



VIKING SIGN OF THE TIMES - Workers from Ashland-based Adroit Construction put the finishing touches on the entrance sign at the new and improved Lorna Byrne Middle School on Tuesday, Dec. 2. Adroit is the prime contractor for the \$9.2 million overall project.

LBMS Principal Peter Maluk (at right) ‘supervised’ the work on the sign. He said that the reader board placed atop the entrance sign will be used to announce various school events and activities for the benefit of students, their parents and the community-at-large.

Clubs & Organizations

Jerry Acklen
Diabetes Health
Association

The Cave Junction Branch of the Jerry Acklen Diabetes Health Association's regular monthly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, at Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E. River Street, Cave Junction. This will be the annual Christmas meeting. Those who attend are asked to bring finger food and diabetic desert.

Forestry Action Committee Mushroom Report

The harvest permit requires a mushroom cap diameter of 1 1/2 inches or larger for the Matsutake.

There is a second crop of immature Matsutakes, which are smaller than this requirement coming on. Some of the traveling harvesters are going home for the week to give the crop a rest and mushrooms time to reach legal size and to acquire that much more poundage before harvesting them.

The goal is to discourage people from raking the forest floor. The raking breaks the “babies” loose

from the mycelia and stops their growth. It guarantees there will be no creation of spores, no Matsutakes to share with the wildlife, no later crop to sell and make money.

The monitors hired by the Mushroom Project see evidence of new raking every day, although they see less than last year. The monitors do not have any law enforcement powers. They do not report people or vehicles to law enforcement. Their jobs are to monitor the harvest, talk with harvesters about sustainability, gather harvester concerns and issues and help anyone who is having trouble.

Collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, those involved with the project are planning a December meeting where the agencies can share maps and inform harvesters of possible future ground impact activities.

This will be an opportunity for harvesters to make input on how to do activities with the least harm to mushroom production.

Pacific Power tips to survive winter

The winter season has arrived and with it comes winter weather. Storms and high winds occasionally cause weather-related power outages, and Pacific Power urges its customers to take several precautions before the next storm arrives.

“We work hard to avoid outages, but when bad weather strikes and outages happen, we work even harder to get the power back on quickly and safely,” said Amy Eschete, Pacific Power’s public safety manager. “Just as our crews are prepared to respond to outages, we ask our customers to be prepared as well and help us keep their safety and well-being the top priority.”

If a power outage occurs, Pacific Power encourages residential and business customers to first check fuses and circuit breakers. If the power failure is not caused inside the home or business, the customer should report the outage to Pacific Power at 1-877-548-3768.

When phoning, customers should give their name, address and phone number.

Customers may also be asked if their lights are out, or just dim, and whether their neighbors' lights are out or if they can see any damaged poles or downed lines.

Pacific Power suggests the following tips during at outage:

*Stay away from all downed power lines and utility lines. Even if they are not sparking, they could be electrified or extremely dangerous.

*Phone and report the outage to Pacific Power at (877) LITES OUT (877-548-3768)

*Don't drive over
downed power lines.

*Turn on your porch light switch. After crews

complete repairs, they patrol the area of the power failure to see if lights are on.

*As much as possible, do not open refrigerators and freezers -- they will keep food and perishables inside cold for some time if not opened.

*Never use kerosene or propane heaters inside without proper ventilation. They create dangerous fumes. Also, don't use charcoal in your house or garage.

*Preserve body heat by wearing multiple layers of clothing. Add a hat and blanket to stay warm. Blankets and towels around windows and doors help keep the heat in.

*Protect your pipes during freezing weather by wrapping them with insulation. Also, leave faucets dripping so water won't freeze and crack the pipes.

*Make sure generators are properly wired for your home or business, and don't connect a generator directly to your home's main fuse box or circuit panel. This can create a dangerous back feed hazard for lines crews.

*Assemble a preparedness kit to help in the event of any kind of emergency, including a flashlight, a

battery-operated radio and clock, extra batteries, non-perishable foods, manual can opener, bottled water and blankets.

For information about Pacific Power and winter storm preparations and safety, phone (888) 221-7070 or visit www.pacificpower.net.



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Rain is grace; rain is the sky condescending to the Earth; without rain there would be no life.
- John Updike -

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