

PRICES GOOD: OCT. 6 - OCT 8

Ray's

FOOD PLACE

MEAT BONANZA!

Whole In Bag Boneless Beef New Yorks		Whole In Bag Boneless Beef Rib-Eyes	
\$3.99 lb. NOT GRADED		\$5.77 lb. NOT GRADED	
Whole In Bag Beef Tri-Tips	Whole In Bag Boneless Beef Sirloin Tips	Angus Beef Top Round London Broil	
\$2.97 lb. SELECT GRADE	\$3.39 lb. CUT FREE!	\$2.97 lb.	
Whole Boneless Pork Loin	Whole Boneless Pork Sirloins	Twin Pack Pork Shoulder Roasts	
\$1.99 lb.	\$1.77 lb.	\$1.77 lb.	
Frozen Smithfield Spiral Sliced Hams		So. Boneless Skinless Fryer Breasts (Approx. 10lb bag)	
\$0.88 lb.		\$1.77 lb.	
Whole in Bag CAB New York Strips	Whole In Bag CAB Rib-Eyes	Fresh Ground Sirloin Approx 8# pkg	Santolla Red Crab Legs
\$6.99 PER POUND	\$7.99 lb.	\$3.77 lb.	\$7.99 lb.
Cattleland Lean Beef Patties (3lb. Box)	Whole Beef Tenderloins (not graded)	Bulk Sliced Bacon (10lb. Box)	Fryer Hind Quarters (frozen or previously frozen)
\$7.99	\$7.78 lb.	\$2.29 PER POUND	\$5.70 10# BAG
Pork Baby Back Ribs	Raw Prawns (41/50 2lb. Bag)	Cooked Peeled Tail on Prawns (41/50 2lb. Bag)	
\$2.99 lb.	\$11.00	\$6.99 lb.	
Harvest Reserve Beef Jerky	Superb & Simple Chicken Breast Entrees (4/7-9 oz packages)	Frozen Bone In Turkey Breast	
\$27 24 oz.	\$12 each	\$1.49 lb.	
Sugardale Bone-in Ham Steak	Hill Pork Link Sausages 5lb. box	Sunny Valley 3lb. Bacon	
\$2.99 lb.	\$19.00	\$12.97 ea.	

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND • NO RAINCHECKS

Sucker Creek swallows an acre at local vineyard

Jason McMillen

IVN Contributing Writer

Bridgeview Vineyard faced extreme erosion damage from Sucker Creek during last winter’s torrential downpour, losing an estimated \$100,000 in grapevines and infrastructure. The rushing stormwater deeply undercut the bank’s high walls, causing sections to collapse into the stream and be washed away. At the torrent’s peak, it was estimated that they were losing nearly 10 feet of streamside soil, up and down the affected area every day.

Although a temporary emergency measure was permitted in April to halt the erosion’s advance, by the time it was in place over an acre of arable land and grapevines had been swept away. The temporary measure, which was to pile up large rocks along the bank—thereby shielding the soil from the water’s ravenous appetite—legally had to be accompanied by a more ecologically friendly revision during the short time frame in August that modifications are allowed to be made to streams.

The new biological fortifications are comprised of buried trees jutting out into the water, willow branches that will eventually grow into bushes and hand-picked collections of grass that will grow and solidify the soil with their roots. Solidly built, the set of defenses are buried deep underground with only an estimated 10 percent jutting out from the creek’s edge. It’s also essentially tied together underground and reinforced with rebar. A line of trees will also be planted along the creek’s edge so that their roots, like the grass, will grip the soil. However, this work has yet to be done.

Sucker Creek’s secondary channel was also modified to hopefully divert some of the stream’s destructive potential should heavy rainfall cause a similar situation like what happened last winter.

The fortifications aim not only to slow down the water’s speed and defend the banks but also to provide habitat for smaller fish and spawning grounds, particularly for endangered coho salmon. The Illinois Valley Watershed Council is also planning on doing more habitat-centric work further upstream though the timeframe in which this will occur is uncertain.

The project was fortunately permitted and ready to go by the Soil and Water Conservation District’s originally planned start date of Aug. 16. It only took about two weeks to assemble. Although local contractors were contacted to perform the work, they were either unable or too busy to do the job. However, most of the materials were sourced from local suppliers. The contract was eventually awarded to Northwest Watershed Restoration who specializes in this type of work.

In all, the project cost about \$320,000 but 75 percent of it was funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Emergency Watershed Protection Program which was available after the area had been declared a disaster zone. The rest of the funding had to be matched in the form of cash, labor or materials.

