will return it in better shape than you found it.

Because Cantrall Buckley Park operates on a shoestring budget, the generosity of the community is essential to its support. So it would be in keeping with this tradition of this community spirit for you to repair and refurbish our barbecue. As an example, last year we received donations from local citizens to replace 12 pedestal barbecues.

We look forward to the return of our refurbished barbecue or a \$1,000 tax-deductible donation to replace it before the May 1 season opening.

We thank you in advance for your concern for the welfare of the park. If you would like, when you return our barbecue, we will be happy to place your name on a donor plaque, as we have done with many other citizens who have made the park dream real.

Sincerely,  
Rick Barclay, Park Manager



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