

Fires Moving Toward Containment

Medford, Ore.— Containment is expected by the end of today on all of the currently known small lightning fires started in the last week on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. At the same time, fire personnel remain alert to the potential for new fire activity. Yesterday, one new fire was detected and suppressed on Robinson Butte in the Fish Lake area. The rappel crew, which took action on the Gold Beach Ranger District Winchuck Fire yesterday, will complete suppression activities and hike out of the woods today.

The weather forecast calls for warming today and the forest fuels remain dry. The fact that one new fire was discovered yesterday, and two the day before, is a reminder that fire remains a threat in the forest. Forest visitors should remain aware of the potential for fire in the woods, as well as the continued presence of fire personnel.



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(Photo by Dale Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept)

A helicopter drops water on a lightning fire August 23 near Reeves Creek. Many small fires were extinguished quickly.

77 years since the Miners Jubilee

By
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Oregon was the first state to establish a Labor Day in 1887. By 1894, 30 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers when Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

The observance of Labor Day was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday – a street parade to exhibit “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.”

In 1937 the “First Annual Miners’ Jubilee” took place in Cave Junction, as part of an effort to revive mining in the area. Weekend festivities included the coronation of a queen and her court on Saturday, followed by a dance and contests. “Best Whiskers” was awarded based on the level of applause from women and a “Best Costume” was awarded to one lucky lady following applause from the men.

A historical pageant took place both Sunday and Monday evening at Cave City Theater. Grants Pass Cavemen, led by Chief Bighorn Bullock and Queen Helen Carlson initiated new members into the organization following the pageant on Monday, and a committee was formed to build an all-year road between Illinois Valley and Happy Camp.

The parade on Monday included “ancient vehi-

cles, horse-drawn and old automobiles which had to be towed,” according to an article in the Illinois Valley News. The Grants Pass Municipal Band marched in the parade and gave a concert that night.

Thirty years later in 1967, the Labor Day Jubilee parade featured 15-year-old Wende Brown, the National Baton Twirling Champion from Portland, who had already amassed 69 titles and 434 trophies. The parade categories included old cars, individual and group horseback riders, adult and children organizations and out-of-towners, including the Iola Marching Band of Milwaukee, Ore. I.V. Grange won first place for their float in the adult category and the I.V. Lions won second for their float, a decorated car titled “I.V. Lions have beauties, too!”

See Jubilee on A-10

Group wants local control of state lottery dollars

By
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A citizens’ effort, started in Josephine County, seeks to put a state constitutional amendment on the 2014 ballot that would change how Oregon’s lottery dollars are spent. The primary goal is to enable struggling counties to keep more lottery profits to help fund essential services.

The proposed Oregon Lottery Local Control Act would leave 50 percent of state lottery profits under the state legislature’s control, but the other half — approximately \$265 million — would be divided among Oregon’s 36 counties. Each county would receive a predetermined percentage of that money and the rest would be distributed based on how much each county contributes to the lottery.

“If we can get it to a statewide ballot, I think we have a great chance,” said Jay Meredith, President of Securing Our Safety (SOS), the Josephine County nonprofit group dedicated to finding solutions for the county’s flailing public safety system.

“This amendment makes a whole lot of sense for our county, but also, it makes sense for everybody else as well,” Meredith said. “Jo-

sephine County is losing about \$5 million per year because it’s being spent somewhere else in the state. We need those funds here at home.”

After realizing Josephine County loses 50 cents out of every dollar it contributes to the lottery, SOS raised \$30,000 to accomplish necessary research and legal work and then partnered with the Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance Foundation to develop language for the statewide ballot initiative. The SOS also brought Salem attorney and ballot initiative expert Kevin Mannix onto the team to help pursue this proposed redistribution of lottery dollars.

“This is simply about changing the control,” said Jay Meredith, president of SOS. “Instead of the state deciding what the greatest local needs are for these funds, we propose the return of control to the counties, where the needs vary greatly. Each county should be able to choose its funding priorities.”

The effort is gaining steam.

After doing the initial research and work, SOS handed the effort off to a political organization, the Lottery Local Control Committee, which will facilitate getting the required 116,000 signatures to put the initiative on the November 2014 ballot. That part of the process is expected to take three or four months.

“We’re partnering up with people all over the state to get these signatures,” said Meredith.

“It’s a long-term solution. And we think the amendment has a great chance, though it would not impact our budget until 2015. So we’re also looking at other ways to fund public safety.

There is no one single solution that will solve our problems.”

See Lotto on A-10



5th annual Illinois Valley Farm and Garden Festival set

Cave Junction- The Spiral Living Center and the Illinois Valley Food Coalition are happy to announce the 5th annual Illinois Valley Farm and Garden Festival on Saturday, September 7, at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public and includes workshops and skill demonstrations, live music by Irish Keltic, J Barley, Guppy, and Lonesome Road.

The festival will also include kid’s activities, local farm-related businesses and crafts, and a farmer’s market with farm fresh produce, preserves, honey and herbs.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. There is no entrance fee, though donations are needed to continue this all-volunteer organization’s efforts. The Festival is supported through sponsorships from the community as well as donations from the public.

“In our 5th year we are now seeing a resurgence of local organic farmers and foods in and around the Illinois Valley,” says Steve Orr, an Illinois Valley farmer, Board President of the Spiral Living Center. “I am encouraged to an improved local food economy with an increase in available nutrient-rich, fresh

organic produce, meat and dairy.”

The Illinois Valley Food Coalition (IVFoodCo) is a collaboration of farmers and community members working together to promote food self-sufficiency. Meetings are open to the public, and groups and individuals are invited to join the Coalition, whose goal is to ensure that locally grown, safe and affordable foods are available to all Illinois Valley residents. Contact Spiral Living Center at spiral@spiralliving.org, (541) 592-3642, or see www.facebook.com/spiralcenter or www.spiralliving.org