Rene Eichmann, owner of Bridgeview Vineyards, is teaming up with the Watershed Council to produce a brand of wine which will raise funds for the future health of their organization. The brand derives its name after the technical term for recently spawned salmon, Alevin, and will donate to the Watershed Council a minimum of \$6 for every case sold. Eichmann said that the fundraising effort is, for the foreseeable future, indefinite and that it will primarily be sold in stores when Bridgeview makes their leap into distribution.

Eichmann also wants to create wine-based fundraisers for other local environmental groups but for now such an endeavor is still in the planning stage.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

A dam was used to divert water to initiate the restoration of Bridgeview’s river bank.

FIRE ...

Continued from A-1

After lightening sparked a small fire that smoldered for three weeks, on July 12 a passing commercial airline pilot noticed the smoke just above the Chetco River in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and called in the location. Then, according to RRSNF officials, within 15 minutes of that initial report, the decision was made to “fully suppress the fire.”

Ninety minutes later four firefighters rappelled out of a helicopter, and to avoid burning logs and other flaming debris that were rolling downhill, they dropped onto a ridge just east of the half-acre wildfire and went to work. Also, three helicopters dropped 54 buckets of water on the fire that first day.

The next day, additional firefighters requested a few more orbits around the fire to gather more intelligence from that higher vantage point before they rappelled down to join the crew already on the ground.

Upon landing, their perspective changed: “The ground was really, really steep. We know views from the air can be deceiving, but we couldn’t see the fire or the smoke from the helispot,” said a senior firefighter in the Chetco Bar Fire report. “I originally thought the trees below the helispot were reproduction from an old fire, but then I realized the slope was so steep I was only seeing the tree tops. They were actually 200 foot tall, 4-foot DBH (diameter at breast height) trees.

“At one point, I remember it taking me 30 minutes to move about 20 feet,” he added. “I was having to cut away brush to clear a narrow path. I kept falling and basically had to belly crawl across the slope. The extremely steep slopes covered in madrone and tan oak leaves made it very difficult to walk, especially downhill, because of how slippery the ground cover was. I kept thinking to myself, ‘It’s too steep, too dangerous in here.’”

Later, two other crew bosses flying over the landscape to assess whether to drop another 40 firefighters into the mix declined the assignment for safety reasons. And of the crews already on the ground, after 24 hours of attempted direct suppression tactics, these firefighters were forced to pull back.

“Those firefighters did a fabulous job in their initial attack,” said RRSNF supervisor Rob MacWhorter. “Based on terrain, fire behavior and weather conditions, they simply made the right decisions around risk management.”

Firefighting anywhere in the Kalmiopsis is a challenge and countless firefighters on the Chetco Bar Fire reported some of the most “grueling,” “scary” and “volatile” conditions of their careers.

Michael G. Apicello, is a former smokejumper who was assigned to the now-closed Siskiyou Smokejumper for four years in the ‘80s, until injury in the line of duty grounded him, said he well-understands the difficulties these firefighters faced. He remembers the 1987 Silver Fire which also burned in the Kalmiopsis.

“The only thing the smokejumpers could do when they got on the ground was run for their lives,” said Apicello, who went on to become a national spokesperson for the U.S. Forest Service’s Aviation Management Program and a risk management and safety specialist. “Wildfire fatalities have increased over the last 20 years due to three causes: aviation accidents from trying to get resources into areas where it’s not safe; trying to move firefighters up and down steep slopes; and from snags falling on firefighters. Since 1994, I’ve dealt with at least 200 firefighter deaths and I’ve come to believe that no structure is worth the life of a single firefighter.”

Now retired, Apicello lives near Brookings where six homes and several other structures were lost to the Chetco Bar Fire. Still, at the public meeting in Brookings last week, he spoke up and said, “My own home was at risk too. We evacuated for 15 days. But firefighters shouldn’t have to risk their lives for people who choose to live in homes nestled into Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.”

Regarding the response to the Chetco Bar Fire, MacWhorter also explained that with such an active fire season nationally, how competition was tight with other Forest Service regions.

“Hot shot crews, incident management teams and aircraft were hard to come by,” he said. “And, finite resources can be pulled from one fire to another if higher values are threatened.” He also said that when adding up all the Southwest Oregon fires, including the Chetco, Miller Complex and High Cascade fires, about 300,000 acres - or 16 percent - of the land base in the RRSNF burned this year.

You can watch flyover and other Chetco Bar Fire videos at www.vimeo.com/pnw2.