



Dave Toler at Deer Creek Center (Photo by Dale Sandberg)

Ecotourism, Nature studies coming

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filling a regional void with the education, research and recreation programs for people of all ages,” he said.

“The site,” he noted, “is at the gateway to the Wild and Scenic Illinois River, and offers an unusual diversity of learning environments. These include at-risk plant communities, serpentine geology, fire-affected forest, and miles of frontage along two salmon-bearing streams.”

He added that having a

niche market, “something no one else can duplicate,” will benefit the valley economically, as Deer Creek Center will attract those interested in ecotourism.

“We have been working hard on this,” said Toler, “and it’s been challenging, as we have a small staff. We’ve had to deal with the particulars of acquiring the ranch and working with SOU while continuing our normal workload.”

Toler works with Sue Parrish, executive director; Amy Schell, program coordinator; and Nancy Schwick-

rath, office manager.

He sees Deer Creek Center and its coming positive effects as “the biggest thing” he’s encountered in the valley during his 20 years here.

From a biological standpoint, he said, the area including the Kalmiopsis Wilderness is at the top or near the top on national and global scales for diversity.

“We have unique assets here,” said Toler, “and we’re looking forward to what lies ahead.”

CJ topless bar owner facing strip of problems

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mendation” on the license to OLCC. That, plus the many protests sent to OLCC, has caused the agency to delay its process for more in-depth consideration, and the matter is under advisement in Salem.

“I checked on a sprinkler system that the county and fire district say I need,” said Goynes, “and found that I’d need an 18,000-gallon water tank with a 60hp motor.” He indicated that the cost of equipment

and installation would be prohibitive, especially because of the ceiling construction and the space that would be needed.

The building, which he says he owns, is essentially a large Quonset hut. Goynes said that he purchased it from Mike & Gail Murphy, but that recording the deed transfer is still in process.

“The big concern about safety,” Goynes said, “is that if a fire broke out in the parts store (Bi-Rite Auto Parts is in the front of the

building) it could spread to my place that could potentially have 200 intoxicated people in it.

“I believe that a good fire wall and a notification alarm would serve the purpose. As for smoke alarms in my place, I think they’d be set off by cigarette smoke.

“I’m sort of stuck now, but feel certain that I’ll be open sometime after these problems are resolved. I just don’t know when that will be,” he concluded.

Mountain lion expert lists survival tips

By OLIVIA
TAYLOR-YOUNG
FOR IVN

People interested in protecting wildlife, as well as protecting themselves and their families, pets and livestock from wildlife, met at the Selma Center on Tuesday, June 20.

Introduced by Sierra Club member Elaine Wood, of Selma, the guest speaker was Michelle Cullen, director of the Mountain Lion Foundation of Sacramento.

The reasoning behind Oregon’s Fish and Wildlife Commission approving a plan to kill up to 40 percent of the state’s mountain lion population is essentially flawed, stated Cullen.

Citing the belief that a population explosion among mountain lions (alias cougars) is threatening the region’s growing human and domestic animal populations, Cullen charged that scientific research does not confirm this. Nor does research substantiate claims of increasing numbers of cou-

gar related human deaths, she added.

In fact, according to the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, there have been only 16 fatal cougar attacks in all of North America since 1890, making all human beings chances of being attacked by a cougar about 1 in 100 million.

Research also shows that there is an essential misunderstanding about the nature of this beast. While cougars are elusive, opportunistic hunters that seek familiar, accessible prey, this does not mean they are only ferocious by nature. Cougars are hunters because they are pure carnivores and their systems simply cannot process anything nutritionally accept meat.

At the same time, they are frightened by things (and beings) with which they are unfamiliar. They prefer being in places with dense cover and undergrowth and quickly vacate any area where they perceive a threat.

Most sightings and

complaints about cougars are also the result of misunderstanding and/or misidentification.

“I’ve gotten many calls that someone has sighted a mountain lion,” said Cullen, “and then the callers ask when to expect the rest of the pride to follow. But this isn’t like ‘The Lion King.’ Yes, lions -- not mountain lions -- are very social animals and live in groups known as prides and even have a social structure.

“But cougars are solitary creatures. They hunt alone and avoid other cougars unless it is mating time or, in the case of females, they are accompanying their young. They are also extremely territorial, and their home territories can -- and often do -- cover a radius of 200 miles. So the idea that if you see one cougar you’re

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I want to thank all the fire crews from the Selma Station for the prompt arrival & efforts to save my Selma home from complete destruction. It would have been much worse without their help. Their thoughtfulness in covering all my furniture is very much appreciated. Thanks again.

Elsie Roller, Selma



ODF checked ‘Forks’ Park June 23 (Photo by Michelle Binker)

Probable arson fires controlled at ‘Forks’

Three fires of suspicious origins kept firefighters busy at Illinois River “Forks” State Park on the north side of Cave Junction Thursday night, June 22.

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) personnel initially responded to an 11:24 p.m. report of a grass fire. As soon as that was near to extinguishment, a second, larger fire was noticed.

Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) fire investigator

Karl Witz, on the scene Friday morning, June 23, said that while the cause of the fires is still unknown, the circumstances are called “suspicious” by fire officials.

There was an unconfirmed report that two people were seen running from the area at the time of the first blaze.

The two grass fires burned approximately 3 acres of grass and brush. Witz indicated that although the fire was driven by wind, cool night air and humidity

prevented it from becoming too hot. Also, the area had burned two years ago, reducing available fuels.

“This was a real patchy burn,” Witz said. “Once the wind died, the fire just fell flat on its face,” he added.

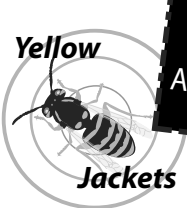
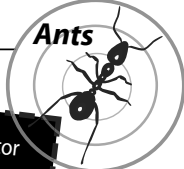
A third fire, composed of burning trash and debris in the picnic area of the park, was extinguished by ODF before ODF and IVFD personnel tackled the larger grass fire.

Josephine County Sheriff’s Office deputies also responded for a time.

For disappearing acts, it’s hard to beat what happens to the eight hours supposedly left after eight of sleep and eight of work.

- Doug Larson -

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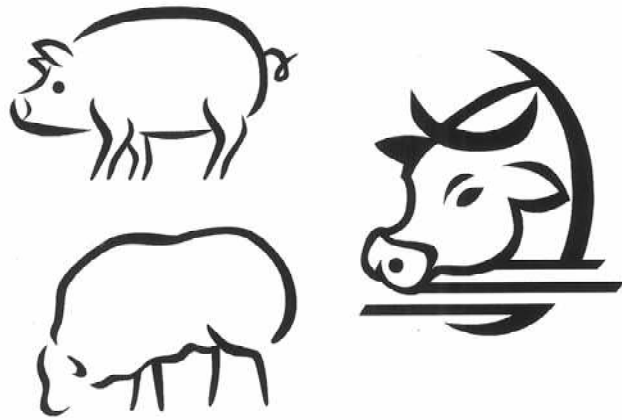
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The OSU Food Innovation Center has \$20,000 to do structured business planning for a USDA Certified Mobile Meat Processing facility for the state of Oregon. They are looking for a region in the state that is interested in moving forward with such a facility. Representatives of the Food Innovation Center and Oregon State University will be here on JUNE 29th to present their vision and ideas to local producers, educators and processors.

If you are supportive of such a facility, or you think it would enhance or expand your ranch or business, come show your support at a meeting on Thursday, June 29th at the OSU Extension Center, 569 Hanley Road in Central Point.

THIS ISSUE IS CRITICAL TO THE CONTINUITY OF
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