



FOR THE CRITTERS - Kay Ekwall, of Changes Art Gallery on Redwood Hwy. in Downtown Cave Junction, views some scenes captured by Sacramento-area photographer Robert Sakall. Some of his work was displayed during the May 11 Second Friday Art Walk and still is available for viewing. Ekwall is striving to aid Sakall's efforts to establish a wildlife preserve and improve habitat for various animals. For more information phone 592-6431. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

Chateau Friends inaugural meet June 9

Friends of the Chateau at Oregon Caves will hold its first meeting Saturday, June 9 at 3 p.m. to convene the new preservation organization at Oregon Caves National Monument.

The group, under auspices of Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO), will work to raise approximately \$1 million to secure funding for conservation work at the historic lodge in preparation for its 75th anniversary in 2009.

Sue Densmore, who is spearheading the effort for IVCDO, described how the fund-raising effort, if suc-

cessful, could release a \$12 million grant of federal funds to conserve and restore the historic lodge.

“We have an appropriation from the federal government to restore the Chateau,” Densmore told members of the Illinois Valley and Grants Pass chambers of commerce during a recent combined gathering at the historic site.

“Money raised locally and throughout Oregon will demonstrate our desire to see the work done,” she said.

Friends of the Chateau has begun a fund with Oregon Community Foundation.

During an August kick-

off celebration the group will host the Oregon congressional delegation and a number of foundations, according to Densmore.

One of three federally owned historic lodges in Oregon, The Chateau at Oregon Caves was built in 1934. It is furnished with a large collection of Monterey furniture -- rustic, hand-painted pieces handcrafted in California in the early 1930s. The collection needs restoration.

The Chateau concession is operated by IVCDO's Oregon Caves Outfitters. For more information, phone 592-4440 or visit www.ivcd.org

Patrol gap big worry due to loss of federal monies

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gap between July 1 and then.

How Josephine County commissioners will handle the coming monies has yet to be determined. (See page 9 for early county comment).

While maintaining security at the parade, BPD Officer Kelby McCrae said that, for now, things remain calm.

“Really, no effects have taken place yet,” McCrae said. “It’s business as normal.”

He said that the Curry County Sheriff’s Dept. and BPD continue to work well together, but that he expects it to change soon.

“The effect is that we won’t have deputies to back us up on calls, like they normally would,” McCrae said.

Brookings city residents

will have police patrols, but unincorporated areas such as Harbor, located just south of the city across the Chetco River across the B.A. “Dot” Martin Bridge, will not.

“It’s a big county to be able to handle with few road deputies,” McCrae said. “It will be very limited coverage.”

Across the street from McCrae, Curry County Republican Central Committee Chairman Bill Waddle sat at a booth pondering his county’s future. Waddle, a reserve sheriff’s deputy who lives outside city limits, is aware of what the law enforcement cuts will mean for him.

“I’m not going to be able to pick up a phone and have anyone show up if there’s a home invasion,” Waddle said.

Joining Waddle at the booth was Mark Cogan, executive director of the non-profit Curry Health Foundation.

Cogan, who also lives in an unincorporated area, said he’s worried that reduced sheriff’s patrols may complicate efforts to combat the methamphetamine problem.

“Curry County is a safe haven for those things, but it’s only going to get worse,” Cogan said.

Aside from Brookings, the cities of Gold Beach and Port Orford also have their own police departments. But domestic abuse is common in small, rural towns like Ophir, which worries Cogan.

“I wonder what’s going to happen out there,” he said.

Cogan said that some

When it comes to bruises, bear with ’em

By DON KITTERMAN

Many words have been used to describe the single-minded, mischievous behavior of bears.

Gluttonous and destructive are only two.

Most others have no place in print. The only predictable trait a bear has is that he is always hungry, and if it smells good, sooner or later he’ll find a way to get it and eat it.

