

# Boys & Girls Club update: by Jenna Larkin

I.V. Boys & Girls Club has had an exciting few months! We finished off the school year with an average attendance of 90 kids a day and many others attended club through-out the year for our sports program.

During the school year the Club offered many programs to help kids stay busy and engaged in after school activities. Monday through Thursday club kids had an opportunity to get one on one help with homework during Power Hour and earn points towards winning a tablet at the end of the school year. This year's winners were Kylie Campbell and Jonathan Sanchez.

Some of the other programs that were offered were WILD; a program that teaches wilderness survival and camping skills. SMART Moves focuses on everyday life that children face; everything from personal hygiene to the many different emotions that come with growing up and making friends along the way. Club kids get excited when Healthy Habits is offered for the pure fact that they get to eat something they created at the end of each class. Healthy Habits teaches youth about proper portion control, what

foods are good to eat and foods that should be eaten in moderation. Triple Play engages kids physically for at least an hour a day. Triple Play is offered daily and provides many different physical activities; anything from group games to challenges to tournaments.

Along with offering programs to Club kids there were a few improvements to our Teen Room that began during the school year and were just completed earlier this month. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley were fortunate enough to receive monies from the four Rotary Clubs of Josephine County through the Duck Derby a couple of years ago. Through the Duck Derby grant money and other donations I.V. Club has been able to improve the look of the Teen Room with a newly built deck, like new furniture and game tables.

"With the improvements we are hoping to see a fuller Teen Room; a safe place where teens can come and socialize after school," said Terry Larkin, I.V. teen coordinator. "We are also hoping that the improvements will bring in more teens for Teen Nights."

A dedication ceremony will be scheduled

for the near future, please watch the I.V. News for future date and time.

For the first time in about seven years the Club is able to run a full nine-week Summer Program, five days a week. This would not have been possible if it weren't for a sponsorship from Primary Health of Josephine County and the support of the community. Summer hours currently are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Weekly themes provide opportunities for the kids to experience new ideas, activities and adventures on a daily basis.

In addition to the themes, youth that attend the club have a chance to take weekly walks to Dutch Bros. and the public library; where they learn what the library can provide for them. On Thursdays they can take club field trips and experience something that they might not have had the opportunity to otherwise. So far this summer some of the field trips have included Wildlife Safari, a hike at the Oregon Caves, a visit from Bugs-R-Us, Emigrant Lake Waterslides and Kerbyville Museum. Future field trips include a hike through the Redwoods and team building

activities at Siskiyou Field Institute.

"We haven't reached our goals for the number of kids we would like to see on a daily basis but for not being open full days in a few years, we are doing good," a club staff member stated.

Currently the Club sees on average 23 kids a day depending on what activities or field trips are being offered that day.

The Club will be open until Wednesday, Aug. 16 and is always accepting new members. Thursday, Aug. 17 the Club will host an End of the Summer Bash at Jubilee Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Past, current and future club members and families are welcome. The Summer Bash includes games and activities, a waterslide bouncy house, BBQ lunch, water games and much more.

Staff members will be available the last week of August for membership registration for the 2017-18 school year, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary in the cafeteria. For more information on the Illinois Valley Boys & Girls Club please call 541-244-8490.

# Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, 17 August 1967  
Illinois Valley News

## Old Fang-Puss

Old Fang-puss has bit the dust. He has departed this life and, presumably, has joined the happy throng of his long-departed forebears out in that special section of space that has been set aside (presumably) for the eternally happy residence of all good reptiles.

Potentially very bad, I've no way of knowing whether poor old Fang-puss actually ever did anything wrong, and I only hope I did the right thing by hustling him off to that wonderful section of space when he scared the daylight out of me by suddenly appearing practically under my feet - and on my own private premises.

My small front yard is a sort of sanctuary and perpetual feeding ground for any and all

wild creatures who choose to avail themselves of such benefits, being off-limits to only a few, such as tigers and rattlesnakes. The late Fang-puss, belonging in this latter category, thus foolishly stuck out his long neck by trespassing on forbidden ground, and may Allah forgive him for his reckless derring-do.

The untimely demise of Fang-puss occurred late yesterday evening. Just before dark I went out to shift the running garden hose. Before throwing down the hose in the new dry location I walked with it the few steps along the path toward the end of the porch to get in squirting range of a nice clump of thirsty-looking California poppies. Just at the corner of the porch a big rattler crept from under the lilac bush and crawled insolently across the path 2 feet in front of me.

Startled into immediate action, as though I were about to

be assaulted (actually, unless I had stepped on the snake, I was in no danger), I attacked the innocent but dangerous intruder with a savagery that might more plausibly have been directed against something like a full-grown panther. Using the only weapon at hand, the garden hose I was holding, I soon laid him by the heels with the brass-bound end of the hose, the warmth of the waning day plus the heat of the battle being kept within moderate bounds by the shower of cold water flying from the hose as I flailed away at the writhing rattler.

Rattlesnakes, because of their dangerous, sometimes deadly, poison fangs are traditional enemies of our society and are killed whenever opportunity offers. I don't approve of killing everything that flies, creeps or crawls just -because such creatures don't wear pants or carry a social security card, but I feel no compunction

about killing rattlesnakes, black widow spiders, fire-ants, and their ilk unless they're so far away from civilization as to pose no threat to our health and happiness. But when one of these goes so far as to invade the privacy of my home premises I feel that I owe neither him nor myself an apology for knocking him off.

Just the day before my rattlesnake showed up, my cousins from Los Angeles and Covina showed up for a short visit - Kathleen (the one-time wee shin-kicker who was featured in one of my stories not long ago), her husband Glenn, and her sister Marian. Like every visitor who ever comes here, they wanted to know if I ever see any rattlesnakes around. "When Old Harry and the Brown family were here the other day (with all that yummy hot food) they asked the same question. None of them will ever believe me after this,

that I told them, truthfully, that I hadn't seen a rattlesnake in Packers Gulch for a good many years.

In fact it has been at least 20 years since one other rattler made his appearance here near the cabin. And once before that I dynamited a den of them just around the bend in the trail a hundred yards below the cabin.

And now, after all that time, and just after I'd assured all those nice folks that my little paradise is never plagued with such horrors as rattlesnakes or other natural threats, old Fang-puss has to come slithering his vile way into my dooryard to make me out a liar.

If it weren't for my gentle Christian upbringing I'd wish I could bring him back to life so I could give him a more prolonged and still more refined going away party.

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