

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 1 Section, Volume LXXX No. 28

Published weekly for the residents of the Illinois Valley

Feeling froggy



(Photo by David Korrell for the *Illinois Valley News*)

A frog took a break from doing whatever frogs do in an odd place Tuesday, Sept. 26, near Cave Junction. Frogs and other larger predators such as turtles and lizards can be used as a means to protect marijuana gardens from pests.

Bridgeview releases Alevin line of wines to benefit salmon

“ We believe the traces we leave behind, no matter how small, can and will have a lasting consequence on the entire ecosystem. From physical tributaries such as streams rushing into larger rivers, to figurative—the way people and actions affect each other—we are all part of the world’s greater flow.”

Tristan Stocker

IVN Contributing Writer

During a meeting at the council building Thursday, Sept 28, the Illinois Valley Watershed Council (IVWC) accepted a check for \$1,571 from Bridgeview Winery to help fund salmon conservation efforts here in the Valley.

The dollar amount raised represents the total number of bottles sold from Bridgeview’s new signature line of wine: Alevin (pronounced al-uh-vuh), which is the term for the second stage of a salmon’s life when they still contain yolk sacks and live primarily in gravel nests.

Last year, Kevin O’Brien, district manager of the Illinois Valley Water Conservation District and René Eichmann, vice president and winemaker at Bridgeview Winery, got together and laid the groundwork for Alevin – a new line of wines wherein a portion of the proceeds would go toward salmon habitat restoration in the Valley and possibly elsewhere.

“Our main focus is to try and

improve conditions to restore and enhance natural processes and functions... especially for salmon,” said O’Brien. “We do have a species of salmon – the Coho salmon – that is on the threatened list of the Endangered Species Act. And out of all the wild Coho in the Rogue basin, half of those come out of the Illinois sub basin.”

The IVWC was founded in 1994, after The Oregon Plan was put in place, which enabled independent local watershed interest groups to form. IVWC primarily focuses on projects that increase and improve habitat as well as channel complexity and flood-plain connection.



“We have some priority watersheds out here in the Valley that we attempt to do projects on,” O’Brien said. “In the process of helping the fish, we kind of help the streams behave a little bit better, especially during the high-water events.”

Among the many tributaries that feed the Illinois River and provide a safe haven for these salmon, Sucker Creek hits particularly close to Eichman’s home, flowing directly through the Bridgeview Estate.

“The state manages the Illinois sub-basin for wild runs of salmon and steelhead. And 30 percent of the Illinois production comes out of Sucker Creek,” stated O’Brien. “We’re currently doing work up off the east fork of the Illinois River. We did some work earlier this summer on Sucker Creek again.”

O’Brien and the IVWC have been fairly successful with a lot of their projects in getting streams to slow down in order to reduce some of the damage that happens during high water events.

SEE WINE ON A-10

USFS holds Chetco Fire meeting

Annette McGee Rasch

IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Last week the local, state and federal agency partners that collectively fought the nearly 200,000 acre Chetco Bar Fire hosted a series of four public meetings in the towns most affected by the fire (Brookings, Gold Beach, Agness and Cave Junction) with their final presentation at the Illinois Valley High School Saturday evening.

In the face of criticism about the initial response to the Chetco Fire, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) presented a slide show and explained the sequence of events that effectively demonstrated the strong effort made from the start to suppress the fire. You can Google “Timeline of Chetco Bar Fire” to access a report that highlights this information and features pictures and quotes from firefighters in the air and on the ground.

SEE FIRE ON A-8

Arts Council to host honky-tonk

Judy Hoyle

IVN Contributing Writer

A Texas honky-tonk will magically appear at Selma Community Center Oct. 14 as the Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) ushers in autumn festivities in the Valley.

The all-professional band The Out of Towners will play dance hits from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s and surprise guests Jean Conrad and the Blazing Boots will perform “Honky-tonk Woman” as part of the entertainment.

The band includes several musicians featured in the IRVAC’s recent Beatles Tribute fundraiser including lead guitarist Johnny Trujillo, a professional musician for over 40 years and member of The Toytes, Colonel Mustard, and Oregon Little Big Band.

Other band members include Tim Wallace from Oregon Little Big Band on sax and horns; drummer Dave Mathieu from Broadway Phil and the Shouters; and guitarists, Mike Herrman and Chris Graves.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and food, beer, wine and desserts will be available for purchase. Bobbalou’s Burgers will be selling the dinner selections. Beer has been donated for sale by Wild River Brewing and Pizza, and local wines have been donated as well.

SEE HONKY ON A-10

IVCanDO announces launch of I.V. Web

By Laura Mancuso

IVN Editor

A new community website, www.IllinoisValleyWeb.org is ready and has been launched.

The Illinois Valley Network, a project of the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCanDO) has started this website to connect local nonprofits with each other and to provide Illinois Valley residents with information about available services and community events.

According to IVCanDO community development coordinator Kate Dwyer, “IVCanDO is a nonprofit organization working to develop, implement, and evaluate a living Illinois Valley Strategic Plan that encourages stable community development and aims to improve local economic and social conditions through cooperative programs and partnerships in rural Southwest Oregon.” More information about IVCanDo can be found at <http://ivcd.org>.

Dwyer further explained that I.V. Network is an alliance of nonprofit groups formed as a result of community work with leadership cohorts led by the Ford Family Foundation (FFF). The FFF is a private, nonprofit foundation located in Roseburg, Oregon that makes grants to public charities predominantly benefiting communities in rural Oregon and Siskiyou County, California.

SEE WEB ON A-10

Dan Lauderdale has an eye for turning local stones into works of art.

Read about it on A-5