

Illinois Valley News

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Happy Camp Complex fire update

A community meeting will be held Wednesday, August 20 at 7 p.m. in the Karuk Senior Nutrition Center located on 64101 Second Avenue in Happy Camp, Calif.

Southern California Incident Management Team 3 assumed management of the Happy Camp Complex at 6 p.m. on August 18, 2014. Mike Wakoski is the Incident Commander.

The thunderstorm that passed over the fire complex yesterday afternoon resulted in multiple lightning strikes. Lightning strikes started two new fires in Luther Gulch, approximately 1.5 miles west of the Jackson Fire. The Luther 1 fire is approximately one acre and the Luther 2 fire is about one half acre and fully contained. More lightning is expected today.

There are 21 fires in the Complex with a cumulative containment of 10 percent. Eight of the 21 fires are fully contained. The Frying Pan Fire and Falkstein Fire are the most active.

A persistent inversion layer has been adversely affecting the air quality in the Klamath River drainage and has limited aircraft operations.

Frying Pan: This fire is slowly backing towards Elk Creek and China Grade roads and moving east along Frying Pan Ridge. The fire continues to spread in a southeast direction into the Little Elk and Horse Creek drainages. It actively burned during last night and increased by 190 acres. A 30-acre spot fire remains in the Upper Elk Creek drainage, south of East Fork Elk Creek Road (45N19), and south of Forest Road 15N09 late Sunday. Firefighters working along Elk Creek and China Grade roads are actively engaged in holding containment lines.

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(Photo by Judy Hoyle, Illinois Valley News)

Cheri Johnson and her daughter Jaymee Hulse enjoy learning about plants from Park Ranger Haley Yerxa.

Park ranger brings fun to Forks

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Three picnic tables were filled with young nature at the Illinois River Forks (IRF) State Park pavilion last Sunday.

State Park Ranger Haley Yerxa led a short workshop on tree identification and how to do leaf rubbings. The workshop started with each youngster scouring the park to find as many different leaves as possible. Then the leaves were brought back for identification.

Asked what she'd learned during the workshop, Jaymee Hulse said, "I learned how to pick blackberries without getting poked!"

Yerxa was hired as a temporary worker with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) through August, and will be conducting two additional workshops this coming weekend. "Hiking 101" will take place Saturday, August 23, and "Make Your Own Bird Feeders" will be on Sunday, August 24. Both classes are designed to meet the interests of 6 to 12 year olds and are scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at the pavilion. The programs are not advertised on the OPRD Junior Ranger website because they're not offered year-round.

A new park host site, water system and shop re-model are nearing completion. These developments are additional steps in bringing the Forks up to stan-

dards enjoyed at other parks throughout the state.

As of August 7, the entrance gate to Forks is closed from dusk to 7 a.m. to reduce the potential for vandalism. Park Ranger Clint Farmwald, a seasonal employee, will work at Forks through the end of September. He and park host Byron Ginn will be in charge of opening and closing the gate until October.

Starting in October, a yet-to-be-named host and IVCDO Adopt-a-Park volunteers will continue the gate closures according to OPRD Manager Perry Salvestrin.

"I hope to have someone [as park host] all winter but that has yet to be determined," Salvestrin added.

IVCDO president Roger Brandt said, based on what he observed last winter, the routine work, like emptying trash cans, taking care of the restroom, and picking up trash can be done every other day.

"There isn't that much going on," Brandt said. "The major tasks will include raking leaves in the fall, trimming back grass and brush along the entrance road in the spring, and maybe helping clean up debris that falls from trees during big storms. This winter may be a different story and I think visitation will be higher than normal because of the disc golf course being installed and facilities upgraded for accessibility."

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IV Fire turns 60

By
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The Illinois Valley Fire District will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its formation as a special tax district this Friday, August 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The public is invited to visit Fire Station 1, located at 681 Caves Highway, for a free tour of the facility and free hot dogs. The fire district is also actively seeking up to ten new volunteers for the next training, scheduled to begin September 18.

