

Kerby ... Continued from A-1

Kerbyville was the county seat from 1856 to 1883 and boasted the Union and Pioneer hotels, stables, general stores, a stagecoach stop, a two-story jail, saloons and two “Hanging Trees,” where frontier justice was dispensed.

“Snowfall was much heavier then, as much as 15 to 20 feet a year, so miners were forced to rent hotel rooms – which they paid for with gold,” Strayer said.

This typical mining town of the era was also populated with loggers and other pioneers. In 1879, William Naucke purchased the two acre museum property for \$5. His family home is now a featured part of the History Center, which also includes the original Grimmertt one-room schoolhouse, a barn/blacksmith shop, a miner’s cabin and replica Dagelma (Takilma) Indian pithouse.

Naucke’s home was recently restored over a three year period and plans are developing to build a replica of the school, which is closed

and beyond repair. Patti Brain of the Valley Girls Quilters donated a 64-inch square quilted cover for a fund-raiser. A drawing for the colorful piece will take place July 7 during the museum’s second annual ice cream social.

The museum doesn’t receive any outside funding to help cover the \$8,000 annual operating expenses and must rely solely on \$15 memberships, \$2 to \$5 admission fees, sales and donations. In 2012, volunteers contributed over 2,400 hours to this longest continuously-operated museum in the county, which has welcomed over 20,000 visitors during the past 14 years.

“The Kerbyville Museum isn’t just a warehouse,” Strayer explains. “It shows us the stories of the people who created the quilts, sacrificed during the wars and used these tools to help build their lives and our community. It’s an important resource that deserves to be supported and shared.”

Mill ... Continued from A-1

“But, we can’t justify the cost with an inadequate, unpredictable log supply supporting only one shift,” Phillippi said. “It’s like sitting in a grocery store not being able to eat while the produce rots around you.”

Once a thriving wood products region, Josephine and Jackson counties in 1975 were home to 22 sawmills. By 2003 six remained, and for the last several years R & R has been the lone sawmill operating in the region.

R & R Lumber sits amid forestland owned 70 percent by the federal government — over 2.7 million acres — but for over 20 years, the mill has had virtually no access to federal timber. These forests grow around one billion board feet of wood per year. While half of that growth was harvested historically, now only seven percent of annual forest growth is available for harvest. R & R annually consumes 25 million board feet (without relying on old growth), while the surrounding unmanaged forest becomes increasingly fire prone and diseased — despite plan after plan to address the ecological and economic problems this creates.

The company has worked closely with federal and state policy makers since the early 1990s on solutions to the stalemate over federal timber harvest, and the creative ideas and leadership coming from

Governor Kitzhaber and Oregon Congressional Representatives Peter DeFazio, Greg Walden and Kurt Schrader have been encouraging.

“The outlook seemed especially hopeful,” said Phillippi, “when Senator Wyden was appointed Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, but we are disappointed that little has changed. The status quo just isn’t enough to sustain us, even with an improving economy and our customers begging for more of what our employees are so good at making.”

Rough & Ready announced that it would provide mill employees with severance pay based on years of service and assistance in finding new jobs. According to long-term R & R employee Ed Cunningham, “We are grateful the company kept the doors open during the recession, knowing how difficult it would be for employees to find work.”

Looking ahead, the Phillippi and Krauss families will continue to manage Perpetua Forests Company, which owns private forestland, and will sell timber from those responsibly managed lands to other mills. Jennifer Phillippi indicated the family would be relieved if another owner with access to timber supply were able to buy the R & R mill and keep it running, “because those jobs are so critical to the

economy of Cave Junction and the region.”

Josephine County commissioners Simon Hare, Keith Heck and Cherryl Walker issued a joint statement last week praising the Kraus family and Rough & Ready as a bedrock to the local economy and community for nearly a century.

“The truly sad reality of this story is that the mill has 14 million board feet of federal timber that they have purchased but not harvested,” the commissioners wrote. “This is the direct result of litigation brought by extreme environmentalists, resulting in the loss of jobs and our rural economic stability.”

The commissioners said federal legislators have failed to act to correct this problem facing the timber industry.

“The O&C Trust Conservation and Jobs Act is a bi-partisan proposal by DeFazio, Schrader and Walden that would go a long way to help provide a solution and they are to be commended for trying,” the commissioners wrote. “We ask that Senators Wyden and Merkley join with our Congressmen to pass meaningful legislation that expects actions to remove the barriers to our responsible and productive harvest of our forests for jobs in our community.”



(Photo by Judy Hoyle, Illinois Valley News)

Strayer seated in front of the quilt donated by Patti Brain for a fund-raiser July 7th at the Kerbyville Museum’s second annual ice cream social. Tickets are 6 for \$5 and all proceeds will go toward building a replica Log School House for the History Center.

SK8 ... Continued from A-1

Working on the design of the skate park is Ryan Burns, who was awarded a \$4,000 grant from Burning Man to construct a ramp which will be fashioned to resemble a tree stump.

Burns has been collaborating with skate park design legend Bart Smith who has worked for Dreamland Skateparks — an international skate park design company that’s also responsible for the construction of Gold Hill’s Tom Fish Memorial Skate Park.

“I’m feeling really grateful right now,” said Stacy Williams, a member of Youth Empowerment Support (YES), the non-profit which handles Sk8 CJ’s funding.

“A lot of people in the community know this is a good thing, and it’s been fun putting it together,” Williams said.

Sk8 CJ and YES are currently looking for more grant writers to write matching grants now that they have more money to work with, as well as someone to build a website.

“We were initially going to use the money we had to get started, but we decided to hold off and see what we could do with it,” Williams said.

Nine-year-old Jezra Williams, a local skateboarder who’s been at it for two years now, is particularly thrilled about the news.

“It was kinda sad to see the other skate park get torn down,” said Williams. “Kids just ride around where the old one was now.”

Williams, like many other young residents of the Illinois Valley, doesn’t have the time or means to make it to Grants Pass to utilize the skate park there.

“It would be really cool to have a skate park in town, maybe with some rails and a half-pipe,” Williams said.

Sk8 CJ and YES are always hoping more youth show up at the benefits to support the cause.

“Usually we have kids running booths and doing cleanup, but there are other ways to raise money than festivals,” Connolly said.

On Thursday, May 30, Sk8 CJ is going to gather volunteers and bag groceries at Shop Smart to raise money for the skate park initiative.

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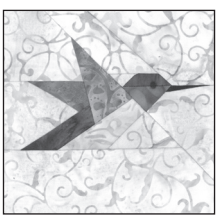
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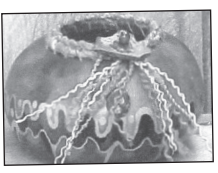
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