

Nifty Tidbits

By CHUCK RIGBY

As I write this article it's a beautiful sunny, blue sky day -- a wonderful respite from the smoke of previous weeks. It brings to mind the hectic days when Illinois Valley was under the threat of a 30-minute evacuation notice.

Difficult decisions were made as to what we should put in the car and what was to be left behind. Filling a moving van was one alternative, which we chose not to take. Family pictures, financial/legal records, and medical necessities were our first priorities. Dishes, appliances, food storage, and winter clothes were abandoned to the fire, possibly.

These thoughts then brought me to the decision the fire bosses had to make, and their priorities. Residential areas and transportation corridors apparently were highest, while the vast natural resource, the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, had to be a lesser priority. They had little choice, and I am not finding fault with their decisions.

I am thankful for them and their workers, which have allowed us to unpack our car and try to get our lives back to normal. The Kalmiopsis contains many renewable resources, unlike our cedar chest full of family treasures, which we would have left behind.

The Kalmiopsis also has been the source of many personal memories which, unlike the trees, flowers, and animals, cannot be destroyed. As I watched the newspaper maps of the fire, I saw it gradually engulf the entire wilderness. But it was uplifting to know that some areas were not burned, and we can only hope that there are many islands of plant and animal life still intact.

One area, which has been important to our family, is the trail to Babyfoot Lake. Even the road to the trailhead is significant in many ways. The first part of the road, after crossing the Illinois River, passes through a dry, desert-like section. It has this appearance because of the lack of many plants due to the serpentine soil. Once that part is passed, the differences in plant life are quite noticeable. This is not because of a change in rainfall, but due to the granitic soil, which makes it able to produce more plants.

The road also passes through a landslide on Fiddler Mountain, which is visible from the Illinois Valley floor. When we moved here 30 years ago it had the appearance of a giant cross or an airplane shape high on the mountain. The shape is caused by the road passing through the landslide, which creates the wings and body of an airplane. Gradually over the years the shape has grown fainter as the plants have filled back in the space.

This helps me to realize that the forest will grow back. Hopefully, the destruction of the plants due to the fire will not lead to more landslides this winter, when the rain-saturated soil on the steep slopes will not have the plant roots to help stabilize the soil.

The trail to Babyfoot is quiet, cool and peaceful unless you're with a group of Cub Scouts or teen-agers. I've never been there in the winter, but every other season provides a great variety of flowers and other plants to enjoy. There are a few steep spots at the beginning and near the lake, but generally it's an easy hike.

One newspaper report stated that the area near the lake had not been burned, and that is a good sign. The stands of cedar, fir, and rhododendron create a beautiful spot in the mountains. The lake itself is in the bottom of an ancient glacial cirque, and it is one treasure which will still be available to all when the fire is just a memory.

I.V. Firefighters to the rescue

Monday, Aug. 26
 *9:30 a.m. Public assist: 200 block Madrona Drive.
 *12:43 p.m. Motor vehicle accident (MVA): 24500 block Redwood Hwy.
 *6:39 p.m. Districtwide medical standby.

Tuesday, Aug. 27
 *4:09 a.m. Medical assist: (all with American Medical Response/AMR) 200 block Shadowbrook Drive.
 *4:12 a.m. Medical assist: 4900 block Happy Camp Road.
 *4:14 a.m. Districtwide medical standby.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
 *4:23 p.m. Medical assist: 600 block E. River Street.
 *5:37 p.m. Grass fire: 600 block Thompson Creek Road.
 *11:07 p.m. Medical assist: 27500 block Redwood Hwy.

Thursday, Aug. 29
 *5:22 a.m. Mutual aid: structure fire, Eagle Point Junior High.
 *2:44 p.m. Medical assist: 300 block Terrace Drive.

Friday, Aug. 30
 *3:14 p.m. MVA: 2200 block Holland Loop.
 *4:17 p.m. MVA: Redwood Hwy./E. River Street.
 *9:19 p.m. Medical assist: 9600 block Holland Loop.

Saturday, Aug. 31
 *4:20 a.m. MVA: 35900 block Redwood Hwy.
 *10:44 p.m. Medical assist: 2800 block Redwood Hwy.

*1:21 p.m. Medical assist: 300 block Pinecone Drive
 *8:14 p.m. Vehicle fire: 2700 block Lakeshore Drive. Medical assist: 1400 block Lakeshore Drive.

Sunday, Sept. 1
 *9:27 p.m. Medical assist: 500 block Draper Valley.
 *6:06 a.m. Grass fire: 100 block Three Mill Road.
 *12:39 p.m. Medical assist: 500 block Caves Hwy.
 *4:39 p.m. Medical assist: Jubilee Park.

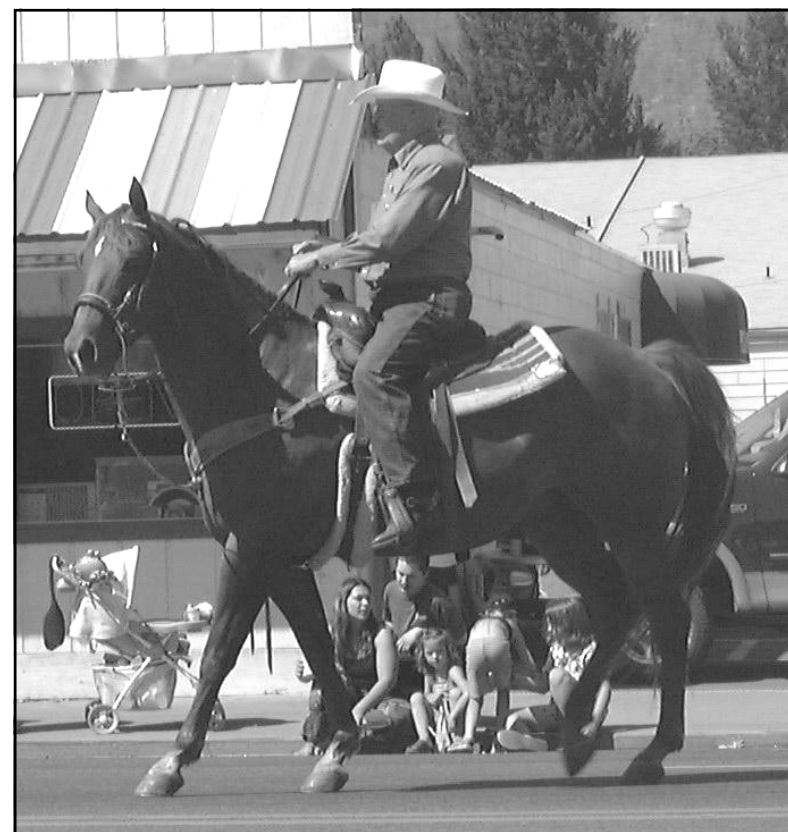
Tuesday, Sept. 3
 *12:27 a.m. Medical assist: 33100 block Redwood Hwy.
 *1:50 a.m. Grass fire: 4600 block Dick George.



FOOTBALL SEASON AR-RIVES - Illinois Valley High School Cougars demonstrated good skills and spirit during a football jamboree at IVHS on Friday, Aug. 30. Afterward, new coach Bobby Thornhill congratulated his charges and told them that if they want a successful season, they have to want it and work at it. I.V. will play Glide in Cave Junction at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7.



I.V. Lions Club does it again with 30th annual Labor Day events



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