

Cavemen

(Continued from page 3)

fun with the Cavemen and pose with visitors.

After mingling with people for about an hour, the Cavemen went into the lodge to watch a program on the history of the Oregon Cavemen given by Larry Owens, one of the cave guides at the monument. Larry has been working on his free time to compile the history of the Oregon Cavemen and their role in promoting tourism in southwest Oregon since 1922.

After the program the audience was given an opportunity to talk with the cavemen and ask questions. Geiske, who has been a member of the organization for 46 years, said the group recently gave up their charter as corporation but are planning to reorganize as a service and community support organization. The last Caveman appearance at Oregon Caves was in 1992.

Gary Fixsen, a resident of Grants Pass and active in the historic society, told stories about his grandfather who was one of the first Cavemen in the organization when it started in 1922. He discussed some of the memorabilia he had brought with him including the club his grandfather carried when National Geographic took his picture for a 1934 article on Oregon Caves.

A group of alumni from Grants Pass were at the lodge celebrating their 60th graduation anniversary and were among the 25 people who attended the program.

The Oregon Cavemen were first organized in 1922 with a primary mission to promote tourism in southwest Oregon. Their zany caveman promotion idea may have been way ahead of its time. Recent research indicates that the most effective promotion tool in the travel industry is “word-of-mouth” promotion, accomplished when travelers share stories of their adventures with others. Experiences that are unique and unusual are the most effective for word-of-mouth promotion. There is little doubt that the visitors who met the Cavemen during their short appearance at Oregon Caves will be showing pictures and telling the story of their visit to southwest Oregon as perhaps one of the most unusual experiences on their travels. It is tourism promotion that will literally reach around the world and last a lifetime. accomplished Oregon Cavemen.

Gas grill safety can prevent problems

Eighty-four percent of gas grill owners say it is important to follow basic safe grilling tips when using a gas grill, according to the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC).

Yet only one in three (35 percent) say they know a great deal about them.

A separate PERC survey also found that less than 10 percent of U.S. adults chose grilling-related risks or accidents as the top-two common summertime risks that concern them, even as the typical grill owner cooks outdoors 22 times during the barbecue season.

To help the 74 million U.S. “barbecue households” enjoy a safe and healthy summer season, the propane industry is releasing its Top 10 Tips on grilling safely with propane gas:

*When the cylinder is

refilled, have the supplier check for dents, damage, rust or leaks.

*After filling or exchanging, take the cylinder home immediately. Keep the vehicle ventilated and the cylinder valve closed and capped.

*Always use or store cylinders outdoors in an upright (vertical) position. Do not use, store, or transport cylinders near high temperatures (this includes storing spare cylinders near the grill).

*Never leave the grill unattended. Always follow grill manufacturer’s instructions on lighting the grill and make sure the grill top is open when attempting to light the grill.

*Before connecting the cylinder to a propane gas grill burner for the first time, use a leak-detection solution

(a 50/50 mixture of water and liquid soap) to check connections for tightness. Do not use matches or lighters to check for leaks.

*If you suspect a gas leak, and are able to safely turn off the gas supply valve, do so immediately and phone the appropriate fire agency.

*Do not allow children to tamper or play with the cylinder or grill.

*Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder.

*Never pour an accelerant such as lighter fluid or gasoline on the grill.

*When not in use, grill burner controls should be turned off and the cylinder valve closed.

For additional information about safe grilling tips, propane grills or other propane appliances, visit www.usepropane.com.



Members of the Boys & Girls Club Illinois Valley Branch perform community service by removing Scotch Broom at Evergreen Elementary School. (Photos provided)



B&G Club members sweep Scotch Broom to aid FAC

By SUZANNE VAUTIER

Early Tuesday morning June 27, Boys & Girls Club participants from Illinois Valley and the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) met on the Evergreen Elementary School grounds and pulled Scotch Broom.

The children worked with “Weed Wrenches” provided by FAC. The tool uses leverage to pull up the plants, roots and all, and the children prided themselves on who could pull the biggest Scotch Broom plant.

The Boys & Girls Club pulled a truckload of Scotch Broom before lunchtime. As the heat of the day started to come on, they all took a break, drinking ice-cold lemonade provided by FAC and eating hot dogs donated by Taylor’s Country Store.

Community volunteers barbecued the hot dogs and donated potato chips, chili, chicken wings and fruit salad for a fun feast for the hungry weed warriors.

Some may have noticed Scotch Broom when it was flowering earlier this spring; they are the bushes with pretty yellow pea-like flowers seen along roadsides. Scotch Broom is aggressive, crowding out other desirable plants. It is also highly flammable and can be a fire hazard.

People wishing to borrow a Weed Wrench can phone FAC at 592-4098, or visit its office at the lower compound of the U.S. Forest Service.

The only rock I know that stays steady,
the only institution I know that works, is the family.

- Lee Iacocca -

Tough meth law enacted by governor

Oregon’s toughest anti-methamphetamine went into effect Saturday, July 1, Gov. Kulongoski announced.

The law requires all cold medicines with pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in methamphetamine, to be available by prescription only.

“Restricting the amount of meth on the streets will mean stronger communities and safer families,” said Kulongoski. “This law, combined with the \$5.5 million distributed to drug courts last week, will bring real results in our fight against this epidemic,” he said.

The landmark methamphetamine law, signed by Kulongoski in August 2005, is the toughest anti-methamphetamine law in the nation. Many consumers have already begun switching to other cold remedies earlier, and pharmaceutical companies are now manufacturing and distributing nonprescription cold products with pseudoephedrine alternatives.

According to estimates from Rob Bovett, of the task force appointed by the governor, there has been a 77 percent reduction in the number of meth labs.

“The financial effect of one meth lab for the state is approximately \$350,000 after child welfare, job loss, property damage, law enforcement and other factors have been considered,” said Bovett. “When all is said and done, a continued reduction in the number of meth labs could mean at least savings of \$168 million for Oregonians.”

Implementation of the new law comes at the same time as the governor’s distributing \$5.5 million in Bryne Methamphetamine Reduction Grants to drug court programs in 13 counties. Drug courts help rehabilitate and educate families, children and meth users.

Josephine County Prevention, Resources, and Opportunities (PRO) will receive \$55,958.

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Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you too can become great.

- Mark Twain -