

I.V. Community Response Team

By RON PHILLIPS



Ranger Pam Bode with tree damaged by gunfire. (Photo by Shane Welsh)

Takilma folk concerned about shooting 'range'

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

Guns are firing, bullets flying, and some Takilma residents are nervous.

Cave Junction-based Pam Bode, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) district ranger for Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, met with Takilma residents on Page Creek Road at a shooting area located within forest service boundaries on Thursday evening, May 27.

Although the Page Creek site has been the target for gun practice for many years, nearby residents say they have had enough.

Three letters from Takilma residents were written to USFS, expressing concerns over what they called illegal and dangerous gun use at the site. In the letters, residents asked USFS to review the situation and consider posting signs to close the area to shooting.

"We aren't opposed to shooting guns," said one resident, "we're just opposed to shooting guns in an area near where people live. Some of us ride horses on this road, and our children often ride their bikes through the area."

There is a hillside facing away from homes that most responsible gun users appear to be aiming at. However, Bode noted that extensive damage deliberately done to nearby trees from gunfire is illegal, since it is destroying trees on federally managed land.

Of the 20 people who attended Thursday, all were in favor of closing the site to gun use. The majority cited parties with alcohol combined with gun use at night as being the main problem.

Said Bode, "The forest service has a policy that shooting is allowed on national forest property; if we didn't have shooting, we couldn't have hunting. We are reluctant to shut an area down for shooting without getting input from opponents and proponents of the shooting site."

Bode reviewed the location, noting several camp sites within 350 yards of the shooting area. She pointed out that it is also against forest service policy to allow shooting in an area with established camp sites and that it is the responsibility of USFS to shut down the area to either camping or shooting.

"There are many locations...that could be used as an alternative to shooting in this area," said Bode, "I welcome and encourage input from those who shoot here to aid in this decision."

Bode told residents that she would consider posting signs to make it illegal to shoot guns at the site, and that a decision would be made within a month.

She also noted that a new USFS ranger, Shawn Thomas, would be available in Illinois Valley to help enforce the decision by issuing citations, should the need arise.

Youth program funds available

The Josephine County Commission for Children and Families has \$25,233 available to allocate to youth programs.

Two strategies are priorities:

*Increase or expand community service activities for youth.

ties for youth.

*Support to positive peer models, clubs, or groups to increase positive peer associations.

Applications are available by contacting (541) 474-5234, and are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 18.

The Illinois Valley Housing Survey has been completed. Its purpose is to get a picture of the existing housing market while identifying housing needs that might be addressed in future programs.

The survey also allowed people to request additional information on USDA rural housing programs. Nearly 100 people expressed an interest in learning more about what USDA has to offer, and on Wednesday, June 9, Bret Dixon, USDA Rural Housing specialist, will be in Cave Junction at the county building, from 3 to 5 p.m. and again from 6 to 8 p.m. to talk about USDA housing programs, and answer any questions you may have about your housing needs. Everyone is invited.

On another front, OPTIONS, a housing agency in Grants Pass, has just finished applying for a second Rural Housing and Economic Development grant; the first grant paid for the housing survey and will also fund home owner education and renter preparation classes this coming fall. The new grant, if successful, is intended to assist interested families in qualifying for one of the USDA programs by offering credit counseling, family budgeting, and additional home owner classes designed to assist in repairing poor credit so that they may qualify for USDA housing loans.

One of the more interesting USDA opportunities is the Mutual Self-Help Program. With this program, teams of eight participating families will come together, and after they select a construction style (straw bale, cob, and stick built homes), based on individual family needs, the team will work to-

gether to help build the homes until all are completed. Experience elsewhere has shown that the cost of a house can be reduced by as much as 30 percent through this kind of sweat equity. This savings, coupled with a subsidized interest rate, can make owning a home very affordable.

Update on Oregon Caves Outfitters
We are already a month into the 2004 season. It started with a successful pre-season dress rehearsal dinner to allow kitchen and wait staff to try out new recipes and skills.

Next was Mother's Day, and the buffet was a great success with families from all over the region bringing "Mom" to the Chateau for a very special meal in a very special setting.

