

'25¢-A-Tree' plantings supported by IVSWCD

Anyone can be a "25¢-A-Tree" sponsor.

It's a great idea, and a partnership that has been working for 15 years. Since 1992 the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) has hosted its annual Volunteer Riparian Tree Planting Day.

This year's Volunteer Day will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 24. FAC coordinates the tree-planting efforts of area youth groups.

Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD) is a silent partner, donating 25-cents per tree planted to the youth groups. To date, more than 40,000 trees have been planted by these young people, thus earning approximately \$10,000 in its "25¢-A-Tree" donations.

Until five years ago these donations were made from logging funds, which have been depleted. Because this project benefits the valley youth and the Illinois Valley watershed health, the IVSWCD board members pledged their support, even if it has to come from their own pockets.

With this in mind, IVSWCD has kicked off its fifth annual "25¢-A-Tree" sponsorship program.

IVSWCD said that it is pleased to invite area businesses and the public to get involved. Donations are tax-

deductible. While any donation is welcome, there are five suggested levels of sponsorship:

*Seedling \$5 (plants 20 trees.)

*Sapling \$10 (plants 40 trees.)

*Tall Pine \$25 (plants 100 trees.)

*Mighty Oak \$50 (plants 200 trees.)

*Giant Redwood \$100 (plants 400 trees.)

Each donation will be recognized with a "handsome certificate of appreciation, suitable for framing." This year, IVSWCD has added special certificates for contributions made "In memory of" or "In honor of" someone special.

IVSWCD recently sent sponsorship packets to many area businesses and previous supporters requesting their continued support. To receive a packet, or have any questions about the program, phone the IVSWCD office between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 592-3731.

Donations may be mailed to IVSWCD "25¢-A-Tree" Sponsorship Fund, P.O. Box 352, Cave Junction OR 97523. And there will be coin collection cans at Shop Smart Food Warehouse cash registers.

FAC describes its tree-packing, tree-planting programs

When the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) receives a phone call from land owners who would like to receive free trees, they send their forestry technician, Kristine Miller.

She walks the property with the land owner, discussing tree species which will tolerate the growing conditions of a particular site. Together they address any problems that might be occurring along the water's edge, such as erosion.

The FAC technician then writes a prescription

according to the number of trees the land owner can realistically plant and care for. When enough prescriptions are written, FAC Program Coordinator Suzanne Vautier calls for volunteers to come pack the trees.

They are carefully packed, and the land owners are notified that their trees are ready to be picked up.

The next tree-packing day will be Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the lower compound of the U.S. Forest Service's Wild Rivers Ranger District in Cave

Junction.

"We need people who would like to help pack trees (no experience necessary)," said Vautier. "On this day we will pack trees for individual land owners, as well as for the annual FAC Volunteer Tree Planting Day."

"After the prescriptions are filled, a hot lunch is provided by Cabin Chemistry, the health food store in Cave Junction, and individuals from the community," said Vautier. "We talk and laugh over plates of food, sharing the camaraderie that comes

from working together for a good cause."

FAC also needs volunteers on Saturday, Feb. 24 for its big annual Volunteer Tree Planting Day.

"Come join the fun," said Vautier. "Bring your kids, and they can earn a little money for their favorite youth group thanks to the I.V. Soil and Water Board which again is providing 25-cents per tree planted on Volunteer Day to youth groups."

For more information, phone 592-4098.

Dome School, Forestry Action combine in riparian efforts

Dome School and the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) got together to plant trees next to the creek that runs along the border of the school property in Takilma on Thursday, Jan. 25.

FAC provided a mix of native trees -- cottonwood, ash, Red Osier Dogwood, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas Fir -- as well as the shovels and tree-planting advice. The Dome School children provided the enthusiasm and energy for the tree-planting.

"It was a sunny day, and

despite the cold weather we have been having, the ground was soft along the creek bank," said Suzanne Vautier, FAC program coordinator. "The children had a lot of fun planting trees."

