

Fish fry nets bucks

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Wild River Brewing and Pizza Company served 455 pieces of fish to approximately 150 people Thursday, April 25, at the Church on W. River St. in Cave Junction. According to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church member and Wild River Brewing and Pizza Co. owner Bertha Miller, the annual fish fry was to benefit the Cave Junction branch of the Boys and Girls Club.

“Over the past ten years or so we have used the funds to support many area needs” said Miller. Past recipients include the I.V. Fire District, I.V. Safe House Alliance and the Boys and Girls Clubs. “One year we used the money to help with the building of the medical Clinic” Miller added.

The 25-30 pounds of salmon and 36lbs of ling cod and halibut were caught by Miller’s husband Jerry Miller, on his annual fishing trip to British Columbia. The halibut, ling cod, salmon and roasted red potatoes are cooked at Miller’s Wild River restaurant. Salads are donated by the congregation. Miller added she appreciates everyone who comes to support this “it’s a fun gathering.” The boys and girls who attend the club helped to served and, as in years past, Jackie Wright made desserts.

Miller said the goal of three thousand dollars was met and Thrivent, a Lutheran financial institution will add one-thousand dollars to that amount.

Living the bug life



Jade Rohde age 6 (left), Connor Talty age 7 and Maya Houck age 7, check out the bug display with Audrey Moore during the Rivers and Forrest Festival held at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction, Saturday, April 27.

Citizens express concerns over labeling of environmentalists

By
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The Josephine County Board of Commissioners hold quarterly Town Hall meetings in Cave Junction, but the last one, on April 22, was poorly attended due to the lack of any local announcement. This slip-up meant that Cave Junction’s City Council, who was supposed to meet with the county board, was also absent.

A small group of valley residents who discovered the meeting at the last minute utilized the time to dialogue with Commissioners Cheryl Walker, Keith Heck and Simon Hare about issues of concern to them. Dale Matthews, a Grants Pass resident and videographer, shared a tape of the meeting with the Illinois Valley News.

Several people took issue with an official press release posted on the county’s

website that blamed lawsuits from “extreme environmentalists” for the recent Rough & Ready (R&R) mill closure.

“My perspective is when you have pretty rigorous environmental standards and regulations at the federal level required for timber sales to go through ... and then they’re litigated for seemingly no reason at all, but the fact that they’re able to do so — that’s an extreme position in my mind,” said Hare, who drafted the press release.

“My understanding is that there were rules and regulations broken that justified the lawsuits,” said valley resident Audrey Moore. “There’s been lot’s of discussion around the valley, how you’re saying that it was the ‘extreme environmentalists’ that caused the mill to close, not that the mill could have done any mismanagement on their own. If the fact that I want clean air, water and land makes me an environmentalist, then I’m an environmentalist. For you to put the word ‘extreme’ in front of it

is to lump all environmentalists into one box, and I take offense to that.”

Commissioner Heck said that the phrase should not have been on the website.

“There was a statement that was agreed to be posted as the board of commissioners position, and ‘extreme environmentalist’ was not on there,” he said. “If it’s on there, it’ll be off.”

“The people at R&R made a really poor decision some years ago to scale up to only these large logs,” said longtime valley resident Ray Wilberg. “If you look around, there’s not a lot of big logs out there. Why don’t they simply admit they made a mistake and retool their mills to accept smaller logs? The problem would be solved.”

Meeting attendees, who expressed concern for the families who lost their jobs in the mill closure, also noted that companies associated with the mill, Perpetua Forests Company and Indian Hill LLC, are continuing to clear-cut in

the area and then spray “dangerous pesticides” on the cuts.

“It seems to me that if you want to use the word ‘extremist,’ it’s people who poison other people for profit,” Wilberg said. “Not the people who don’t wish to be poisoned.”

Selma resident Mike Mann, lives immediately adjacent to an area that has been clear-cut, and now, Indian Hill LLC., is about to cut the top of the hill in the same location.

“The salmon were finally just starting to come back” Mann said. “With the clear-cut will come more poisons and we are at the bottom of that hill.”

“I was told by mill representatives that spraying is the ‘fast, cheap and easy’ method for them to accomplish their goal of killing the competition for the conifers,” Moore said,

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Sheriff talks about personal protection

By
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Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson gave an entertaining and informative presentation Tuesday, April 23, at Wild River Brewing and Pizza.

The talk, entitled, “Protecting Yourself,” was sponsored by the Ken Rose District Neighborhood Watch and covered appropriate use of force while staying within the law.

Fifty Ken Rose residents and friends attended Gilbertson’s speech which returned several times to the theme that what a homeowner does in the face of danger must be reasonable and necessary.

“You can’t use a gun to protect property, only human

life,” he cautioned.

“You need to survive the encounter,” Gilbertson explained, “And you need to survive the aftermath. You may be the victim, but make sure you don’t become the criminal.”

Gilbertson related an example of a frustrated Iowa homeowner who connected a shotgun to his front door. Subsequently, an intruder was hospitalized and sued the homeowner.

“By the time the intruder was out of the hospital, he owned the guy’s farm,” Gilbertson said.

Gilbertson then walked the audience through the most important state statutes, which can be accessed online, including: 133.225 or Citizen’s Arrest.

“If you arrest someone

and take them to jail, we can’t take them.” Gilbertson pointed out, “It’s your word against his, and we could be sued for false imprisonment.”

Other important statutes, including 161.209, 161.219, 161.225, 161.229, 163.212 and 166.190 are worth reviewing.

Gilbertson told the crowd that if a person has a problem, he or she needs to articulate the totality of circumstances, and tell the police clearly and consistently. If the problem develops over time, be sure to report any issues as they happen, to build a case. Use your cell phone to take photos of your belongings, vandalism or auto accidents.

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Rivers and Forrest Festival was awash with information

By
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First annual Rivers and Forests Festival held at county building

The first annual Illinois Valley Rivers and Forests festival was held at the Cave Junction County Building Friday and Saturday, April 26-27, wherein children and adults enjoyed entertainment and education about the local environment in celebration of Earth Day.

“To paraphrase David Suzuki, ‘Water is the elixir of life; without it we’d be nothing,’” said key organizer Lisa Rohde of Rogue Living. “It’s so important to protect our watershed.”

The event’s primary focus was on the importance of watersheds, the forests and everything in between.

Various exhibits were set up on Saturday as a means to educate children as well as adults about the interconnectedness of our natural resources and what we can do to help take care of them.

Among them was a display depicting the dangers of pesticides overseen by Audrey Moore of Precious Dirt.

Moore had set up a box which included dirt, grass and bugs. She would then spray a bug with water (which represented a pesticide) and the kids, in their play, would take the infected bug and introduce it to non-infected bugs, in turn, increasing the dangerous range the pesticides present.

“They’re spraying our public streets as well as the forests,” said Moore. “Asthma is on the rise because of these pesticides as well as a number

of birth defects.”

Another way the Rivers and Streams Festival demonstrated the connectedness of everything was through art and storytelling.

“The banner done by Kevin Gillette went over really well—I loved it,” Rhode said. “All the kids put their hand prints on it to symbolize commitment to preserve the watershed.”

Patricia Downing of Rusk Ranch and the Butterfly Pavilion also had a hand in creating decorations for the festival.

Lorna Byrne science teacher Tim Talty was in attendance on Saturday with his seven-year-old son, Connor, who loved the inflatable salmon and cave exhibits.

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