

Siskiyou Field Institute launches 'Million Dollar Makeover'

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The 850 acre Siskiyou Field Institute, which provides outdoor education to adults and youth alike, is launching their Million Dollar Makeover campaign sometime this year in an effort to raise said million dollars over a period of four years. The money, raised from many sources, will be used to make improvements and additions to their facilities. Primarily, the improvements are aimed toward expanding the Siskiyou Field Institute's ability to accommodate the Outdoor School event, which is generally a weeklong foray into natural sciences, for sixth-graders as well enhancing their experience.

"One of our driving goals is that we are a destination and a camp for Outdoor School for All which was approved by voters," Robin Hartmann, executive director, said. Measure 99 was passed during the November 2016 vote via a 67.11 percent majority and mandates

that either 4 percent of unallocated lottery dollars or a flat \$22 million, whichever is lesser each year, is to be spent sending children to Outdoor School. In summary, it will now be possible for every middle school student in the state, except for the students of districts that do not participate, to attend Outdoor School without their families having to personally pay for the experience.

Because of Measure 99, the Siskiyou Field Institute is expecting a higher volume of students and therefore needs to revamp their facilities to accommodate them. The funds, which will be issued directly to school districts, will start being doled out during the next school year.

According to Hartmann, some upgrades to the Siskiyou Field Institute will include: building a camp kitchen which will work with the Three Rivers School District's food service, constructing additional bunk houses, better mattresses for existing yurts, the construction of a kiosk for people who arrive at the facility, an upgrade to their

existing water system to make it more reliable and new signage for the front of the camp. "We're real focused on sixth-graders in the Three Rivers School District but we regularly serve students from Grants Pass and Ashland and even Northern California," Hartmann added.

So far, and most notably, the Siskiyou Field Institute has received a \$100,000 Blue Sky grant from Pacific Power which will fund the installation of a solar panel system. The construction will begin this month and when it is completed, students will be able to take a course as to how solar panels function and store energy as well as take a tour of them. Hartmann added that Rogue Community College will be providing scholarships for select students to attend.

The Siskiyou Field Institute also received a matched funds grant from the Gray Family Foundation and, after being doubled, amounted to \$52,500. According to Hartmann, it was spent on improvements to their plumbing as well as upgrades to the insulation of various buildings.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

North Valley High School students work the rope course Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at SFI. The rope course employs team building techniques.

"We'll be reaching out to people in the area to see if they will join us in this 'Million Dollar Makeover' because we feel like what we're trying to do is support the community and offer opportunities here," Hartmann concluded.

Although the Siskiyou Field Institute is primarily looking for cash donations there are many ways to assist them in their campaign including, for example, in-kind materials, services or even help with construction.

The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the Illinois Valley News archives

Ladies and gentlemen, the blotter you are about to read is true. Nothing has been changed, doing so would only take away from the nostalgia of these archives. At this point you are advised of your right to remain silent and enjoy this week's Police Blotter Archive Zone. The Date: April 4, 1996. Location: Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley.

Saturday, March 23

*An irate, intoxicated woman in Selma phoned to report that her tires had been slashed and that she had been assaulted. The latter was termed unfounded.

*In Kerby, a tenant said the landlord was throwing things at the residence. The landlord said his stuff was being stolen. He said he didn't kick the door.

Sunday, March 24

*In Downtown O'Brien around 9:52 p.m. a woman was

in the middle of the road yelling and screaming. Motorists were honking. She was gone when a deputy arrived.

Monday, March 25

*Someone took mail from a mailbox on Thompson Creek Road and burned it on a nearby field, said a woman. She added that there is a continuing problem with property crimes in the area.

Tuesday, March 26

*Three Jackson County residents in a car got lost and were held at gunpoint by a man on Thompson Creek Road. He thought they were trespassers. His wife was carrying a .22 pistol. Everyone was counseled. Earlier, the Selma residents had reported theft of a "quad."

Thursday, March 28

*In a Cave Junction bar at 26 past midnight, a man

was struck in the face with a beer mug. Care Ambulance responded, and asked for assistance from Illinois Valley firefighters, who also responded. An assault report was to follow, as the suspect fled.

*In the Grants Pass area, a deputy there was asked by a woman to check a car because she had "a bad feeling" about it.

Friday, March 29

*A 29-year-old male Cave Junction resident, was arrested by OSP at 8:40 p.m. in Downtown CJ under charges of felony driving under the influence of intoxicants, fourth-degree assault and third-degree sexual abuse. A woman reported that when she went to see if someone had struck her garage with a car, her right breast was grabbed, as was her neck. She was able to break free.

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 Questions? Call 541-597-8530 or go to "theSFI.org/BirdsAndBrews"



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