"Afterwards, some children gave extra care to their trees by creating shade with some dead branches they found lying around, so the seedlings would have a light respite from the summer sun the first few years."

Vautier can be contacted at 592-4098.

Lovejoy Hospice announces trio of grief-related classes

Lovejoy Hospice is accepting registrations for three special bereavement programs.

The Good Grief!! Program is designed to provide children and their parents or guardians a safe place to talk about how their family is coping with the loss of someone they loved.

Each age group of children and their parents or guardians have a separate section. The program will be held Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning March 7.

There also is a Parents/Grandparents Bereavement Support Group for parents and guardians who have lost a child.

The group meets the second and fourth Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Beyond Loss Bereavement Support Group.

Lovejoy Hospice also offers the Beyond Loss Grief Support Group for adults who have experienced the death of someone important to them.

Phone 474-1193 for details or to register.

Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise save it and preserve it.

- Plato -

Safety levy

(Continued from page 1)

one and three officers on patrol during shifts, Raffenburg said.

The jail's capacity would be increased from its current level of 140 to 190 under the levy proposal, Raffenburg said. The district attorney's office would be budgeted for 10 prosecutors, up from the nine included in the existing budget, and the county's juvenile justice program would remain unchanged.

Raffenburg said that passage of the levy would enable the county to keep all four branches of its library system open one day per week. Library employees likely would rotate between the different branches under such a scenario.

Commissioners also will be spending the next few days bringing broader public awareness to the county's fiscal problems.

Raffenburg and Sheriff Gil Gilbertson will spend Thursday, Feb. 15 at the state capitol in Salem testifying before the Senate about the O&C funding issue and its effects on the county. They also will meet with Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) before heading back that same day.

Meetings also are scheduled with commissioners and U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) and U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Portland) and Gordon Smith (R-Pendleton).

Raffenburg spent part of Monday, Feb. 12 conducting an interview with Fox News, and has interviews scheduled with several area news outlets.

The commissioners have announced formation of two task forces devoted to examining funding options. The "long-term impact task force" will be chaired by Raffenburg. It will have subcommittees regarding state issues, as well as alternate taxes and fees. A "short-term impact task force" will be chaired by Commissioner Dave Toler.



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Josephine County Report



Fairgrounds Update

Submitted by Commissioner Jim Raffenburg

The recent financial problems at the Fairgrounds have caused concerns for everyone in our County who value this important asset. Emotions ran high for awhile and unfounded rumors seemed to pop up daily. One thing that became clear however is that most people do not understand who is responsible for operating the Fairgrounds. It seems that a little background information would be helpful on that issue.

First, the Board of Commissioner does not administer the operation of the Fairgrounds. Under Oregon law, the Fair Board is responsible for the financial and operational health of the Fair and associated Fairgrounds activities. Other than as land owners the only role the County has associated with Fairground operations is The Board of Commissioners appoints the Fair Board members.

Josephine County financial support for Fairgrounds operations has steadily declined over the past twenty years, because Federal O&C timber revenues have steadily declined since 1990. Over the past few years the County has *loaned* the Fair Board up to \$75,000 annually to help them past *temporary* revenue shortfalls that could be *quickly* repaid. Two years ago, Board of Commissioners notified the Fair Board in writing that due to even larger O&C revenue cuts anticipated after September 2006 (which have now occurred) the County would not be in a position to loan money to the Fair Board beyond the 2005 fair season. At the same time, the Fair Board was advised to become self-supporting by the (past) 2006 fair season.

Over the past several years, the Fair Board has increasingly found it difficult to raise enough revenue during the year to cover their operating expenses and pay back any loan the County provided. Last, November, the cash flow deficit reached the critical point and the County Finance Office raised the issue that the Fair Board did not appear to have revenues available to make the December 7th payroll for Fairgrounds employees. This development set into motion an effort by the Board of Commissioners, who directed the County's CFO to begin working with the Fairgrounds management to determine the extent of the problem. As it turned out, the problem was severe.

