

Ukiah Community Newsletter

April 2014

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Fire and Fuels Career Camp Leads Teens to Jobs

On the second weekend in March, two dozen high school seniors gathered in Ukiah for the Umatilla National Forest's seventh Fire and Fuels Career Camp. Usually held in the fall at Tupper Guard station, this year's camp shifted time and location after it was cancelled during the federal government shutdown last October.

"So as not to short these kids the opportunity the best option was coming to Ukiah and using the compound here. The usual enrollment in the past has been 10 to 15 students," said Umatilla National Forest Conservation Education Coordinator Katy Gray. "We've gotten such a high response for having it in March rather than October and moving it to Ukiah."

The students come from eight high schools in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The goal is to spark their interest in fire and fuel management and natural resources, with an eye toward careers in those fields.

Over the past six years, about 20 students from the camps have been hired by the Forest Service, most as summer seasonals while attending college. A couple who have completed school have stayed with the agency.

The students stayed at the bunkhouse on the North Fork John Day compound. Meals were provided by The Thicket.

The instructors were Forest Service firefighters and other employees from the Umatilla NF. "It's mentorship by having folks in those jobs teaching and working with the students, almost on a one-to-one ratio," Gray said.

The first day of the three-day training involved the safe use of tools and firefighting personal protective equipment, map and compass use, and radio communication.

On Saturday the students headed out to the Dale compounds for



Ukiah senior Tyler Lynch, center, manages a suction hose during hand-on training in pump and water use during the Forest Service Fire and Fuels Career Camp in March.

hands-on activities with engines, pumps and hose-lays. That afternoon they took part in a live-fire scenario.

"If they come to work for us, great," Gray said. "If they don't, they have an experience they can touch back on whatever they end up doing."

Ukiah Art Show! Thursday, May 1, 5-8 p.m. at the City of Ukiah Senior Center. Art by Ukiah School students and Ukiah residents--art sales, awards, speaker, raffle, refreshments! Please join us. For artists submission forms call Lee Farren at 541-427-3047 or check online at www.ukiahoregon.org or school.ukiah.k12.or.us

Medical Loan Closet Helps People with Disabilities

If you are in temporary need of a walker, a wheelchair, a cane, a medical bed or just about any other piece of medical equipment, Darrin Umbarger can help you out, free of charge.

The Medical Loan Closet, a service of Darrin and Carol Umbargers' Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource Center, offers one-day to three-month loans of medical equipment. Borrowers sign a simple contract and promise to return the equipment in good condition.

The short term loans fill a need for people recovering from surgery, for instance, or waiting a piece of equipment to arrive.

Most of the equipment is donated, but at the beginning it all came from Umbarger himself.



Darrin Umbarger with his stair-climbing wheelchair. The machine, developed by the people behind the Segway, lifts to a standing position and rolls around on two wheels.

"I have Multiple Sclerosis, and as I progressed I had extra medical equipment so I started loaning it out," Umbarger said. "People started bringing their stuff in, asking if I could use it and let somebody else borrow it. Now I have a warehouse full of medical equipment."

Umbarger cleans, repairs and sanitizes the equipment. He also enjoys tinkering to create one-of-kind items to suit the needs of people with various disabilities.

With the recent donation of a trailer, Umbarger can now deliver equipment to Pendleton, Hermiston and Ukiah.

Clearview started in 2000 on the Umbargers' kitchen table as a service to develop jobs for people with disabilities. It still does that, but has also moved into non-emergency medical transportation, money management, emergency management for special populations and disability etiquette training.

To contact the Medical Loan Closet, call 541-276-1130 or visit online at clearviewmdrc.org

Upcoming Events

Camas Creek Dinner, Wed. April 16, 6 p.m. Ukiah Senior Center. See story column two.

Ukiah School Board Budget Committee, Ukiah School, 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. **School Board** meeting to follow at 7 p.m.

Ukiah City Council, Ukiah Senior Center, 7 p.m. Tuesday May 6.

Stitch & Chatter Quilters, Presbyterian Church, Wednesday and Saturday all day.

Senior lunch, Ukiah Senior Center, 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Yoga, NFJD Ranger Station, Mondays at 4:45 p.m. 541-276-1072 for more information.

Ukiah Food Pantry, Presbyterian Church, once a month, 12:30 to 2 p.m. See church readerboard for dates.

Senior Center Lunch Menu

April 4--Fish, hashbrowns with country gravy, peas and carrots, tossed salad, fruit, roll, chocolate cake.

April 11--Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, coleslaw, fruit, roll, tapioca pudding.

April 18--Easter Dinner--Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, roll, cake.

April 25--Sloppy Joes on buns, corn, tossed salad, fruit, ice cream.

May 2--Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, tossed salad, fruit, garlic bread, banana cream pie.

Seniors--suggested donation \$3.50
All others \$6.00

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The Ukiah City Park was a popular spot with the town's children on a sunny afternoon during spring break in late March. A recent report by the city's insurer recommended replacing the swing seats, seesaw seats and the old metal slide.

Camas Creek Dinner and Meeting

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council will host a dinner and meeting on Wed., April 16, at 6 p.m. at the Ukiah Senior Center to discuss the recent high water event. Anyone with an interest in Camas Creek is encouraged to attend and offer feedback on the state of the creek and how to reduce the threat of flooding.

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Ukiah City Council

April 1, 2014

The Volunteer Fire Department used donated funds to purchase a barbecue for Tupper Ball Field. Money raised at the Christmas dinner paid for cuffs and stethoscopes for the ambulance. Ed Shank built cabinets at the Fire Hall for turnouts and oxygen bottles. City Planner Laura Foley is applying for a rural fire department grant for \$9,980 to purchase new turnouts. The VFD also has new tee shirts.

The mayor's position and Linda Kerr's will be on the November ballot. Forms for those positions are due at the county election office by August 16.

Maintenance Supervisor Nancy Porter has attended the short school in Baker City. The city will open the park restrooms during the second week of April, and plans to read water meters once during April.

The council reviewed the preseason land use agreement with the Forest Service for fire camps at Tupper Ball Field and tabled action until the May meeting, when it will have more information on what other cities charge for similar agreements. In the past Ukiah has charged \$250 per day for fire camp use of city property.

The council discussed a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries prepared by the League of Oregon Cities and decided to ask the League's lawyers for clarification before continuing the discussion at the May meeting.

The city budget committee has a vacancy-- anyone interested in serving should contact Donna Neumann at the city office.

Ukiah School Board

March 12, 2014

Ukiah's first year in the Battle of the Books program ended with the elementary team taking third place in the competition at EOU in La Grande in March. Teacher Anne Coote said that preparing for the battle by reading 15 books improved student reading scores. High school and middle school students also participated.

Third quarter ended March 20. International students traveled to Las Vegas over spring break.

In March, High school students have recently competed in a Technology Student Association event at BMCC, did some job shadowing and attended a leadership conference at the Pendleton Convention Center.

High school graduation is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 22. Six students are graduating this year, including local students Tyanna Billings and Tyler Lynch.

A nurse from Umatilla County Public Health has been meeting with middle school students to discuss various health topics.

- In other business, the board:
- * approved an update to the weapons in the school policy, as recommended by the Oregon School Board Association.
 - * rehired all six teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.
 - * adopted the 2014-2015 calendar, with 148 days of school. Christmas break will last 18 days, from Dec. 18 to Jan. 4.
 - * set the first budget committee meeting for 6:30 on Wed., April 23, with a second meeting for approval, if needed, on May 14.