



Lake Selmac Resort in Selma and proprietors Nona & Colin Clark, were recognized by KMED Radio's Mike Smith on Friday, May 29 during a joint mixer of the Illinois Valley and Josephine County/Grants Pass Chambers of Commerce. The resort was named 2009's Resort of the Year by the radio station's travel guru, 'Ben Travellin.' Lake Selmac Resort hosted the get-together, which was well attended. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

Eco-changes noted at conference

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley's special soils and climate change were among major topics during the Third Conference on Klamath-Siskiyou Ecology in Selma from Thursday, May 28 to Saturday, May 30.

Thursday's events included the keynote address, delivered by Susan Harrison from the Dept. of Environmental Science & Policy at University of California, Davis.

Harrison delivered her hour-long speech before nearly 100 people in the gymnasium of the Selma Center. She was introduced by Michael Parker from Southern Oregon University Biology Dept.

The theme of this year's conference was "Sustaining Biodiversity in a Changing Environment." Harrison's lecture was titled, "Revisiting Robert Whittaker: Botanical Responses to Climate Change in the Klamath-Siskiyou."

Whittaker studied several sites in the Klamath-Siskiyou from 1949 to 1951, and Harrison spent nearly two years examining his research and comparing it to her own findings.

The main question driving Harrison's research, she said, was whether or not plant communities have changed in a direction consistent with a warmer climate. Also examined were if the changes were different in serpentine soils

than in diorite, and if topography can buffer species against climate change.

Temperature data from the Medford office of the National Oceanic & Atmos-

'It's pretty self-evident that these changes are happening.'

~Susan Harrison

pheric Administration throughout the past 60 years shows a "significant upward trend," Harrison said.

"It's pretty self-evident that these changes are happening," she said.

Harrison began by stating that in the 1940s, the common belief among scientists was that different plant species all depended on each other for survival, but Whittaker put the "nail in the coffin" of that theory.

Whittaker came to Illinois Valley to use it as a "test bed" to examine the issue of interdependence among plant species, Harrison said. In his research, she said, Whittaker noted the area's geologic and topographic diversity.

Illinois Valley is the number-one spot in North America for serpentine soils and species found exclusively on them, Harrison said. She added that there are nearly

100 plants in the Klamath-Siskiyou region that are only found on serpentine.

Harrison said that while conducting his research, Whittaker sampled nearly 400 area sites. Whittaker didn't leave plot markers and walked over mountains "without a set plan," she said.

In spring 2007, Harrison examined 55 serpentine and 53 unlogged diorite sites. She said that her findings were that nongrass herbs have declined in percentage of cover and number of species.

The lowest declines were among "restricted species," Harrison said, and species unique to this region declined more than those which are more widespread.

Harrison concluded that area plant communities have shifted in a direction consistent with a warmer climate, differences in plant communities are not confined to serpentine and plants that are restricted to specific soils are probably at the greatest risk.

Also discussed during Harrison's lecture was the possible use of assisted migration to aid struggling plant species. She said that there is no scientific consensus regarding long-distance migrations, but that local migrations, from one side of a mountain to another, would be a "lot less controversial."

'Dog fight' avoided ...

(Continued from page 1)

concerns about the barking. "I don't know what the problem is," she said.

River Street resident Roberta Margason also said that she has "never had a problem at all" with the dogs.

Jack Zach testified that his elderly wife's sleep is often interrupted by the noise.

"It's kind of hard to rest when their damn dogs are barking," Jack Zach said.

Councilor Dan Fiske, a veterinarian, asked if the Van Tassels have considered the use of shock collars or debarking to bring resolution to the issue. Gilbert Van Tassel

said he believes that shock collars are cruel to animals.

The council decided that issuing a warning to the couple would be preferable to having Kelly begin seeking sanctions. Castle said that she agrees with that approach.

"I don't want a fine for them," she said.

Kelly suggested that the council revisit the matter after one month to see if the neighbors could resolve the problem among themselves.

Gilbert Van Tassel said that he could build a "nice big kennel" for the dogs in one month's time.

In other matters, the

OHSU database available online guide to national health services

Oregon is the latest state to join a national database linking patients to health services, facilities and resources in their own communities.

