

'Hoopla' action in wheelchairs

Wheelchair basketball pitting the Rolling Rogues vs. Illinois Valley fire-fighters is set for Wednesday, April 28.

The somewhat informal, although spirited, competition is to begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Evergreen Elementary School gymnasium.

There is no admission fee, and the public can attend.

Pacific noted for power aid

Because of its renewable energy efforts, Pacific Power has received the prestigious 2004 Utility Leadership Award from the American Wind Energy Association.

Pacific's efforts include its Blue Sky program.

"Thanks to our customers' commitment to renewable energy," said the utility, "participation in this program is so strong that we have been on DOE's Top 10 list of 'green power' programs during the past three years."

Evergreen Eagles hope to gain \$30,000 for playground -- 'just for the fun of it'

Existing equipment termed old and worn out, so replacement needed

**By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer**

Evergreen Elementary School is seeking \$30,000 -- "just for the fun of it."

"We want a playground that is safe and attractive for our kids to use," said Evergreen Elementary School Principal Lise Van Brunt. She was referring to a proposed \$30,000 fund-raiser to replace an existing wooden play structure on the playground.

The original wooden equipment was placed more than 20 years ago, and is starting to degrade.

"Our equipment isn't substandard, it just is equipment that isn't going to grow with us much longer," said Van Brunt.

Equipment that is old and unsafe has to be repaired or removed, regardless of whether or not a replacement is in the school's budget.

"The minute equipment gets to the point where the district can't maintain a high safety standard, it has to be removed," said Van Brunt.

"It costs us several hundred a year just to repair the wooden equipment," she said.

"It is very expensive to replace the pieces because we have to use a special wood that is only treated with stuff that is safe for kids to be around.

"The structure has a limited life. Even though we've been able to keep it up to safety standards, each year we're having to put more and more money



'Fred' the swan (Photo provided by Bill Schwarzott)

Good 'Swan Song' at Lake Selmac

**By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer**

Linda the Swan has been lonely since losing her partner during the 2002 Biscuit Fire.

Linda is a mute swan, not indigenous to this area, who took up residence a number of years ago at Lake Selmac. Her mate died of injuries from an unknown cause.

Concerns from community members regarding her loss prompted the decision by the new Lake Selmac Resort co-owners, Bill

and Becky Schwarzott, to solicit funds to purchase a new mate for her.

Schwarzott contacted Howell's Exotic Waterfowl in Muldrow, Okla. to purchase the swan; lovingly dubbed "Fred" by Selma bird enthusiast Randi Brown, who aided efforts to find a replacement mate.

After gathering funds from donation cans at the resort store and Selma Select Market, and a \$100 donation from Umpqua Bank in Grants Pass, the

resort owners purchased the male swan for \$350.

It took a little for "Fred" to get used to his surroundings after his release on April 15, but it appears that he is beginning to get more comfortable with his new mate and home.

To see him, he can usually be found bobbing around with "Linda" in the McMullen Creek slough, on the east side of the lake near the day-use pavilion.

Park-use fee protests mark council meeting

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sary repairs, had they been made aware of the damage.

Lyons also stated that while the bill was being contended, a copy was sent to Lions International, in "an apparent effort to discredit our organization."

Lyons suggested that pre-and post-event inspections of the park would allow the city and the Lions to ascertain which damages were pre-existing from those resulting from park use by a specific group.

Irv Whiting, who served as mayor of Cave Junction from 1979 to 1986, brought to the council's attention an agreement between the city and the Illinois Valley Jubilee Association, dated Dec. 14, 1965. In it the city purchased the 10-acre park for \$250, with the stipulation that the association, while "in existence and in good corporate standing with the State of Oregon" be allowed to use the park "Saturday, Sunday and

Monday of each Labor Day weekend each and every year."

The Jubilee Association was disbanded in 1971. However, Whiting asserted that the terms of the agreement were then transferred to the Lions with the city's blessing.

The council appeared to have no knowledge of such an agreement.

"We don't have anything in writing to substantiate this," said Mayor Ed Faircloth. "We need to go back through the archives to research this and see what it says."

Several other people spoke on the matter, most of whom believed that economic and visitor benefits the city derives from the Labor Day Festival and other events, including the Concerts in the Park series sponsored by the chamber of commerce would be imperiled should the city insist on charging a use fee.

"It's a travesty to

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