

# Something funny is going on at Wild River

**Tristan Stocker**  
*IVN Contributing Writer*

Wild River Pizza & Brewing Company held its third stand-up comedy event Thursday, June 13, which featured comics from Los Angeles and Portland.

According to manager Roy Barto they nearly sold out.

“It was Mike’s (Drevenstedt) idea,” Barto said. “He used to be the manager here. They’d been doing it in Medford for about a year and decided to bring it out here... give people a reason to get out of their houses and come get a belly laugh.”

The first comic to take the stage was Dan Paul from Portland, Oregon. He poked fun at

Portlandians, talked about tweakers in “Methford,” and drew whistles and cheers when he referenced the state of Jefferson in his bit on libertarians.

“Well, I grew up in Bakersfield,” Paul said over a large pizza covered in Canadian bacon. “Which is like California’s Texas or, like... California’s Medford.”

Paul went to college in San Diego and studied neurological psychology and also acquired a love of stand-up comedy and music. He moved to Portland six years ago.

“Before this I played in some bands and stuff,” Paul said. “I always just liked having a creative outlet. In bands you can write lyrics. This is a different form of music cuz you’re kind of playing - you have to

be listening to the notes of the crowd and there’s kind of a rhythm and a melody to what you’re doing.”

Some of Paul’s influences include Dane Cook, Pablo Francisco, Mitch Hedberg and John Mulaney.

After Paul’s set, former manager Michael Drevenstedt selected some winners for the raffle and then the headlining comic of the night, Sean McBride, graced the stage with his presence.

McBride’s act included ample jokes about marijuana which were laid out in a rich, storytelling fashion. He described a Christmas party he attended in Bend, Oregon at a pot farm wherein he—at the behest of his hosts—had gotten higher than he’d been his whole life.

He also talked about being

Irish, his trip to Dublin, Ireland, and briefly chatted with Drevenstedt about his time in Germany.

McBride was born in Kansas City, grew up in Massachusetts, and then moved to California in 2006 for a job with the NFL Network which he quit in 2009 to focus on stand-up.

“I reached a point where I wasn’t getting any better unless I fully committed to it,” McBride said. “So I went on the road. I think the first time I came to Oregon was 2009 and I’ve been coming up here ever since.”

From a young age, McBride said he realized he had a unique sense of humor that he hoped to use as a gift to brighten people’s days. It didn’t matter whether they were near and dear to him or just random

adults dealing with the monotony of adulthood, he stated.

Comedy at Wild River is held on the second Thursday of each month, making the next event July 11. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 the day of the event.



Sean McBride

## Letters to the editor

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(Editor’s Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

### Opinion Piece

#### The Upper Briggs Project: The wrong treatments, in the wrong place, at the wrong time

Briggs Creek is a major tributary of the Illinois River, a hotspot for recreation and a beautifully diverse watershed with important late successional forests, roadless habitats and rare plant populations. Most who have visited the area know Briggs Valley, Sam Brown Campground, Big Pine Campground, Horse Meadows, and the vast Briggs Creek Trail system. The area has long been a destination for local residents to enjoy for its solitude and beauty.

In recent years the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has been working on the Upper Briggs Restoration Project, a timber sale on Briggs Creek; cloaked in restoration and fuel reduction language. The premise of the project is that without logging and fuel reduction treatments, rare plant populations would diminish, the Briggs Creek watershed would burn at uncharacteristic levels of fire severity and habitat conditions would suffer from

fire exclusion.

Ironically, the area has burned four times in the last 10 years, creating a diverse and productive mosaic of mixed severity fire. These fires were restorative in nature and have reduced fuel loading throughout the vast watershed. For example, the Briggs Creek watershed burned at 82% low severity this past summer in the Taylor/Klondike Fire, achieving the stated objectives of the Upper Briggs Project. The 2018 fires reduced understory fuels, maintained Northern spotted owl habitats, and restored the process of fire to fire-dependent ecosystems. In fact, the fire achieved these objectives to such a high degree and across such a broad landscape, that restoration and fuel reduction is no longer needed in the Briggs Creek watershed.

Recent fire footprints like the 2018 Taylor/Klondike Fire contain extremely fire resistant conditions, more effective at reducing fire severity and limiting fire spread than any manual logging or fuel reduction treatment. For the next few years, this watershed will be largely fireproof, resisting ignition and limiting fire spread until vegetation burned in the Taylor/Klondike Fire regenerates and builds enough fuel to once again support wildland fire spread.

Unfortunately, the project specifically calls for logging stands that burned at low to moderate severity and removing trees that survived the 2018 fires. It is uniquely ironic and hypocritical to see forests recently burned at low severity, logged in the name of “fuel reduction” and “restoration”. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is now using low severity fire as an unprecedented excuse for logging the post-fire environment. Yet, forests recently burned at low severity are not a priority for treatment and by removing

living trees from sensitive fire effected sites, fuel loading and fire risks will increase, as logging slash is deposited throughout the currently fuel-limited landscape.

