

Illinois Valley News

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Taste of Barley



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

The J Barley Band played the annual Taste of the I.V. held at Rock'n R Ranch Friday, June 22. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club to be used for the Cave Junction location.

Mail theft causes serious problems

Annette McGee Rasch

IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Roughly 2,200 rural Valley residents get their mail delivered to mailboxes mounted on the road in front of their homes, yet only a few hundred of these boxes are locked.

"Mail theft is occurring, at the minimum, at least once a week, and sometimes up to three times a week," said Cave Junction Postmaster Oby Krueger. "In any rural area you have mail theft but this area is pretty bad. Everybody knows there's not much police presence and there's a lot of drugs in the area."

"We do receive some reports of mail theft," said Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel. "It's an issue for sure. We address these crimes as best we can, but it's difficult - it's happening at night and in the dark."

People really can help themselves by using a locking mailbox or a post office box."

Though Krueger said, while locked mailboxes are typically effective, still, he cautions how "occasionally the entire box is stolen." He said people should mount their mailboxes onto sturdy metal posts sunk into concrete.

Living in the Valley means you should get smart about personal security. Kruger said "hundreds" of post office boxes are available in Cave Junction. Post office boxes are also available in O'Brien and Selma.

The smallest box, which is 3 inches by 5 1/2 inches, costs \$27 for six months. The next size up, 5 by 5 1/2 inches, is \$36; and the largest box, 5 1/2 inches by 11 inches runs \$58 for six months. For one year, the cost doubles on these post office boxes.

Daniel said that currently, a contract deputy, Gerald Bayard, serves the Valley fulltime, though this fall, the law enforcement situation is set to improve.

"We're excited about getting our Resident Deputy Program up and running now," Daniel said. "We hired a new resident deputy and he has been trained and has actually been on the road, but I need to give him a bit more time to get his feet wet. We anticipate by September he'll be ready, and the vast majority of time he'll be out here in the Valley. He'll have an office either at the high school or middle school, but we're leaning toward Lorna Byrne."

SEE THEFT ON A-9

Rusk Ranch draws crowd on free day

Iris Chinook

IVN Contributing Writer

The Rusk Ranch Nature Center (RRNC) invited the public to come in and look around Sunday, June 24 for free.

The gem of the center is the Butterfly Pavilion and Susan Taylor, a volunteer with the center since moving to the Valley in March of this year, met each group coming to visit the pavilion with a smile and some cautionary words about being careful where they stepped. Coming into the pavilion is a lesson in slowing down and paying attention to your surroundings. Butterflies are terrifyingly fragile and one hasty move or careless moment can kill the very insects the center is trying to preserve. Filled to bursting with the flowers that butterflies prefer, the pavilion was showing off painted ladies, monarchs, white cabbage butterflies and others. "I

love it here," said Taylor. "I'd be here every day if I could."

Patty Downing, executive director of the center, said that the monarchs are just getting started. "The monarch population is off to a slow start this year. We had a hard time even finding pupae to purchase and there was a high die-off of the ones we ordered. But we expect about 100 monarchs to be coming out soon," Downing said, adding, "But even before the monarchs started to decline, only 1 percent of them survived in the wild." That's why places like the RRNC are essential to the survival of the increasingly rare butterflies.

"It's been busy all day," said Devona Ratliff. She comes down to the Valley from Portland periodically to volunteer at the RRNC. "I come down to exercise my talents. I love coming to the Valley," Ratliff is a museum exhibits developer with the Kids Museum in Portland and has helped develop many of the exhibits and activities for children

found at the RRNC.

Strolling the grounds is a feast for the eyes with huge groupings of abundant flowers both native and nursery-grown. Plant starts such as lantana and milkweeds (*Asclepias sp.*) as well as seeds are available for sale to help build a sustaining environment for the various species of butterflies in our region.