The state is launching Oregon Health Go Local (www.medlineplus.gov/oregon), which provides Oregonians information about health-care services and facilities across the entire state. An official launch event featuring comments by National Library of Medicine Director Donald Lindberg, a physician, was held Tuesday, May 12 at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU).

"The purpose of this free database is to link those searching for health information with specialized health care services within or near their own communities," said Todd Hannon, principal investigator for Oregon Health Go Local.

"The database also interfaces with MedlinePlus," he said, which provides "easy-to-read and reliable consumer health information compiled by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

Hannon added, "Having all this information on one Website allows visitors to learn about a particular health condition and then find local clinics and health-service agencies that specialize in treating or providing services related to the disease or disorder all within a few mouse clicks."

Oregon Health Go Local includes hospitals, health clinics, government agencies, support groups, libraries, non-profit service organizations and much more. It stated:

"Locating health care close to home is becoming more difficult in communities across Oregon and the rest of the country due to a nationwide shortage of providers. The Go Local system partially helps solve that problem by alerting residents to nearby services they may not have been aware of."

Oregon Health Go Local was created through funding to the OHSU Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered through the Oregon State

Library, and with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health.

With these funds, library staffers were able to locate and catalog health services across the state. This information was then placed online and organized so that navigation is easy and fast. The site allows visitors to look for information in a variety of ways. They can search by location by clicking on a county-by-county map of the state.

Visitors also can search by the type of provider or service, by disease or health issue; or they can simply search for health information in the MedlinePlus database.

There are more than a thousand local services already listed at the site, and new resources are being added as they are identified by the OHSU Library or through visitors to the site.

For more information about Oregon Health Go Local, visit medlineplus.gov/oregon. More information about MedlinePlus can be found at medlineplus.gov.

Heartland Dance to perform *Tin Soldier*

Heartland Dance will present its 32nd annual production at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center based on the classic fairy tale, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

Illinois Valley resident Robin Highbarger will be featured as the tin soldier, and Deanna Fish as the ballerina doll. Performances will be staged Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, June 21 at 2 p.m.

Heartland productions have become known for using a mixture of dance with narration and a little theater to create delightful programs that can be enjoyed by audiences of all ages. Dance styles include classical ballet, modern dance, and Jazz set to a wide variety of music.

Patricia Wilson, director and dance instructor of Heartland Dance, "has painstakingly chosen the music and costumes; then combined them with her own choreography, to create a feast for the eyes and ears." Illinois Valley resident Clyde Highbarger has lent his technical expertise in helping design the lighting effects and sound.

Nancy Gordon, (founder of Heartland,) has written just

enough narration to help younger audience members follow the story, as well as add a little humor and whimsy to the show. Tickets are available at Plaza Sewing Center, Sixth

and H streets in Grants Pass; Oregon Books at Grants Pass Shopping Center, and will be available at the door. For additional information phone Michelle Welch at 476-4369.

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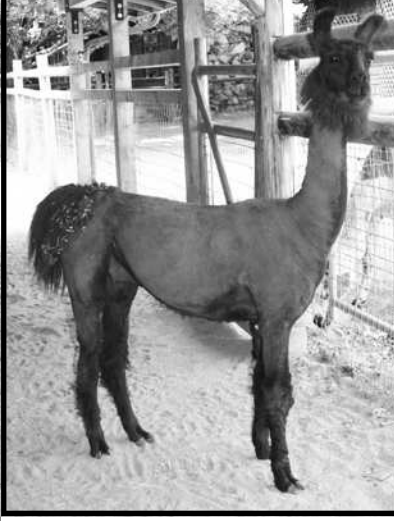
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council voted 5-0 to:

*Approve a request by I.V. Little League to use amplified sound for a Sunday, June 14 fund-raiser at Jubilee Park.

*Pass a resolution authorizing Josephine County Treasurer John Harelson to include the city in the county investment program for fiscal year 2009-10.

*OK'd a resolution to receive state money.

*Gave thumbs up to a resolution authorizing Mayor Don Moore to recommend disapproval of liquor license renewals to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

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