Stands logged in the Upper Briggs Project will also experience stand desiccation and increased fire risks associated with increasing wind speeds, ambient air temperatures, and plummeting fuel moisture contents throughout our fire season. Understory fuels will also increase in direct proportionality to canopy removal. In fact, the loss of overstory canopy will trigger an extensive “understory response” with young trees, shrubbery, and increased herbaceous growth filling in the canopy gaps. The result will be an increase in fire/fuel risks and a significant loss of fire resilience.

The Upper Briggs Project is far from homes and human communities and provides little to no fire protection for the residents of southern Oregon. Implementation of the Upper Briggs Project is an unjustified waste of limited fuel reduction funding and will reduce, rather than increase fire safety in the Briggs Creek Watershed.

The exceptional fire resilience of this post-fire landscape will only be impacted by proposed project activities. The project will also impact the natural vegetative recovery, increase sedimentation in streams and erosion on sensitive fire effected soils, spread noxious weeds, impact sSpecial Wildlife Management Areas and degrade Northern spotted habitat.

There is simply no ecological or fire/fuel related benefit to implementation of commercial logging and fuel reduction treatments in the Briggs Creek Watershed, at this time. Furthermore, the conditions created by those logging and fuel reduction treatments will not restore characteristic habitat conditions. The Upper

Briggs Project is an example of the wrong treatments, in the wrong place and at the wrong time. The project should be canceled and attention placed on reducing fuel around homes and communities where it is most needed, not in the backcountry, where it will impact habitat values and provide little to no fire protection for communities at risk.

**Luke Ruediger,**  
**Conservation Director**  
**Klamath Forest Alliance/**  
**Siskiyou Field Office**

#### Spray Park Article Inaccurate

This letter to the editor is in regard to a front page article in the June 12 issue of *Illinois Valley News* by Tina Casey Jones titled “Spray Pad Gets Green Light.” All of the information from the June 6 Parks and Rec Commission meeting is available on the city’s website and can be listened to with your own ears so that you can make your own decision about the contents of said meeting. The first inaccuracy that I find in the article is the title. There was no decision made at this meeting regarding the forward motion of the spray pad. There was certainly a great deal of educated discussion on both sides of the net, complete with random outbursts of heckling from a particular attendee who appeared to be for the spray pad but was unable to refrain from unsolicited commentary, prompting the Commission Chairman John Miles to bring the meeting to a point of order. The spray pad will “get the green light” when the state LGGP grant is awarded to the city, which has not yet happened.

The next inaccurate statement is found in the first line of the article stating “The first meeting of the newly minted Cave Junction Parks and Rec-

reation Commission was held June 6...” The first meeting of the CJ Parks and Rec Commission was held Mothers Day, Sunday May 12 and was not publicly announced. This statement can be backed up by listening to the audio minutes for the May 13 City Council meeting available for download on the City’s website under “quick links.” Starting at 1:19:05, City Councilor Jean Ann Miles states her concern that the Parks and Rec Commission did not assign a councilor as liaison to the commission during the June 12 meeting and that it should be done to comply with the wording of the ordinance mandating the parks commission formation. At 1:19:24 councilor Jones and Mayor Martell questioned when the meeting took place as they, like the public, obviously were also not notified that the meeting was taking place on a Sunday evening. What city holds the first meeting of a newly formed commission on a Sunday night (Mother’s Day no less) and doesn’t notify the city council or make a public announcement in the local news paper or even post it on the city website like all other public meetings are posted? Furthermore, where are the minutes from that meeting? Is the City of Cave Junction trying to hold public meetings that exclude the general public? Councilor Miles was in the loop of course because her Husband was appointed to the Parks and Rec Commission. Councilor Dillinger had no comment regarding the meeting so we don’t know if he was present or if he was also left out of the loop. Councilor Bosch was not present at this meeting. What we do know is that one Councilor was notified of the meeting while the Mayor and Councilor position 2 were kept out of the loop for some reason. Something smells fishy...

The next inaccuracy in

the article I would like to point out is the “negative,” “positive” and “other” organization of the comments, putting “negative” comments in relativity to being against the spray pad. These negative comments are paraphrased rather than quoted, giving a false sense of what was truly communicated at the meeting by each of these individuals. The most vocal attendee “for” the spray pad was truly quite negative. From 54:00-57:30 of the audio minutes from the June 6 Parks and Rec meeting posted on the city’s website, a man who appeared to be strongly pro spray pad stood high on his soap box ranting about how important he is and how his opinion is the most valid of anyone else’s in the room when Chairman Miles had to finally ask him to sit down and end his tirade. The “other” comment printed on page A-9 regarding adversarial dialogue can be listened to in full at 106:50 of the same meeting’s audio minutes where Christine Gardiner very eloquently makes a call for unity among all citizens to engage in civic dialogue rather than pitting the farmer’s against the children, maintaining her composure as soap box man continued a tantrum of heckling while Chairman Miles attempted to keep order in the meeting.

In conclusion, “Spray Pad Gets Green Light” article is framed to influence public opinion and is inaccurate and not founded in the true spirit of the actual meeting that took place June 6. Please do your due diligence and listen to the audio minutes available on the City’s website and form your own conclusions on the content of a very important public land use issue rather than trusting the local newspaper or comments on facebook. Don’t allow yourself to be misled.

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