

CHETCO

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Merkley also noted the rise in western wildfire severity. “This isn’t just a freak event. We’re see-

ing this more and more with climate disruption,” he said, explaining how the hotter and drier weather combined with the usual summertime lightning strikes is making larger wildfires inevitable in this region, and that western

forests must be thinned to “help them become less of a danger and to make forests more resilient.” When asked if he thought that logging any old growth trees should be part of that solution, he replied,

“Why damage the most fire resilient parts of the forest to make the forest more resilient? That doesn’t make sense. Old growth is inherently fire resistant.” He added how in second-growth forests, where trees are growing close

together and where branches touch, that those forests should be thinned. However he also noted that logging in second-growth forests is not “as commercially cost-effective,” and explained that addi-

tional resources and hazardous fuels reductions programs will be needed to make that work for all involved. Smith, who represents parts of Curry, Coos, Douglas and Josephine counties, said, “I really appreciate the

continued partnership in working with the senator to make sure that we not only have funding to fight fires, but also, to make the policy changes we need to mitigate the fires with effective management.”

TAG ...

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Evans said the library and Jubilee Park were also both vandalized again last week, but that that graffiti is already painted over. He added that all this vandalism is “unprovoked, juvenile and unfortunate.” During winter, Evans explained that “because the town won’t put together a warming shelter” some homeless people with nowhere to go congregate under the overhang at the church when it is cold and rainy. And that currently, near the church,

there’s a homeless encampment on city land. “When they’re cold and hungry we give them food and clothing, with the stipulation that they take care of the area, and they did that for the most part. They did a good job in the winter,” Evans said. “Though lately, even though there’s fewer people than in winter, there’s been some feces. And we’re concerned about fires - and so are the neighbors. And, we have an elderly church congregation who feel threatened by all that. So unfortunately, the church had no choice but to ‘trespass’ the homeless people

- which means we needed them to leave the area.” With an active patrol in Cave Junction for the past two years, CJ Patrol closely monitors police activity in the area and Evans happily reports that Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel has “really gone after some really bad guys, the worst ones, so things are better overall.” Providing an overview of the homeless population in the Valley, Evans said, “Some people become homeless and then get hooked on drugs and go downhill. And we’ve had some mental issues with three individuals. When these guys find

themselves homeless, then they just deteriorate, especially in cold weather. Also, we have some youth in trouble on the streets; and there’s the 30-to-40 years-old range of homeless people; and then, there’s the ones coming to town for the grows.” Asked what he thinks would alleviate the situation, Evans stressed: “We really do need a warming center. I’ll promote that until my dying breath. That would solve a lot of problem and lessen the effects that bother people the most.” “Jimmy Evans, God bless him, he is putting his life where his values are with this work,” Holtzinger

said. “There’s not many people who are willing to do it. All those that help out on the citizens’ patrol have my utmost respect. “We live in times where we revere super-heroes,” Holtzinger added. “I’ve been preaching, ‘How do we find these heroes? We become the heroes.’ And I look at Jimmy, and see that it’s about love. Heroes are sacrificial, it’s about love.” Cave Junction can use more heroes: “We really continue to always appreciate new volunteers!” Evans said. Contact him at 541-592-9665.

FIRE ...

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Though overall, firefighters note how temperatures are predicted to head back into the 90s and say conditions will dry out again. “We’re not going anywhere,” Ripley added. “Staff will remain at Lake Selmac, including an information staff to keep the community informed. We’ll keep working to establish containment lines and be ready to respond if needed.” She said next steps also include “fire line repairs, where firefighters need to

fix things they broke, like if they cut a fence or crushed a culvert.” Rehabilitation measures will also be taken to prevent erosion and landslides once the rains really get going. “We won’t need fire lines to be fuel free bare expanses, so we might pull some logs or branches across it to help stop erosion; or we might seed it or build water bars and soften the edges to help surface water drain away.” Ripley, also an entomologist (a scientist who studies insects), said resource advisors concerned with the natural integrity of the area continue to work with and advise firefighters. “The area is fascinating,” she said. “I brief the firefighters about the soils, plants

and geology of this incredibly rich area, to help the firefighters understand what they are protecting.” And Barbara Ullian, coordinator of the Friends of the Kalmiopsis was delighted to hear that. “We’re urging that post-fire efforts should preserve the natural processes and protect the renowned conservation values of the Kalmiopsis and its rivers. The Wild and Scenic Chetco, Illinois and North Fork Smith are world-class native salmon and steelhead streams. And, while significant portions of these watersheds burned in the 2002 Biscuit Fire, still, look at the Chetco River, it still produces 50-60 pound salmon.”

She also said that as people respond emotionally to season’s smoke and fires and seek new forest policies that she hopes lawmakers remember that the region’s pristine waters also supply some of the cleanest drinking water in the nation to local communities. “Seventy-five percent of the North Fork Smith’s watershed burned in 2002, yet it was just designated the State of Oregon’s first Outstanding Resource Waters, recognizing its exceptional water quality and pristine fish habitat,” Ullian said. “Rough and Ready Creek has the highest concentration of rare plants in Oregon and water so clear it’s the stuff of dreams.”

### Senior Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month  
8 am to 11 am

**\$7 - adults**  
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# Paint Recycling Event

## Saturday, October 7, 2017

### 8 am - 12 pm

**ONE DAY ONLY. IT'S FREE!**

Now’s your chance to clean out your garage. Drop off your old leftover paint for recycling.

**Cave Junction Jubilee Park**  
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*Reserve Your Time:* [paint-cavejunction.eventbrite.com](http://paint-cavejunction.eventbrite.com)

**HOUSEHOLDS**

Bring any amount of latex or oil-based house paint, stains and varnishes.  
No aerosols.

**BUSINESSES**

Bring any amount of latex paint, but there are restrictions on oil-based paint.  
Contact us for details.

Learn more about this event and find other places to recycle paint.  
Visit [www.paintcare.org/or](http://www.paintcare.org/or) or call (855) 724-6809.

