

Deer Creek Fire a wake-up call for Selma folks

By DALE & ELAINE SANDBERG
Special to 'I.V. News'

In the wake of the Deer Creek Fire, preparing for the possibility of wildfire is critical to residents in rural areas, officials said during a Selma community meeting Wednesday night, Sept. 28.

Approximately 85 residents and concerned citizens attended a gathering to re-view the Selma Fire at Illinois Valley Fire District's (IVFD) Station 2 in Selma. The event opened with refreshments served by IVFD volunteers.

IVFD Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik opened the review, and welcomed attendees. He introduced Kathy Lynn, associate director of Resource Innovations at University of Oregon in Eugene.

Lynn explained that the meeting was organized by the different organizations responsible for fighting the recent Deer Creek Fire that destroyed five homes, and burned 1,548 acres of trees, grass and brush.

The fire, which began Aug. 25, was called out approximately a week later. Because of its severity, the Oregon Conflagration Act was invoked, bringing state-wide resources to Selma.

Lynn said that principal agencies involved wanted to get the affected people together to discuss their response to how the incident was handled and give everyone a chance to voice their ideas. Attendees were provided a brief questionnaire about their experiences during and after the fire. Many availed themselves of the opportunity.

IVFD Fire Marshal Jerry Schaeffer gave a brief overview of the fire and how it was handled. He explained that from the point that the call came in until he arrived on scene from Cave Junction there were probably 5 acres on fire.

This fire had some uncommon occurrences like jumping the road (Deer Creek Road). Schaeffer said that by the time he got to Deer Creek Road via Lake-

shore and across Dryden he was out of water and had to refill from a tender.

Before more resources were available he used five tanks of water. He said that he would like to see a real concerted effort from the public to get defensible space around their homes and get driveways cleared so that rescue crews can get in and out safely.

Everyone needs to do his or her part, he said.

Brad Tally, of Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF), said that when the call came he realized the conditions were dry and that a wind had come up, so he ordered two helicopters to respond along with five engines and a bulldozer.

He said that within an hour to an hour-and-a-half the fire had grown to 1,000 acres.

He noted that everyone who lives in Illinois Valley knows that there is a typical wind event that occurs here. It involves certain areas with localized weather events such as bowls, canyons or draws where the weather tends to be a little bit stronger, active and unpredictable.

"You won't get your typical straight wind that blows 15 mph," he said. "It might blow another way." That is what occurred at the Selma fire.

Tim Gonzales, of the Bureau of Land Management, spoke about fuel reduction, defensible space and evacuation routes. Using a Power Point presentation he showcased the value of fuels reduction and defensible space in preparing for a fire event.

Sara Nicholson, Jose-

phine County Emergency Services manager, addressed some of the problems that residents experienced with communications, evacuation and security measures. She stated that KAJO Radio is the emergency communication site and is kept updated during an emergency.

Questions from the floor queried why the agencies didn't utilize private resources. Schaeffer explained that current liability laws, (OSHA), do not allow local agencies to use these private resources because of no formal training and lack of personal protection equipment.

Brian Ballou, a wild-land/urban interface specialist, discussed the ODF fuels reduction agenda.

Ballou also stated that as soon as fire season is concluded, ODF will take re-

quests from property owners to inspect and provide recommendations with regard to fuels reduction and defensible space.

Paul Showalter with Illinois Valley Community Development Organization gave a brief talk on the Thompson Creek Project and the coming North Selma Project, both dealing with fuels reduction and defensible spaces.

Several people asked if the cause of the Deer Creek Fire has been determined. ODF stated that it is still under investigation.

Concerns were expressed about erosion problems when the winter rains come. It was pointed out that a large part of the burn area would drain into Powder Gulch, and that residents need to be aware of these possibilities.

Williams man car crash victim

Williams resident Robert Dimock Sturegon, 40, died in the crash of his 1979 Porsche that was out of control for a distance approximating two football fields before striking a large tree, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

Because the southbound car was out of control for approximately 534 feet, speed is indicated as a factor, said JCSO.

The accident at 13925 Watergap Road in Williams was reported at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.
- Charles Dickens -

St. Patrick's Pre-holiday
Country Store

Saturday, October 8th, 10 to 4
Sunday, October 9th, 10 to 2

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*Lunch Special - Hot Dog & Drink \$2

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3rd Annual
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First Baptist Church of Selma
18285 Redwood Hwy.

Saturday,
October 15th

Everyone
Welcome

Potluck meal at Noon

Music Festival,
2 to 3:30

Followed by
dessert/social in
the fellowship hall.

For more information
phone 597-4169.

