



Scotch Broom removal was included in the Boy & Girls Club work. (Photo provided)

Boys & Girls weed whack at SFI ranch

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at the weevil, Vautier explained how noxious weeds are a problem because they are originally from somewhere else. When they are brought here they find no natural enemies, so they reproduce like crazy and crowd out native plants and plants that humans are cultivating.

She added that these insects have been released in our valley a number of times during the last five years by various groups and agencies, in an attempt to control knapweed spread. The weevils have now established a population here and this year they are being found all over Illinois Valley.

The Seedhead Weevils are from the same part of the Mediterranean as knapweed. They were brought here because of their use of knapweed flowers as a place to lay their eggs. Adult weevils gather on the purple flowers of knapweed, where they

stand on their heads and dig into the flower.

Once inside, the weevils lay their eggs, and the developing larvae eat the developing knapweed seeds, resulting in the knapweed producing fewer viable seeds. While the weevils will not eliminate knapweed completely, it is hoped that they can slow the production of knapweed seeds so that land owners will have an easier time controlling knapweed.

Vautier then demonstrated to the Boys & Girls Club the use of the Weed Wrench, several of which were provided for the project by FAC. They are large tools that use leverage to pull out Scotch Broom by the roots. The tool is so effective pulling out Scotch Broom that even children can do it.

Later, the Boys & Girls Club and folks from SFI went into the woods along Deer Creek and pulled the

highly flammable Scotch Broom that is invading the riparian area. After the Scotch Broom pull, the SFI crew took the children swimming in Deer Creek for a well-deserved treat on a hot summer day.

Those who would like to borrow a Weed Wrench or need help with weed identification or advice on weeding, can phone the FAC office at 592-4098.

SFI expansion

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of putting in here,” Parrish said.

Researchers from all over the world have utilized the Deer Creek Center, but Parrish said that SFI hopes to offer camping on its site to members of the general public next year.

“There’s a relaxing and magical quality to the property,” she said. “It’s a very special place.”

SFI currently offers a Naturalist Certificate Program, and several other classes will be offered during the next few months.

For more information, visit [www.thesif.org](http://www.thesif.org) or phone 597-8530.

Retirement set by TRSD chief

Four-year Superintendent Jerry Fritts announced his retirement date to directors of Three Rivers School District (TRSD) during their meeting in Murphy on Monday night, July 16.

Fritts, 65, has been in the field of education 44 years. His retirement from Three Rivers is to be effective June 30, 2008.

‘Water & Rocks’ at Wiseman

Wiseman Gallery on the Rogue Community College campus in Grants Pass will display a group of paintings, “Water & Rocks.”

The work, produced by Maria Kazankaya, will be hanging through Aug. 30.

Summer hours for the gallery, open to the public, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays.



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Long-term home care in Oregon funded by grant

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently awarded Oregon a five-year \$114 million grant to assist the state’s continuing efforts to transition people from institutions to community-based care settings.

Since 1981 Oregon has led the nation in the development of lower cost alternatives to institutional care.

Oregon ranks first nationally in the proportion of Medicaid long-term care expenditures made for home care and last among the states for institutionalized nursing care expenditures.

“Oregon remains at the forefront nationally in providing care and assistance that lets individuals remain in their communities,” said Gov. Kulongoski.

“With this federal vote of confidence in our efforts, we will be able to provide for hundreds more Oregonians in a community setting.”

Oregon’s Money Follows the Person grant will be managed through the Oregon Dept. of Human Services Seniors and People with Disabilities Division. The grant will help transition 780 Oregonians from institutional to community

care during the next five years.

“For 25 years, Oregon has shown that institutionalized populations with complex medical and long-term care needs can be served in their communities with wrap-around services,” said Dr. Bruce Goldberg, DHS director. “This grant will allow us to continue to strengthen our state’s community-based care system.”

The department will develop an implementation plan. It is convening a group of advocates, community partners, DHS staff and managers, including individuals working in institutions and community-care homes.

The grant will serve 40 children with developmental disabilities in pediatric nursing facilities, 300 seniors with end-stage dementia, 300 adults with physical disabilities in nursing facilities, and 140 adults with developmental disabilities in nursing and intermediate-care facilities.

In this second round of awards, Oregon is one of the 13 states and the District of Columbia to receive the demonstration grant. CMS announced the first round of 17 recipients in January.



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