The RRNC is open to the public May through October, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Adult (over 18) admission is \$6, children 5-17 pay \$4 and children under 4 get in free. The RRNC's mission is to provide an opportunity for the community, particularly youngsters, to learn about, interact with and discover nature to foster a sense of connection with the natural world. Walking around smelling flowers and observing colorful, fluttering butterflies seems like a great place to start.

Gun play on Hayes Hill lands one driver in the clink

According to a press release from the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JOCO) June 24, approximately 2:18 p.m., the JOCO received a report of a road rage incident with shots fired. The incident was reported to have occurred on Hwy 199 at Hayes Hill.

Sheriff's Deputies arrived at a location on Hogue Drive in Selma and contacted the victims. The investigation revealed a gun had been fired into the rear bumper of the victims vehicle as it was traveling south bound on Hwy 199. No injuries were sustained.

The suspect was later identified as Fredrick Savage III. Savage expressed he was upset with the erratic driving of the other vehicle.

Deputies took Savage into custody without incident and lodged him in the Josephine County Jail for three counts of attempted assault 1, three counts of reckless endangering, unlawful use of a weapon and criminal mischief 1.

Barter Faire, 3 days of peace, trade and music

Christi Fairchild

IVN Contributing Writer

The 16th annual Hope Mountain Barter Faire (HMBF) was held last weekend at Lake Selmac Campground, giving people an opportunity to swap their goods or services, camp for the music-packed weekend, and support the children of the Dome School.

Approximately 100 plus vendors set up shop, offering to trade raw crystals, handmade jewelry, henna body art and face painting, one of a kind clothing, books, bonsai plants, massages and much more.

The set list was packed with three full days of local music. When the amps were shut off, a drum circle played into the night as a free-flowing musical experience that anyone could join.

"People were very happy with the music. Really good food and really good music," said Susan Gustafson, treasurer of the Hope Mountain Barter Faire. There were nine food vendors including a kitchen offering free meals for the volunteer help, run by Russell Weiler.

"It is so nice that we have so many volunteers (over a hundred); everyone is a volunteer, the board, everyone," Gustafson explained. There are too many to mention as individual contributions were immense. A new board member, Peni Cutting, painted signs, handled musician hospitality, and stage décor while Randy Merrill worked tirelessly as stage manager. Jerry Brown headed the Peace Keepers while day-of volunteers directed traffic. Jesse Poyback brought a sweat lodge, sky lodge, and a group of skilled native dancers. Vanessa Dean contributed her ninth year at kid village and Xoe

Saramony brought the circus tents, fire performances and assisted Sunday afternoon's boisterous kid parade.

"My favorite part of the weekend was watching parents and their children find union in the crafts of art and expression," said Saramony. "Families are built on relation and through co-creation they can truly reach their fullest potential. I am so amazed at the collective spirit of the Illinois Valley. The people here really love being together and helping each other create a community of involvement. It is a blessing to behold."

Eyes went to the sky Sunday afternoon when a brief and surprising rain shower produced a full double rainbow over the event. Merrill, with his voice cracking from the energy-expensive weekend, asked the crowd to turn and appreciate the moment.

Rainbows, kid parades and creative wares are a small glimpse into a large effort. The Hope Mountain Barter Faire continued on the spirit of the Southern Oregon Barter Faire (SOOR), which was held for 18 years prior and decided to end for legal reasons. SOOR Barter Faire donated just over \$12,000 to the efforts of a Dome School fundraiser which became the HMBF in 2003, named for Hope Mountain which "maternally looms over Takilma."

Every year there is a poster and T-shirt design contest for HMBF. This year's winners were Alan Laurie and Ptaryn Roberson. Entries are to include at least one dragonfly which is a symbol of the Takilma natives. To enter, email thedomeschool@gmail.com or hand deliver your entry to the school.

To stay up to date or get involved next year visit www.hopemountainbarterfaire.org. (See rainbow photo on A-10)

Illinois River alcohol ban in effect.

Read about on A-3