

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 1 Section, Volume LXXXI No. 24

Published weekly for the residents of the Illinois Valley

Balancing fun



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Two dancers show off their moves during the live music from Brian Risling & The Airtight Alibi at the 16th annual Hope Mountain Barter Faire Sunday, June 17.

County RR weed ban overturned, for now

Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

The Oregon Court of Appeals rejected an appeal by county commissioners in a prime marijuana-growing part of the state to put back in place their restrictions on commercial pot production.

The appeals court's dismissal without comment Wednesday of the Josephine County commissioners' case marks the latest step in the struggle between the county's political leaders to tamp down the proliferating marijuana business, and growers trying to protect their businesses and investments.

In December, the county commission passed an

ordinance banning commercial pot farming on smaller rural residential lots and reducing larger grow sites.

Ross Day, attorney for the marijuana farmers, said the county's appeal to the court was frivolous.

"Hopefully the county gets the message that it acted illegally when it adopted the ordinance," Day said after the Oregon Court of Appeals made its ruling.

The commissioners were appealing a ruling by the state Land Use Board of Appeals, or LUBA, that put their restrictions on marijuana production on hold. LUBA said the county had failed to properly notify land owners.

Wally Hicks, attorney for the county, said the ruling is a setback for the county's effort to protect property owners.

SEE WEED ON A-10

Community lights fire under fuels reduction efforts

Samantha Watson
IVN Contributing Writer

Last summer, the ash of 71,499 wildfires burning across 10 million acres of the United States suffocated Southern Oregon. Wildfires in Oregon burned an area the size of Rhode Island with 1,903 separate fires. Wildfires and only seem to get worse year by year. This is why the community of Takilma decided to take things into their own hands.

"The purpose of the Page Creek Forest Project and by extension, the Rockydale Road Fuels Reduction Project, is to protect the community of Takilma from wildfire. The question is not if, but when fire will invade the community," stated Sean Hendrix, base manager for Grayback

Forestry. "These projects were the result of a long engagement process between neighbors, neighborhood associations, forestry agencies, contractors and community organizations. They are an exercise in community forestry where the public is part of the planning process."

The Page Creek Forest Project was born from grassroots stewardship efforts in 2014 as an off-shoot of the Hope Mountain Stewardship Project organized by the Illinois Valley Forest Collaborative, the U.S. Forest Service and concerned community members. Near the end of the Hope Mountain Stewardship Project, impassioned members of the Forest Collaborative reached out to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) asking them to address the fuel hazards and

health of another forest section along Rockydale Road, 6 miles south of Cave Junction.

BLM and ODF's answer resulted in a two-part project that will span six years and be fully completed in 2020. Part one of the Rockydale Road Fuels Reduction Project, funded and contracted by ODF, focuses on 100 acres of the northern section of BLM lands on Rockydale Road and features hazard fuels reduction and Oak Meadow Restoration projects. Part two of the project, funded and partnered by BLM, concentrates on 60 acres of the southern section of Rockydale Road and features hazard fuels reduction, firewood and pole removal, and overall forest restoration.

SEE FUEL ON A-9

Songs, suds and solstice at SFI

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

This Saturday, June 23, from 2 to 7 p.m., Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) is holding its annual beer tasting fundraiser, the Summer Solstice Brewfest, to help support summer youth camps and wilderness trips for curious children across the region.

Previously known as Birds and Brews, SFI aims to do something a little different with the Summer Solstice Brewfest, which is going to have a 21+ age limit.

"The things that we used to do included some children's activities. We felt that they would be better served at another event," said Robin Hartmann, executive director of SFI. "Our intention is to really focus this event on adults and on raising funds for the youth programming that we do."

Featured craft breweries include Arch Rock Brewing Company, Ninkasi Brewing Company, Standing Stone Brewing Company, and Wild River Brewery and Pizza, all of which will be offering samples to attendees. Tickets for four samples are included with admission and tokens for additional beer and root beer are also sold separately.

The brewfest will also bring Kevin Gillette Catering and Sunspot Grill to the table; and for the pleasure of your ears and anyone so inclined to celebrate the sunshine with a little dance, the talented blues rock band Donna Beaudin and the Fringe will be performing.

"Cool thing is that it's scheduled during the week of the solstice, so it's a perfect time for celebrating and kicking off the summer," Hartmann remarked.

SEE SFI ON A-9

Taste of the I.V. is going to be a rockin' good time

Sharissa Smith
IVN Contributing Writer

The annual Taste of Illinois Valley fundraiser is set for Friday, June 22 to provide support for the local youth.

Boys and Girls Club manager Jenna Larkin stated that the fundraiser will take place "at Rockin' R Ranch also known as Augustino Winery (400 Brown Rd., O'Brien) and the event is 6-8 p.m." Ticket price is \$35 with attendees getting to "experience the different local restaurants, and the local breweries and the local wineries. They all come and donate their time. The guests get to experience a little bit of everything. The venue is a huge part of Illinois Valley." Along with the food is a silent auction. The items are not listed yet, but Larkin explained, "I have committee members that will be procuring these items for me."

"One hundred percent of the money that we raise goes toward all of the programs that we run for the kids. So the money will go toward running our Wild program which teaches kids outdoor, survival and camping skills. Then we have a program called Healthy Habits, we also have a Power Hour program. All school year, the kids come in and they get one-on-one homework help during Power Hour. At the end of the year we will be awarding two kids who have gone to Power Hour throughout

the whole school year, and accumulated points. So whoever has the highest points from the whole school year will be awarded a Kindle. That's what part of the money goes for! It's for all the different programs that we run.

"A lot of our money that we raise comes from a program we call, 'Sponsor a Kid,'" Larkin continued. "It's where we have a guest speaker, who is a guest member come in from Boys and Girls Club and they talk about why they like Boys and Girls Club, and what Boys and Girls Club has done for them. After that we have one of our board members come up and they start asking for money. They will start at a certain amount and will go all the way down to a low amount. So I think they start at \$5,000 and they will work their way down to \$50. People...use their paddles to say 'yes, I want to sponsor a kid for said amount of money.'"

While going to this fundraiser is a great way to support Boys and Girls Club there are also other ways to do that. Larkin explained, "We always accept donations whether it is monetary, items or however they want to. We accept people to come in and volunteer their time, if they want to specifically help with the fundraiser they can give myself a call or they can call the head office. They can donate that way as well."

If you would like to help this worthy cause you can contact Jenna Larkin at 541-244-8490.

Head Start turns 50 years old this year.

Read about on A-3