

IVCRT Insights

By RON PHILLIPS

Another season began for the Chateau at the Oregon Caves National Monument with Illinois Valley Community Response team serving as concessionaire.

The gift gallery, featuring fine arts and craft pieces from local artisans, and (limited service) coffee shop opened on Friday, May 2. The lodge will be officially open on Friday, May 16, but groups are being booked before that. Any club or organization looking for a place to hold a retreat or just a day meeting can phone Oregon Caves Outfitters at 592-3400.

Grayback Campground

IVCRT is partnering informally with the U.S. Forest Service to support and promote Grayback and Caves Creek campgrounds -- two important valley assets. Hosts for both are being sought. The host is responsible for keeping an eye on the campgrounds, welcoming guests and getting them settled, and some cleaning and light maintenance.

In return, the forest service will provide a spot for the host's camper or RV, free power and local telephone service. CRT will chip in with a small stipend and commission for selling firewood and camp staples. Phone CRT at 592-4440 for more info.

In an effort to create income-generating opportunities and to provide more ways for visitors to learn about and connect with the treasures in the valley, CRT is looking for people who would like to share their interest and knowledge with guests staying at the lodge or campgrounds. This could take the form of an activity such as a guided Nature hike, stargazing, storytelling or a formal workshop in a craft or music, etc. Phone CRT for more details.

Down By The Riverside - May 17

It's spring cleaning time again. In addition to sprucing up "Forks" State Park, this year CRT will be working at Grayback and Caves Creek.

In addition to the cleanup, Grayback is in need of repairs for damage inflicted over the winter by vandals. There will be a meeting at "Forks" Park to organize the work crews at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 17. At 1 p.m. the crews will reconvene at the park for a potluck lunch (hot dogs and drinks will be provided; please bring a favorite dish) followed by music. For more information, phone Audrey Moore at 597-2470.

Speaking of community service, all volunteers (with special kudos to Gordon Lyford who organized it), should be acknowledged for their efforts during the Recycle Round-up. Despite rain most of the day, this dedicated group was there helping to unload recyclables. Southern Oregon Sanitation, which provided the dumpsters; and to I.V. Chamber of Commerce, which provided insurance coverage, should also be acknowledged.

New VISTA Participant

Emily Ring just joined the CRT staff, coming in from Wisconsin. Ring has a degree in anthropology and considerable background as a community volunteer.

She will be working in the housing referral program and helping out with other CRT activities. She is a member of Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA).

Nifty Tidbits

By CHUCK RIGBY

During World War II, three of the Japanese attacks on the U.S. mainland affected Oregon.

The first was on June 21, 1942 when a single submarine fired shells near Ft. Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River. This caused minor damage but caused much concern with the soldiers.

The second attack was on Sept. 9, 1942 when the same submarine launched a float airplane, which dropped incendiary bombs on the forest near Brookings. Small fires were started, but were quickly put out, and didn't develop into the hoped-for forest fires. The pilot of the plane, Norita Fujita, was invited back to Brookings in 1962, when he gave his family's cherished samurai sword to the city; and again in 1992, and was warmly accepted by the community. He also hosted a group of Brookings-Harbor High School students a few years before his death.

The third attack was much more widespread and reached many different states, as well as parts of Canada. Beginning in November 1944, hydrogen balloons were launched into the high-altitude jet stream. Each balloon had a shrapnel bomb as well as incendiary bombs and it was hoped they would destroy buildings, kill many people, and start forest fires.

Each balloon had a diameter of approximately 33 feet and was made of laminated mulberry bush paper. They also had bags of sand which would automatically drop if the balloon descended too low before it reached land.

More than 9,000 were launched by the Japanese military, and some 300 were observed or found in the United States. From Alaska to California and as far east as Wyoming, the balloons were seen, or the special paper was discovered on the ground. Some exploded on landing, but only one injured or killed people or caused much damage.

At first it was thought that the balloons were launched from submarines or coastal landing parties because Japan was so far away. Then the U.S. Geological Survey made a careful analysis of the sand in the bags. By studying the diatoms, microscopic pieces of shells, and the mineral content, they showed that the sand had to come from the western coast of the Pacific Ocean.

News reports of the balloons were curtailed in order not to cause a panic in America and also so that the Japanese leaders would not learn of their success. By April 1945, the balloon operations were stopped because the hydrogen plants had been bombed, and no success reports had been received.

On May 5, 1945 the Rev. Archie Mitchell took his wife and five young Sunday school members on a picnic. They were all from Bly, Ore., which is between Klamath Falls and Lakeview. They traveled by car northeast of Bly and up onto Gearhart mountain to enjoy the spring and do a little fishing. The five kids were in ages between 12-15 and were glad for the Saturday outing. After stopping at a good spot the students went exploring. One of the kids said, "Look what I found."

Mrs. Mitchell and all the kids went to see what was partially stuck in a snowbank.

As Mitchell unloaded the car he heard an explosion and found all six people killed at the scene by the explosion of a balloon bomb. They were the only people killed by enemy action during the war within the continental United States.

Mitchell later remarried and became a missionary in Vietnam. In May 1962, he was taken captive by the Viet Cong and never seen again. Today there is a U.S. Forest Service Monument marker at the site, about 10 miles from Bly. It is easily reached by car if the roadside signs are followed.



K-9 DEPUTY KEITH HUBBARD AND 'SMITTY'



MARSHALL HAMILTON DEMONSTRATED TAI CHI



DAN FISKE, DVM WITH RACHEL DUDLEY AND 'SKIDMARK'



PHYSICAL THERAPIST GREG REDFERN

Career Day at Lorna Byrne Middle School

Numerous professionals participated in the annual LBMS Career Day on Wednesday, April 30 to provide students insights into preparing for various careers. Participants included Joe Hoelzle, DVM; woodcarver Dudley Douglas; Terry Taylor of Taylor's Sausage Country Store; Jim Nordal, MD; Robert Hirring of Country Plumbing; therapist Heather Linemeyer; Daniel Vidlak, OD; EMT Greg Gilbert; glassblowers David and Susan Kendall; mechanic John Ragsdale; Kevin Teagle, DC; artist Jill Birmingham; and Wildlife Images aides.



FIREFIGHTER CORINNA FIERRO AND ACTING CHIEF JEFF GAVLIK



PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER JAN MICHELS SHOWS WEAPON TAKEN FROM ONE OF HER CLIENTS

Elementary Schools Menu
Sponsored by
Illinois Valley News'
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THURSDAY, MAY 8
Country fried steak sandwich, cheeseburger, pepperoni pizza, ham & cheese wrap, garden salad
FRIDAY, MAY 9
Cheesy pretzel, hamburger, sausage pizza, turkey & cheese roll, American Caesar salad
MONDAY, MAY 12
Chicken nuggets, hamburger, cheese pizza, peanut butter & jelly sandwich, Chef salad
TUESDAY, MAY 13
Rib-b-que sandwich, cheeseburger, pepperoni pizza, ham & cheese roll, garden salad
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14
Corn dog, hamburger, cheese pizza, tuna pita, cobb salad, chocolate chip cookie

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