The district has grown to six permanent stations and several million dollars worth of equipment. The department has a total of 25 volunteer firefighters, half the optimal number, according to officials. The Selma, O'Brien and Takilma stations are especially in need of more citizens to step up to help protect their own neighborhoods, as well as other areas of the Valley.

Unlike the district's first volunteers, today's recruits receive extensive training, compensation based on the number of calls answered and the potential for further training, based on interest and aptitude.

New this year, a Regional Fire Academy has been created for the first level of training: Firefighter 1 Training will take place in four-hour sessions on Thursday

nights and every other weekend over a three-month period.

Training will be at the IVFD Station 1 as well as each of the area's five other tax-based fire departments: Applegate, Evans Valley, Grants Pass, Rogue River and Wolf Creek. Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Gavlik will lead the IVFD portion of the training. The new approach allows for sharing of best practices and utilizing each trainer's strengths, as well as getting better acquainted with other departments and personnel in advance of a wildfire or other emergency.

Following graduation from Firefighter 1 training, volunteers are expected to take at least two 12-hour shifts per month and attend 75 percent of the weekly Tuesday night training sessions. These cover anything from basic apparatus to Mercy Flight protocols. A "run log" for the month typically shows a majority of medical calls, followed by accidents, small burn incidents and the rare house fire.

To learn more about the training or the IVFD community, go to www.ivfire.com to download an application or call Firefighter Robert Sitton at 541-592-6632 during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday.

According to I.V. News archives, the I.V. Fire District was formed by special election organized by the I.V. Chamber of Commerce in the spring of 1954 in order

to fund the purchase of fire equipment. The decision was made by the community to form the special taxing district following three house fires which took place within three months in 1953. The homes belonged to James Walck, Bob Martin and Ted Ryall respectively. Until the district was formed, temporary fire protection was provided by Valley Volunteer Firemen, Inc. using donated funds and borrowed or rented equipment.

Only property owners were allowed to vote and the election took place on Friday, April 30. The measure passed 115 to 28 for the district, which encompassed 100 square miles of the Illinois Valley. The first board of directors included Harold Moore, Sr. (president), Ivan W. Burr (vp), and Richard Rians (sec/treas); as well as Edgar C. Abbey, Sr. and Robert N. Martin, whose house had burned the year before.

The first organizational meeting took place at the high school under the guidance of two deputy state fire marshals, on the evening of Wednesday, May 12. The new board had been given the power to levy taxes and at that meeting, the five men established a levy to raise \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually.

Additional information about the history of the district can also be found at www.ivfire.com. The article, available by clicking the History link on the sidebar, was researched by Delaine Sherman.

Henry-Ross returns to Chateau in classical fashion

By
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Jacqueline Henry-Ross and Robert Scott Stanton will perform a special concert at the Chateau at the Oregon Caves on Saturday, August 23 at 7 p.m. The musicians will each play solos, then end the concert with several duets.

Spanish classical guitarist Henry-Ross last performed at the Chateau in 2012 with her twin sister, Patricia Turner, to celebrate their 40th birthday. As a duo, they have performed throughout Oregon, California and Mexico.

Henry-Ross started to play guitar at the age of nine and studied intensely under the tutelage of David Grimes, graduating with a Bachelors of Music Degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Her most profound memories include having

taken Master Classes with the world renowned classical guitarist Maestro Andrés Segovia. In addition, she and her twin were chosen to perform for him as a duo at a Benefit Concert in his honor at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles along with the Brazilian guitarist Larindo Almeida accompanied by his wife who sang soprano.

Henry-Ross and her husband, Steve, are presently co-owners of Kerby Mart in Kerby, Harbor Tobacco in Brookings and Gasquet Market in Gasquet, California.

Pianist Robert Scott Stanton's music has been described by some as "haunting" "memorable" and "passionate." An artist and composer, Stanton recently released a CD titled "By the Wings of an Angel."

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