



DELBERT KAUFFMAN (Photo by 'I.V. News')

Firewood to furniture ...

(Continued from page 1)

I'll buy from anyone that comes in and wants to sell.

"I also hire people to come in and peel logs for a couple of bucks per pole. I remember one character named Orphius who would come in. He once came in and peeled poles for an ice cream.

"There was also a guy named Herb. He was a great log peeler, but he would peel just enough so that he had money for buttermilk and a 'Chronicle.'

"I employ about 10 workers, not counting the peelers and gleaners. Their wages go straight back into the valley, along with about \$50,000 that I spend on logs per year.

"We mostly sell out of our local gallery in Kerby, but we also sell on the Internet some, and at least a quarter of our furniture goes down to California.

"As time has progressed, though, we've been selling more and more locally. It's phenomenal because our product is more upscale, and this is such a rural area. As it becomes more known, our sales continue to go up.

"I'm still learning my trade. I've gone into it with a confidence born of ignorance. I'm lucky that it's worked out for me. It hasn't always, though. I went broke running a nightclub in Southern California years ago. But that's another story.

"Loggers just love to say that you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs, and there is some truth to that. The horrifying messes that we see around; that all of us are appalled by, are not necessarily the fault of loggers, but the land owners that are too concerned with the money. Too many people just don't care about the forests when push comes to shove.

"We don't have much of a tradition of stewardship. We're kind of short-term, we Americans. We don't use our resources carefully. In Europe, they handle their forests differently.

"I just don't know. It's hard to figure out what we can do about it."

(Editor's Note: The preceding story was written by two students in Steve Morgan's economics classes at Illinois Valley High School as part of a project resulting in a booklet, "Forest Economics.")

Fire near Medford contained

After burning 1,490 acres of brush and trees, the Wasson Fire east of Medford was declared contained Saturday evening, July 30 by Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF).

ODF estimated that the wildfire would be controlled by Wednesday, Aug. 3.

As of July 30, there were some 750 firefighters battling the blaze. But the same day that number decreased to approximately 640 because of a 1,200-acre wildfire near Klamath Falls.

The Wasson Fire was ignited Wednesday, July 27 by a non-injury truck wreck on Hwy. 140 approximately 15 miles east of Eagle Point.

The Klamath Falls fire was caused by lightning.

The four building blocks of the universe are
fire, water, gravel and vinyl.

- Dave Barry -

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Suspects eyed for vandalism

Following a series of vandalism, malicious mischief and burglary incidents in Cave Junction, rumors are circulating that teen-age suspects have been contacted.

However, as yet there have been no announcements of arrests or charges from Josephine County Sheriff's Office. City contract Deputy Ray Webb is working the case, and indications are that he will release information when appropriate to the situation.

One source indicated that overall damages could amount to more than \$10,000. Several businesses, as well as Jubilee Park and I.V. Fire Chief Harry Rich, were among victims.

"Illinois Valley News" will continue to pursue details and report them as they are made available.

Laurel/199 project told by DeFazio

A \$2.8 million safety improvement project at Hwy. 199 and Laurel Road is among more than \$7 million in upgrades for Josephine County in legislation praised by U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) this week.

DeFazio played a key role in crafting and negotiating final approval of the legislation, and securing optimal funding for Oregon under the bill.

Funding for a left-turn lane at Laurel Road will improve highway safety. In addition, major developments are under way or planned at the north end of Cave Junction.

Developments include expansion of Laurel Pines Golf Course, a new Siskiyou Community Medical Center, a residential development adjacent to the golf course, plus a commercial center.

Also, homes at Cedarbrook Estates on Laurel are being sold, and will add to the city and area growth.

DeFazio said that the overall bill involves \$2.7 billion. For Josephine County, other projects listed:

*\$170,186 for new buses for Josephine County Transit.

*\$1.8 million for passing lanes between Hay's Hill and Applegate River.

*\$2 million for an expressway project on Hwy. 199 between Midway Avenue and Tussy Lane near Grants Pass.

The bill is funded by the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which receives nationwide gasoline taxes.

The bill also includes \$16 million for a University Transportation Center for Portland State University in partnership with University of Oregon at Eugene, Oregon State University at Corvallis, and Oregon Institute of Technology at Klamath Falls.



SUSAN CHAPP, of Illinois Valley's Forestry Action Committee, received an award from Gov. Kulongoski for FAC's work with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds



JOAN MILLER NORMAN, a longtime forest and social activist, was memorialized by a group of like-minded people Monday, Aug. 1, including three of her children (from left) Sue Norman-Jones, of Cave Junction; Terry Norman, of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Tim Norman, of Cave Junction. They were among those at the green bridge over Illinois River on the first day that the road was reopened to the public after a 4 1/2-month closure related to the Fiddler Fire Salvage Sale area. Mrs. Norman, who died in a traffic accident July 23, was arrested on the bridge March 7 for refusing to leave her lawn chair in protesting the Biscuit Fire salvaging, and spent 16 days in Josephine County Jail after being arrested with 22 other women who staged a protest March 12. One photo at the memorial shows her with fellow peace activist Dot Fischer Smith, of Ashland. Said Sue Norman-Jones, 'I would like to suggest a tree farm for reforestation, and leave the rest (of the forest) alone.' ('I.V. News' photo)

Eight Dollar Road maintenance, work on reforestation scheduled for Biscuit

Maintenance of the first 2.2 miles of Eight Dollar Road will continue this summer, following the road being reopened to the public Monday, Aug. 1.

The road and Fiddler Fire Salvage Area of the 2002 Biscuit Fire were closed 4 1/2 months ago by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

"The agencies want to thank the general public for restricting their visits during this closure period, which allowed the timber sale to progress safely," said Pam Bode, Illinois Valley and Galice District ranger. "We urge the public," she said, to use caution traveling in the area and to be alert for road repair work."

The timber sale purchaser will improve the existing road. Some delays in traffic could result.

In connection with a lawsuit protesting the salvage logging, a statement was issued by Scott Conroy, supervisor of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

A recent court ruling has favored the government in a consolidated suit (Siskiyou Regional Education Project vs. Goodman). Magistrate Judge Cooney issued two separate opinions granting both of the government's motions to dismiss the lead case challenging the forest service's Biscuit Records of Decision.

Siskiyou Regional Education Project is based in Cave Junction.

Said Conroy, "This ruling validates the high-quality work by forest service professionals, who put together a project that invests in the land and people for economic recovery and restoration of the Biscuit Fire area.

"This ruling takes a significant step toward achieving these goals.

"With the ruling," he said, "the forest service continues to move ahead to bring a course of action that provides for harvest of dead trees on less than 4 percent of the burned area."

Bode added, "The contractor has successfully completed the logging requirements at the Fiddler Fire Salvage Timber Sale in regard to removal of the trees.

"Approximately 12.5 million board feet of dead trees were harvested, and it provides for jobs, as well as funding to invest in future reforestation."

The sale comprised approximately 697 acres. Increased riparian protection and wildlife tree protection in the sale area, combined with deterioration of the trees, reduced the total amount of volume removed, Bode noted.

She added that site

preparation and reforestation after a logging operation are priorities for the forest service.

During 2006, agency personnel will oversee reforestation site preparation with hand-piling of brush and burning slash, with planting during 2007, she said.

Fuel treatment with burning is a common tool to use, as an area is prepared for reforestation with re-seeding or tree-planting, Bode related.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 1 to 4 p.m.
I.V. Senior Center - 520 E. River St.

3-game Sheet 25¢

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Burgers,
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- Beverly Sills -

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