The Commissioners then directed the Chief Operating Officer of the County to begin work with Fair Management and the Fair Board to determine if it was possible for the Fairgrounds to pay back the nearly \$100,000 deficit and also continue to operate without a further deficit for the rest of this budget year, which ends on June 30, 2007.

After nearly two months of exhaustive effort by everyone involved, the County's COO and CFO reported to the Board of Commissioners that they believe the Fair Board could raise enough *new revenue* to pay back the outstanding loan and pay for Fairgrounds operations through June 30, 2007.

Please understand, the severe financial problems faced by the Fair Board regarding Fairgrounds operations *have not been solved*. Substantial hard work remains, both for the County and for the Fair Board, to determine what still needs to be done to assure that the Fairgrounds can continue to remain open to serve the people of Josephine County for many years to come.

If you have any interest in being part of this effort to help, please contact the Fair Board at 474-3215.

Meth Addiction

Methamphetamine is the most widely used illicit stimulant drug in Josephine County. Approximately 80% of personal and property crimes are due to Meth use.

Additionally, about 85% of the adult offenders under supervision in Josephine County abused alcohol and/or drugs prior to being placed under supervision.

Meth is the drug of choice of offenders under supervision.

Meth is an extremely toxic and addictive drug and the potential for abuse and dependence is very high. Signs of Meth use include: restlessness; euphoria; excited speech; appetite loss; body tremors; users pick at their faces, arms, or other body parts; the inability to sleep followed by excessive sleep; and an intense paranoia and/or an unusual chemical smell on the users or their clothing.

Go to www.targetmeth.com to find out more about Meth use, find resource numbers and learn ways that you can help prevent Meth addiction in Josephine County. Or, call the Josephine County Commission for Children and Families, Substance Abuse Community Action Team at 474-5234.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification

Nearly 15 years ago, Oregon was one of the first states to require registration of sex offenders.

Sex offender registration guidelines and procedures have been modified at nearly every legislative session since that time, including some major changes in 1999 when the federal government began to influence registration statutes. The process for registration became more clearly defined at that time and the Oregon State Police became the only registration force for the state.

Although sex offenders can register with any local law enforcement agency, the registration form is sent to the Oregon State Police for entry into a statewide system. Offenders convicted of sex crimes are required to register at the beginning of their supervision period, within ten days of a change of residence and each year within ten days of their birthday.

Offenders who do not follow these statute requirements can be charged with the felony or misdemeanor offense of failure to register as a sex offender. The public can obtain sex offender registration information by contacting the Oregon State Police Registration Unit at (503) 378-3725 x 4429.

Oregon was one of the first states to legislatively impose sex offender notification requirements. Oregon statutes require that a notification plan, which specifies who will be notified and how the notification will be carried out, be completed by the parole and probation officer supervising the offender. Notification may be conducted on offenders who have been convicted of certain sex crimes. Notification plans are required for sex offenders who are considered to be predatory. One hundred and twenty two sex offenders are currently under supervision in Josephine County and less than 12 have been deemed predatory.

A risk tool (series of behavior questions) approved by the Oregon Department of Corrections helps parole and probation officers determine if a sexual offender is predatory. The process for determining predatory status in Oregon was legally changed successfully in 2005 and as a result, the State of Oregon is currently developing a new evaluation system.

In Josephine County, there are several levels of sex offender notification, depending on the threat the offender may currently pose to the community.

Minimum level sex offenders notification includes flyer distribution to local law enforcement agencies; including information such as a photo, physical description, address, vehicle type, condition of supervision, age and gender of target victims, and description of the offenders' method of operation.

High level of notification includes distribution of flyers to homes within a residential area and/or a notification posted at the Josephine County Community Justice website.

For more information about the sex offender registration and notification, please call Josephine County Community Justice Adult Division Manager Abe Huntley, 541-474-5165 ext 209.

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