

Whoa!



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

A plume of smoke scared many Illinois Valley residents when firefighters initiated a strategic burn out to prevent the Klondike Fire from reaching Valley homes Friday, Aug. 10.

Lions to the rescue!

Laura Mancuso
IVN Editor

For 25 years the Illinois Valley Lions Club has provided the Valley with their free Medical Equipment Loan Program. Inside their special warehouse located on Holland Loop Road in Cave Junction, they have an organized space for a wide variety of health care equipment and all that they ask is for you to fill out a simple application with your name, phone number and address and to return it when you are finished.

“I usually don’t like clubs, gangs or groups, but I like the I.V. Lions because I get to really help people with the medical equipment,” said Marty Haynie, the current I.V. Lions coordinator for the medical equipment.

Haynie, who has been an I.V. Lion for four years, was inspired to become a Lion because his dad, World War II veteran Marvin Haynie, was a Lion for 50 years before he died last year. Haynie actually used some of the medical equipment when he was taking care of his dad. “I used a gait belt when following my dad when he walked; it is much safer than grabbing them or their clothes if they fall.”

Besides gait belts in the warehouse, you can find wheelchairs, shower chairs, two-four wheel walkers, grab bars, three-wheeled scooters, adjustable hospital beds and mattresses, bed side rails, toilet risers, portable toilets, a Hoyer lift, canes, oxygen tanks and tubing, crutches, leg

braces and much more.

When you meet Haynie at the warehouse you will probably find him working on electric wheel chairs or cleaning donated equipment and he will greet you with a big smile. You can contact Haynie about the Medical Equipment Loan Program or make a donation by calling 541-592-4262 or 541-538-8298 or use the mailing address P.O. Box 396, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

Currently, all the I.V. Lions members are gearing up for the 46th annual Labor Day Festival. If you are interested in participating in the event you can contact booth chairman David Anderson at 541-597-4486 or parade chairman Haynie at 541-538-8298.



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

On Friday, Aug. 10, Marty Haynie cleans a donated chair in preparation for it to go out to someone in need.

Klondike fire: 58,000 acres

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Contributing Writer

“We are doing everything we can, under highest preparedness level that exists, for the long fight ahead,” Operations Chief Russ Long told about 100 concerned residents at a community fire meeting at the Selma Community Center Monday night.

Things got interesting on the Klondike Fire when the wind kicked up Friday. After coping with limited visibility and oppressive smoke conditions for 10 days - the dramatic smoke columns and pyrocumulus clouds against the backdrop of sunny blue skies caught peoples’ attention.

“Fire watching became a spectator sport,” said Illinois Valley Fire District Chief Dennis Hoke, noting the northbound vehicles pulled over on Highway 199.

With the winds blowing from the southwest, firefighters seized the opportunity to go on the offensive in their efforts to strengthen fire line along the Klondike’s southern boundary along the Wild and Scenic Illinois River Corridor.

While nerve-wracking for those living on Illinois River Road, communications officer Kale Casey explained how putting fire down on the ridge so it could back down during the day was the strategy that

saved homes on the Taylor Creek Fire.

“The success we had was because we brought fire right down behind the houses,” he said. “We’re going to remove the fuel between the flame front and the intended fire line.”

“Pretty much anytime you see the cap lift off this fire, over the next weeks and months, you’re going to see columns, you’re going to see some fire growth,” he added. “It looks scary, but for us, it’s not an emergency, it’s what we do. It’s what we train for; it’s how we execute our plans.”

SEE FIRE ON A-9

Milfoil madness at Selmac

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Josephine County Parks Department recently purchased equipment to help volunteers tackle an issue that Lake Selmac has faced for decades - the lake weed known as “milfoil.”

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a common aquatic invasive plant that has plagued lakes across the country since at least the 1940s. Its distinctive colonies have been known to restrict recreational activities such as fishing, swimming and boating ... not to mention the instability it creates for our native flora and fauna.

“Milfoil is an invasive species and Lake Selmac is completely overgrown with it,” remarked Josephine County Parks Director Sarah Wright. “It’s been out of control for many years, and so it definitely impedes on recreational use of the lake.”

SEE SELMAC ON A-3

Visitors center gets makeover

Iris Chinook
IVN Contributing Writer

If you’ve driven by the Illinois Valley Visitor Center recently, you may have noticed bright orange plastic fencing and a whole lot of activity in the parking lot behind the center. What’s going on?

Well, according to Tom Baker, acting superintendent of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, a lot! “What you’re seeing right now is a project that has been in the works for several years,” said Baker, who added, “The main goal of the project is to rework the landscaping to achieve several objectives, with the main one being to create a better defensible zone around the property in case of fire.”

To accomplish this, several trees have been removed and shrubs and blackberry vines dug out. The replacement of blackberry vines and overgrown shrubs with a new, low profile, xeriscape planting will help reduce ladder fuels and the larger plants that produce more burning embers. Xeriscaping is a landscaping practice that utilizes drought-resistant plants.

Low profile plants also help create clear lines of sight through the parking lot to increase safety for visitors and employees alike. When the project is finished, it will be easy to tell, with a glance, if anyone is there. This will be a welcome change for the staff of the visitor center and it’s also hoped that removing the plants that act as screens will cut down or eliminate the current problem of these areas being used as a toilet.

Baker’s crew won’t be implementing the xeriscape right away. They’re going to wait until fall to ensure good transplanting weather. Xeriscaping the planted areas will reduce the amount of water needed to keep the landscaping looking nice; a savings on the water bill.

“We want to be good neighbors. In addition to the landscaping renewal we’ll be rebuilding and staining fences. We’re going to make it look better and make it safer at the same time,” said Baker.



(Photo courtesy of John Gardiner for the *Illinois Valley News*)

Trees have been removed from the visitors center in Cave Junction to the chagrin of some residents.

Newly imposed tariffs may cost the Valley its local paper. Read about it on A-8.