

Illinois Valley News

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Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) fire summary

No new fires 10 acres or larger were reported this week on ODF-protected lands.

ODF sent a strike team of fire engines to New Mexico June 4 to assist on wildfires burning there. Five ODF fire engines are being trucked to a staging area near Albuquerque. The crews flew down. One engine has arrived, and the rest are expected this morning. The engine crews include 10 ODF and three Coos Forest Protective Association personnel.

ODF and other western states routinely share firefighting resources as needed. This is an opportune time for the department to send the strike teams, as fire activity in Oregon is currently moderate. And the arrangement is reciprocal: If ODF needs outside help on fires in Oregon, its partner agencies will provide personnel and equipment when possible.

While in New Mexico, the crews will be paid by the jurisdictional agency on the fires. ODF considers the out-of-state deployment a valuable opportunity for its firefighters to maintain and develop their skills required for national certification.

Fire statistics are for the current year and the average over the past 10 years for the 16 million acres of private and public forestland protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

January 1, 2013, through today:

Lightning-caused fires: 45 fires burned 18 acres
Human-caused fires: 149 fires burned 712 acres

Total: 194 fires burned 730 acres

Fire statistics can be accessed any time from the ODF website.



(Photo by Dale Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept)

A vehicle fire was extinguished on Reeves Creek Rd. near Lake Selmac Sunday, June 9. No injuries were reported.

Cave Junction Post Office operations running well in fire's aftermath

By
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Illinois Valley postal operations are running smoothly in the wake of a May 30 early morning fire that destroyed the Cave Junction Post Office.

Rural and business postal delivery continued uninterrupted and, as of June 1, customers with post office boxes began picking up their mail and packages at a temporary call window set up in the Josephine County Building, located at 102 S. Redwood Highway. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. Postal customers must bring photo identification to collect their mail.

A blue USPS collection box has been installed just outside the county building to deposit outgoing mail, but to purchase stamps, ship packages or gain other retail postal services, customers must go to Selma or O'Brien until a new post office is set up in Cave Junction. If Cave Junction delivery customers receive a notice for pickup of a package or letter requiring a signature, they must pick those items up at the Selma Post Office.

It is unknown how long it will take to get a

fully functioning post office up and running in Cave Junction. According to officials, locations are being scoped out now and once a building is selected, necessary retrofits for appropriate postal service infrastructure will be done as quickly as possible. Until then, the call window at the county building will remain open.

"We apologize for any inconvenience caused to our customers because of these temporary service changes caused by the fire," said Cave Junction Postmaster Arlyse Deloyola. "We will be working with the community to restore all services in Cave Junction and we will regularly update our customers on any changes and progress."

Some customers have delayed picking up their mail believing this will assist local postal service operations during the fire's aftermath. However, Deloyola urges customers to come for their mail as frequently as is convenient because storage space at the temporary location is limited. She also said that lines at the county building move quite fast because there's no transactions taking place; only pick-ups.

Due to the fire some people have expressed concerns about security and timely delivery of their mail and are thus considering switching service from their post office boxes to having mail delivered to

their street addresses. Deloyola said customers should refrain from switching service or changing addresses for now because there's currently no way to track the forwarding process.

Deloyola also wants the public to know that, "the sanctity of the U.S. Postal Service" is intact in Cave Junction. "We are all working as hard as we can to keep operations normal," she said. "We take our responsibility very seriously."

Deloyola also praised county officials for showing up the morning of the fire to be of assistance and to help secure the safety of incoming mail.

"They immediately changed the locks in the areas of the county building currently under our use to ensure that only U.S. Postal Service employees have access," she said.

It is currently believed that all mail inside the post office was destroyed in the fire. Customers who believe they had mail awaiting pickup when the fire occurred should contact the senders and ask for a re-issue of that mail. Additionally, if mail or packages were insured, Deloyola said customers can contact the sender to file a claim or ask the Selma Post Office for assistance. She said customers can also access online services at www.usps.com.

Second Friday ArtWalk will be busting out IVHS graduates seek higher education

By
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Among several grand openings, Soul Shine Studio will host a fund-raiser for Jubilee Skatepark, with live BMX and skateboard demonstrations, face painting by donation and sales of baked goods and refreshments. Singer Dawna Crocker will entertain, followed later by hip-hop group "Only Natural." Studio owner Ashly Wissler will display oil and acrylic paintings and tattoo designs.

One block away, Josephine Community Library will feature Barbara Padgett's tiled mosaics, DeeAnn Qualls' hand-stitched linens and abstract acrylics by River Zion Molyneux.

On Lister at Redwood Highway, Frank Anderson will display his whimsical miniature hats at Fantasy Dreams. Guests are also invited to experience a psychedelic black light lounge and view new costumes and accessories for women and girls.