Following Mother's Day, we had the Nature Lovers Weekend, presented in collaboration with the Siskiyou Field Institute.

Sixteen people attended the event, which included personalized tours and lectures on the valley's unique flora, a tour of the valley's wineries and even some gallery shopping. The last weekend before Memorial Day, OCO even hosted a spring wedding complete with all the trimmings. Clearly, we're off to an exciting new season.

Campground Bid
IVCRT submitted its bid to manage Grayback and Cave Creek campgrounds for the U.S. Forest Service. If we are successful, CRT will be able to increase the range of accommodations we can offer valley visitors. In addition to campsites, we will offer a small store and bicycle rental at Grayback,

as well as interpretative programs, and an experimental, 'hassle-free,' camping option.

Hassle-free camping means having a pre-set up tent, complete with sleeping bags, a lantern, and cooking gear, ready and waiting for the family making that last minute decision to enjoy the great outdoors.

It also means not having to lug all that extra gear around on their vacation. Hopefully this and other innovative approaches will increase the occupancy at both campgrounds, bring more peo-

ple to the valley, and keep them around for longer stays.

'Good-bye' to Harvey-Marose Family
IVCRT joins Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in saying "good-bye" to the Harvey-Marose family, who packed up and headed for Idaho. Kevin was close to completing his term as CRT Board director. He was extremely active in the tourism sector, having chaired that committee and taken on a number of tourism promotion activities. He and "Pastor Peg" will be sorely missed in the community.

OPEN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Saturday, June 26
Jubilee Park in Cave Junction
Spectators admitted FREE

Registration at gate 8 to 11 a.m.
CJ Lions Club Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m.
Show & Shine Noon to 4 p.m.
CJ Lions Club Lunch 11:30 - until
Raffle Drawings Throughout the day
Trophies & Awards 3 p.m.

Pre-registration: \$15 \$20 at the gate, cars must be 1979 or older
For more information phone Joan Welcome at (541) 592-4103
or Darrell Allen (541) 592-6391
Entry forms available online: <http://cjlions.cavenet.com>

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Woman dies at accident scene

A Washington state resident died of injuries when the vehicle in which she was riding rolled after a collision near Gold Hill, said Oregon State Police.

Pronounced dead at the scene was Jacqueline Burch, 69, of Tacoma, according to OSP.

She was a passenger with Victoria Balfour, 49, of Grants Pass; and Linda King, 54, of Scottsdale, Ariz., in a four-door Jeep driven by Brian Balfour, 33, of Grants Pass.

OSP said that a Toyota 4-Runner, driven by Rena Lyons, 35, of Gold Hill, struck the left-rear door of the Jeep, which rolled after

impact.

Lyons was arrested on charges of manslaughter, DUII, and three counts of assault, OSP said.

GP fire fatal

Following a fire in which a man was found dead inside his rural Grants Pass home, a cause is being sought.

On Sunday, May 30 around 1:30 a.m., Rural/Metro Fire Dept. responded to 896 Saratoga Way.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze that had fully engulfed the single-wide mobile home, said Oregon State Police. The resident, Glenn Harry Cogle, 35, was found deceased in the home.

OSP detectives, including an arson investigator, responded to the scene. Detectives are attempting to determine the cause of the fatal fire. And an autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday, June 1.

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Hoagie Rolls
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Beaver Mustard
\$1.59 each

EVENTS:

*Thursday, June 3:
UBA★ Open Mic with host Fred Epping
Dinner Special:
Grilled Salmon with cucumber tartar sauce - \$9.95

*Friday, June 4: Joan Arrah Warren - Original folk songs
Dinner Special:
Grilled Chicken Vera Cruz - \$9.95
(Chicken breast marinated in lime juice served with spicy Mexican sauce)

*Saturday, June 5: Sonny Sundstrom - Solo originals
Dinner Special:
Sauteed pork loin with apricot sauce - \$8.95

*Sunday, June 6: Country Jam - 4 to 7 p.m.
Fred Epping, Bobby Reis & Dexter Langford
Dinner Special:
Chicken and biscuits - \$7.95

We're open at 6:30 a.m.
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