From venison on the hoof to the small amounts of honey in a Yellow Jacket’s nest, he likes it all. And when humans get tired of the city and build their homes in his “bailiwick,” the place soon becomes “bear smorgi.” So here’s this tale.

We had just finished the subfloor on our new house, and after a late day were soon asleep in our snug camp complete with camp table, chairs and canvas cots. Just before dawn, a thumping noise awakened me, and there, not 20 feet from my bunk, was a big bear lying on its back trying to crush our ice chest in its arms.

My yell woke up everyone, and the bear ran down to the building site, stopped, came back, turned over the table, ate our corn flakes and half a bar of Ivory Soap.

We guessed his weight at plus 200 pounds. He had yellow eyes and was about the color of a bale of straw. We noticed variations of this color phase through the many years we lived at that place, but we never saw a black bear. I think this one was the granddaddy of all our troubles.

The 24-by-24-inch pane of glass in the door of my shop gave easy access to the dog food stored there. One thing certain about bears is

that they seldom leave the way they come. So, not only was my dog food gone, but I had to replace two windows.

The second time this happened, I called the Dept. of Fish & Game, and after a lot of hassle, this bear was determined to be a “glass breaker.” So I was issued a depredation permit and was told to do what was needed to protect my property. I did.

It seems, however, that my acreage was an off-ramp on the Bear Freeway. Muddy tracks on our living room window in the winter, ruined strawberry patch in the spring (they eat green ones and all), broken-down apple trees in the summer, and a chicken house suddenly without chickens in the fall -- they finally convinced us that we should call Fish & Game again.

We were told to fill a spray bottle with ammonia and spray it in the bear’s face. The warden said this would put a bear “to flight most of the time.” I hung up before he could tell me what happened the rest of the time.

This conversation and a

little thought gave me an idea that might cure my bear problems. I took one of my grandson’s toy balloons, filled it with about a cup of ammonia, painted the outside with peanut butter and hung it in an apple tree near our bedroom window. Nothing happened for a couple of nights, and I promptly forgot about it. In the meantime, our daughter and our new son-in-law came for a weekend visit.

The guest room was adjacent to ours, and about 2 the first morning, I was awakened by the loudest snoring anyone could ever imagine. Snorts, whimpers and wheezing were bad enough, but when it began to sound like someone in the last throes of strangulation, I shook my wife (she is a sound sleeper) and asked her if she had ever heard anyone snore like that.

She listened a moment and said, “You big dummy. Go back to sleep. That bear just found your peanut butter!”

Our son-in-law never knew what I was about to accuse him of, and that bear never came back.

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Meth fight will continue in Josephine

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fairly limited.”

He said that more than 70 percent of the county’s property crime is meth-related.

And, “It’s probably a lot higher,” he said.

As such, the sheriff said that his office will continue to make the fight against meth a top priority.

“Our intent is to go after meth,” Gilbertson said. “It’s the scourge of our problems in this county, and we want to pursue it aggressively.”

JCSO provides two investigators to JOINT, and Sgt. Ken Selig also works with that entity.

Because JOINT is funded through federal and state dollars, Gilbertson said that JCSO would lose money by withdrawing from it.

“It’s something we can’t afford to pull out of,” he said.

To step up the battle against the drug, Gilbertson said that he is applying for a \$450,000 grant. With numerous contaminated meth sites, Josephine County leads all Oregon counties, which could help JCSO secure the grant.

“I feel fairly strongly that we have a good chance to be in contention for it,” Gilbertson said.

In terms of prosecutions,

the sheriff said that JCSO would try to bring those cases to federal courts. The county D.A.’s office will be prosecuting only the most-severe crimes against persons, but the burden of proof is lower in federal courts, and sentences tend to be non-negotiable.

“If you get 10 years, you’re going to get 10 years,” Gilbertson said.

He added that despite the pending lack of rural JCSO patrols, he will make every effort to eliminate meth.

“Somehow, some way, we will go after it,” Gilbertson said.



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