

REEDSPORT from page 1A

The economic situation in Reedsport mirrors many other towns in the area that were founded and sustained for decades by supporting the timber and fishing industries, until those sectors essentially disappeared.

However, Reedsport, Winchester Bay and other small towns situated along the boundaries of the dunes are currently enjoying a resurgence with the ever-growing popularity of different types of off-road activities.

The large numbers of families and youngsters wearing ATV branded clothing and hats at the Reedsport Centennial spoke to the importance of integrating younger generations of tourists into the region's recreational menu.

Saturday's celebrations began with a classic car show early in the day, with the Reedsport Fire Department at hand with a ladder truck

for youngsters to explore.

"The carnival specifically was the main event because we knew the event needed to be family-friendly and inviting to the entire community," Bradley said.

The Centennial Carnival was sponsored by Anandapure, Lower Umpqua Hospital and Fred Wahl Marine Construction, which meant the event had free admission. All the games were also free, and there was a prize every time for each child.

"We had no expectations for how many people would attend, because Reedsport has never had a carnival," Bradley continued. "Attendance and excitement surpassed expectations and over 1,000 people were in attendance."

One of the main draws for the celebration was free admission at The Umpqua Discovery Center. The center's mission is to "provide users and visitors with education about the natural and



The Reedsport Centennial activities included a car show and special displays at the Umpqua Discovery Center. (photo by Mark Brenne/Siuslaw News)

cultural history of the lower Umpqua area" — and it does just that with a number of informative displays devoted to many different aspects of the region.

Umpqua Discovery Center Director Diane Novak said she was extremely pleased with the turnout for the celebration and her organization's contribution to the success of the event.

"Reedsport's 100th birthday ... was well attended by over 500 people visiting the center with the free admission," Novak said. "Visitors enjoyed the Natural and Cultural history exhibits, along with viewing of the newly updated 'I Remember, I Remember' exhibit with new Oral Histories to

listen to. The new centennial bench, donated by Bill Hardy, located at the front entry of the Center, was also enjoyed by many."

People were able to take a self-guided tour of the center, which were situated on a series of ramps showcasing dioramas that share the different types of wildlife, trees and undergrowth of the Reedsport area. There is a helpful audio component to most of the dioramas as the animals or birds or bugs that are shown in a specific display can also be heard with a simple push of a button.

The displays are colorful, well maintained and share a significant amount of information in a small space.

In addition, the walls

and inclines in the discovery center are painted with long, colorful murals that depict regional themes, history and locations, adding to the overall sense of integration of the facility into the surrounding outdoor space. Many of the animals and birds that are included in the displays inside the center can be seen from these vantage points along the Umpqua River.

The center also features an interactive weather and tide display, a small replica of a Reedsport shop, artifacts donated by past residents and a new collection of oral histories available to interested listeners. An extensive collection of old photographs line many of the walls of the center and these compelling historic images can be purchased as mementos of a visit to the discovery center.

The focus on the natural world and the attention to detail at the discovery center offer a multi-sensory learning experience that is entertaining for all ages but seems particularly well suited to engage younger visitors, of which there were many on Saturday.

Outside, the center offered a wide wooden deck for viewing the Umpqua River, which flows a few hundred feet beyond the center. The deck connects to a small family-run restaurant, The Schooner.

Furthermore, the Umpqua River and surrounding waterways present a growing water-related recreational sector for Reedsport. People who have discovered the many lakes and rivers close to the ocean and the Siuslaw National Forest had tied up their kayaks and canoes along the river and walked the short distance to the carnival area.

The Reedsport Centennial Celebration literally ended on an upbeat note as the last event scheduled for the day was a free concert given by the band Stillwater, which was enjoyed by about 200 individuals.

"Reedsport has a proud past and a promising future, and it's the people in the community that are giving the promising future to Reedsport," Bradley said. "It's important to celebrate the past 100 years in order to look forward to the next 100."

For more information on Reedsport, visit www.city-ofreedsport.org. For more information on the Umpqua Discovery Center, call 541-271-4816 or visit 409 Riverfront Way in Reedsport. or visit umpquadiscoverycenter.com.

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In addition to the classes, the WLEOG.ORG website has extremely useful information on **NATURAL HAZARDS** and **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**. Each of these has videos on various topics that explain the hazards the Pacific Northwest faces, and how to prepare for them.

Teach the Children

Your children should be a big part of your emergency planning. By helping them understand the dangers of storms and other crisis situations, you can further their knowledge of how to stay safe during them.

But spitting out a few statistics and tips won't cut it for kids. Communicate with them on their level for optimum impact, maybe even integrating games or activities in their learning. Emergency preparedness is serious stuff, but is best delivered to children in an entertaining, interactive manner.

EASE FEARS

During and after disasters, children will usually look to adults for help. How they see you react can cause a chain reaction into their own actions, so it is important to stay calm and reassuring.

When you're sure that danger has passed immediately after an emergency situation, concentrate on your child's emotional needs. Ask them what they may still be scared of or what you can do to help.

INVOLVE THEM IN PLANNING

Ask your children to help when you pack or update your emergency kit. Doing so can help familiarize them with what is in your kit and how to use the items in emergency situations. You can make plan-



ning fun, too, by quizzing them on what to do in specific situations. This type of emergency preparedness can help ready your child for emergencies while you build in some bonding time, as well.

CRITICAL PHONE NUMBERS

If for some reason, your child is separated from you or is away from home during an emergency situation, he or she needs to know important

phone numbers. Here are a few that your child should either memorize or have on a sheet of paper when traveling.

- 9-1-1: This one is obvious and can be crucial to receiving help in dangerous situations.
- Home phone, parents' cell phones and parents' work phone numbers: It is vital that your child can easily reach you at all times.
- Family Members: Two or

three close relatives who may be able to reach you, as well.

- 1-800-733-2767: This is the American Red Cross' Safe and Well phone number that lets family and friends know you are safe. Children can dial this number and report their location. They can also go online to www.safeandwell.communityos.org to do the same.

For more information, visit these websites:

- AMERICAN RED CROSS — WWW.REDCROSS.ORG
- CITY OF FLORENCE — WWW.CI.FLORENCE.OR.US
- FEMA — WWW.READY.GOV
- LANE COUNTY — WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG
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