Kisses, even to the air, are beautiful.
- Drew Barrymore -

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Church
News

St. Patrick of the Forest
Catholic Church

The parable of the wedding feast from Matthew will be read on the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The lesson is, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Regarding being invited, the St. Patrick Country Store will be held Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday the 9th from 10 to 2.

Senior Nutrition Menu
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Meals are served in the
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Cornmeal Bread
Pineapple Crisp

MONDAY, OCT. 10
SALISBURY STEAK
Sour Cream Chive Potatoes
Lima Beans w/ Red Peppers
Cracked Wheat Bread
Cinnamon Applesauce

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12
CHEESE MANICOTTI w/ RED
SAUCE
Mixed Vegetables
Garden Vegetable Salad
French Roll
Bread Pudding w/ Raisins

Places of Worship

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SELMA
18285 Redwood Hwy.
P.O. Box 279, Selma, OR 97538 - 597-4169
Pastor Monty Pope
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship - 11 a.m.
Sunday evening: 7 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
P.O. Box 645
5181 Holland Loop
Non-Denominational
Pastor Frank Salerni
Children's Church-10:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Group 7 p.m.
Youth Group Leaders Lance & Judy Baker
Women's Prayer Thursday 9:30 a.m.
Men's Prayer Meeting 1st & 3rd Saturday - 8 a.m.
Corner Dick George/ Holland Loop

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
East River Street & Lewis Court
Sunday Worship - 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Church Phone: 592-2290

ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
25904 N. Redwood Hwy.
Sunday Services: 11 a.m.
592-2006

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
451 S. Junction Avenue
592-3956
Pastor Mark McLean
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH
407 W. River Street, CJ 592-3658
Father Harry Holwell
Parochial Vicar
Masses - Sunday
Daylight Saving - 9 a.m.
Standard Time - 10 a.m.
Daily Mass Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m.
First Saturday - 10 a.m.
Holy Days - 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday - 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
113 S. Caves Avenue, CJ
Evangelical & Non-Denominational
Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Jr. Church, Infant & Toddler Nursery Provided
Youth Awana - Wednesday 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Crossquest - Thursday 3:30 to 5 p.m.
Dr. Don Blackburn, Pastor
Community Christian Academy

BEIT EMMANUEL
A Messianic Congregation
P.O. Box 1949, CJ 97523
Sabbath Services
Hebrew classes, worship in dance classes and celebrations of the Lord's Feasts - 592-3843

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
265 S. Old Stage Road
Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m.
Sat. Church Service 11 a.m. Sat.
Prayer & Praise 7 p.m. Tues.
Pastor Vern Hyland
Church 592-3218
Everyone Welcome
Madrone Adventist School 592-3330
Sr. Teacher: Mrs. Amy Whitchurch 592-6604

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Watkins Ph. 592-3876
Pastor David Goodrich
Sunday School - 8 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Child-care for small children
Potluck/Bible Study Thursday 7 p.m.
Web Page: http://UMCImmanuel.org

VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
498 Laurel Road
P.O. Box 1248
Pastor Les Knapp
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study Mon. 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Studies Thursday 6 p.m.
evfree@frontiernet.net 592-6160

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
207 Junction Avenue, CJ
Priesthood, Relief Soc. 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Sacrament Meet - 10:50 a.m.
Bishop Charles Rigby
1st Counselor Dennis Swift
2nd Counselor Sam Williams

ILLINOIS VALLEY PRAISE CENTER
28569 Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting - 6 p.m.
Thursday evening - 7 p.m.
Home Bible Study/Youth Group
Non-Denominational
Bible Teaching Church
Pastor Doug Wilson 592-4872

TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH
10300 Takilma Road
Pastor Dan Robinson
Bible Study/Prayer Time 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

ILLINOIS VALLEY PENTECOSTALS
Bible Study & Fellowship 987 1/2 Caves Hwy.
2 p.m. Sunday 7:30 p.m. Thursday 592-4716
Individual Bible Studies available
Pastor Wendell Owens

FIRST LOVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
139 Caves Ave. Front door
Pastors Drs. Bob & Virginia Kurko 592-4775
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Worship Schedule
Sunday 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday School & Nursery 10:30 a.m.
Tues. & Wed. Bible college classes - 7 p.m.
Thurs. 'First Love Kitchen' Free meal 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Fri. Genesis 12 Step - 7 p.m.
Sat. 'Free Bread' 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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ILLINOIS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
2110 Caves Hwy.
Stanley W. Smith, Pastor
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study - Thursday - 6 p.m.
Youth Meeting - Thursday - 6 p.m.
A Southern Baptist Ministry
Phone: 592-3029
Cell: 659-8934

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Phone 592-5234

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