Further south, Get Somes variety store will teach a mini-kite workshop at 3 p.m. for a \$2 materials fee; and will also offer a tie-dye party every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. Participants can dye their own clothes for \$5 each or buy items from the store for complimentary dying. An open-mic poetry reading will take place every Tuesday at 6 p.m. with free popcorn for all readers.

Next door, Cave Junction Acupuncture will also celebrate a grand opening with free Community Acupuncture during ArtWalk. Owner Jennifer Folkerts, L.A.C. will continue to offer this service by donation from 12:30 to 2:30 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Selections from "Beauteous Black & the Mysterious Forest," illustrated by Johnnie Walker, will be read at 6 p.m. only; and Ms. Walker will also display ceramics and other media.

Ravenswood Gallery will feature new original art and crystals plus unique framed mirrors with crystal inlays and large geodes with lids. The public is invited to see the new

works and imports.

ArtWalk welcomes Diggin' Livin' Farm Market, which will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays through Saturdays. The new store will carry local wines, microbrews and organic foods along with honey, beeswax candles and beekeeping supplies. Bruce Stone will display a special mixed media show for this grand opening.

ArtWalk Featured Artist Alexandria Natalie Stargirl Marie Valentine (ANSMV) is a video performance artist and painter. Her collection of paintings entitled, "The Enchantment Exhibition," will be on display at Commune I Tea through the month of June. Beet Root Farm organic veggies and medicinal plants will be for sale and the featured supper will be organic soup, salad and homemade bread. Shop hours are noon to 7 p.m., Wednesdays through Saturdays.

On Caves Highway, The Bead Cave features Luna Crow's serpentine pendants and gemstone jewelry; while Cave Junction Farmers Market across the street will continue to offer fresh local produce and goods between 4 and 7 p.m. every Friday through November 1.

The Illinois Valley Visitor Center will present Michael Spring reading from "Root of Lightning," his Eric Hoffer award-winning book of poetry, on the deck at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.; along with the Valley Girls Quilt drawing ticket sales all evening. Brianna Kochick's metal jewelry and sculpture will be featured at the Visitor Center throughout the month.

Cindy Alger's watercolor show entitled "Life in the Moment" will be on display at the Eye Care Group, Optometric Physicians throughout June during regular business hours.

Second Friday ArtWalk is sponsored by the Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC), a 501c3 public benefit organization. Visit www.irtvac.com or for further information email cjartwalk@gmail.com or call 592-4444.

High heat and a blazing sun could not wilt the enthusiasm of the graduating Class of 2013 or their cheering supporters last Tuesday at Illinois Valley High School.

Despite an economic recession which has loomed over them throughout their high-school years, the 66 students were able to surmount obstacles and overcome barriers to their success. As school counselor Patrice Tucker pointed out, "Kudos to these graduates who've worked so hard for their diplomas. The kids who graduate today face more and tougher requirements. It's not the same as even four years ago."

Nearly 90 percent of the graduates plan to go on to post-secondary education; either technical schools or college, according to Principal Casey Alderson. During his commencement address, he congratulated them on their achievements.

"You have the ability to define your own success," Alderson said. "But, however you define it, it will take the same qualities that it took to get to this point in your life; hard work, determination, perseverance, patience and a sense of humor. Remember, you are not done. You will

have the opportunity to make your mark on this world. Take advantage of your opportunity."

Alderson congratulated members of the National Honor Society and those who maintained 96 percent attendance or higher over the past four years.

"As Vince Lombardi said, 'The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work. Work is the key to success and hard work can help you accomplish anything,'" he stated.

Alderson also thanked those students who plan to enter military service.

"Our community and nation appreciates you for this sacrifice," he said.

Alderson also congratulated those who had managed to get through difficult personal or family situations with courage and grace.

Alderson went on to praise both Kelly Armijo and Alexandria Manninen for volunteering a combined 1,500 hours of community service and closed by saying, "This is my first class of seniors as principal of IV High ... Some of your stories will stay with me forever. Some of you have had brick walls placed in front of you and you burst through them. I can only hope next year's students can meet their challenges with the same fortitude you did."

Student Body President Miranda Stiles introduced Commencement Speaker Sean McKee, who teaches music at both the high school and Lorna Byrne Middle School. He congratulated the Academic Masters team for tying for first place in that competition last month and challenged the class to, "Have some heroes, see the world, get involved and be happy...Like Bilbo Baggins, get out of the shire. You can always come home."

Class Valedictorian and Academic Masters captain Natalie Wellen encouraged her classmates to have positive attitudes and quoted studies that prove happy people are more productive, innovative and efficient. Wellen not only maintained a 4.23 GPA, but demonstrated a wide breadth of capabilities from playing French horn to playing basketball. She was senior class president, volunteered for SMART and plans to become a theoretical mathematician.

Fellow Academic Master Daniel Vega maintained a 4.17 GPA and plans to become a music composer. His extracurricular activities included band, choir, Mathletes and Interact Club. His Salutatorian speech used the experience of learning music as an analogy for the creative process.

See Grads on A-12