

Ukiah Community Newsletter

August 2011 Volume 1, Issue 1

Tupper Field Gets a Face Lift



Emalie Gulden, Pat Picard, Stephanie Picard, Natalie Gulden, Elisabeth Gulden, Miah Harris, Shelby Harris, Alea Douglas and Brittini Gulden all pitched in to work at Tupper Ball Field. Not pictured are volunteers Brian Gill, Brandon Kohlfield, Mallory Jones, Chris Gulden and Casey Levi.

Renovation under way at Ukiah's ball park

Thanks to the efforts of a family of volunteers and its friends, Tupper Ball Field is undergoing extensive renovation.

The city-owned ball field, located on Mossie Road on the south side of Camas Creek, was built in 1985. The name comes from David Tupper, a U.S. Forest Service employee who approached the city council with the idea of a track and field for local kids. The owner, Louisiana-Pacific, donated the property to the city.

Students from Ukiah High School use the field for soccer and track practice and Forest Service has based fire camps there. The field hosted regular softball tournaments for many years. Tournament organizer Stephanie Picard hopes those will resume.

"I wanted to get the ball teams coming back here again," Stephanie says. "Some people have been asking if we would do it again, and we wanted it to look better if we invite people to Ukiah to play."

The renovation got under way early in 2010 when Stephanie "wanted a five-gallon can of paint and enough money to

fix the old bathrooms."

Stephanie and a group of interested citizens and Forest Service firefighters presented the idea to the City Council. Stephanie figured she and her husband, Pat Picard, and their grandchildren and foster children would do the work.

"My kids are getting a little bigger and they wanted to play ball, so I said we would have put some work in and they said, Okay, fine," Stephanie says.

With help from city grant writer Laura Foley, Stephanie applied for and received a \$33,052 grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The city matched the grant with the volunteers' labor, valued at \$8263.

The renovation includes a new vault toilet, concession stand, bleacher seats and perimeter fence.

"We're going to add a little pavilion, some picnic tables and some benches next year," Stephanie says. "Hopefully the city will be able to use the ball field for camping or other things."

The City Council has set rental rates for Tupper Ball Field at \$100 per day, to include use of the toilet and concession stand, plus \$88 for a dumpster and a cleaning deposit of \$20.

4th of July Parade

Dozens of spectators lined Main Street for the city's annual 4th of July Parade. Participants left the North Fork John Day Ranger Station parking lot and followed a route through Ukiah's downtown and around the park.

First came the Ukiah Volunteer Fire Department's new bright yellow fire truck, followed by a dozen kids on decorated bicycles. Mark Stubblefield and Pat Picard pulled floats filled with children and the Ukiah quilters club. The Ukiah Quick Response team drove the ambulance and a pair of mounted cowgirls brought up the rear.

Organizers included Carol and Stacie Schock, Stephanie Picard, Louise McKinnon, Norma Barber and Laura Orr.



Mark Stubblefield is the engineer for a patriotic train of kids on the 4th.



Pat Picard chauffeurs the Ukiah Stitch and Chatter Quilters on his four-wheeler.

More parade photos on page 2.

More Parade Photos



Colton Schock and Quinton Orr show off their decorated bikes.



Mayor Carol Picard waves from the back of a pickup truck.



Terry Schock drove the Ukiah Volunteer Fire Department's new fire truck.



Tiffany Edmond and Reagan Enriquez added a Western flair.

Ukiah City Council News

Housekeeping chores topped the agenda at the Ukiah City Council's August meeting. Discussion ranged from tall grass around building and in vacant lots to locking water meters to fee schedules for city facilities.

The city cleanup earlier this summer brought in \$559.50 for scrap metal collected by Wurdinger Recycling in La Grande. That amount covered about half the cost of the Pilot Rock Sanitation dumpster, with the city picking up the rest.

New signs and a donation box at the RV dump station at the park brought in \$39.50 during the first three days they were up. The area now has two water taps, one for flushing RV holding tanks and one for drinking water. City maintenance manager Rick Icenogle plans to lay gravel in the area and is looking for beautification suggestions.

The council thanked Kenny and Wayne Gilliland for volunteering their log loader and labor to clean up debris left when Columbia Power Electric Co-op felled the last of the big trees in the park. The tree was badly damaged by a fire on July 7.

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6 at the Senior Center.

Undersheriff to Speak

Umatilla County Undersheriff Terry Rowan will be at the September Ukiah City Council meeting to talk about service in Umatilla County, neighborhood watch and what other small communities are doing about limited service. The public is encouraged to attend. Tuesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

School Board Meets

Ukiah School plans to register 44 students for the 2011-2012 school year. International students are due to arrive August 24 and 25, with the first day of school for students on Monday, August 29.

The school day begins at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. for grades four through 12. Primary student are released at 2:30 p.m. Elementary students have lunch and recess from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Secondary students have lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.

The board elected Dee Croteau chair and Walt Pettigrew vice-chair for the current year.

To accommodate board members' schedules, the board decided to rotate meetings between the second Wednesday and the second Thursday of the month. The date of the next meeting will be decided at the meeting the month before. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 14, at 7 p.m. at the school.

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Carol Picard, Mayor
 Donna Neumann, City Recorder
 Rick Icenogle, Maintenance
 Clint Barber, City Councilor
 Rose Gatens, City Councilor
 Linda Kerr, City Councilor
 Randy Scarlett, City Councilor

Numbers to Know

North Fork John Day Ranger Station
 541-427-3231
 Oregon Department of Transportation
 Ukiah.541-427-3861
 Ukiah Library. 541-427-3735
 Ukiah Post Office.541-427-3332
 Ukiah School. 541-427-3731
 Ukiah Senior Center . . 541-427-3012
 Umatilla County Sheriff 541-966-3600
 To report a wildfire 1-541-963-7171
 OR 911



Not everyone is ready for school to start. After a summer riding his bike and hanging out, kindergartner James Montee could use another month or so of vacation.

Lee Farren produces the Ukiah Community Newsletter. Please contact her with suggestions, complaints, comments and news of upcoming events. 541-427-3047 or leefarren@centurytel.net.

Ukiah Profile

Penny Alford Cooks up Senior Lunch

Good meals make City of Ukiah Senior Center a favorite Friday gathering place.

Every Friday at 11:30 a.m. Penny Alford starts serving lunch at the City of Ukiah Senior Center.

"I can tell you're a big eater," Penny tells diners as she scoops servings of salad, meat and potatoes onto their plates. Privately, she adds that the Friday lunch is the main meal of the day for many of the seniors who attend.

Favorites menus include meatloaf, baked chicken and roast pork.

Sometimes seniors bus in from Heppner or Monument, drawn by Penny's cooking and legendary big servings. She prepares for 40, but often serves 50 or more.

The weekly lunch program is sponsored by the Community Action Program East Central Oregon (CAPECO), which pays Penny's salary for 10 hours a week, approves the menus for nutritional value and pays for the ingredients. The city provides the facility and the North Fork John Day Ranger District prints and laminates the monthly menus as a community service. Each week an assortment of volunteers show up to handle the money and paperwork, help serve the meal and cleanup.

Penny does a lot of her prep on Thursdays, coming in on Friday morning to slide dishes into the oven and prepare salads. She also drives into Pendleton every other week to shop.

"Sometimes 10 hours isn't enough and I go over," Penny says. "That's my community service."

Penny's family always had a big garden in Maupin, where she grew up in a household with two brothers and three unmarried uncles, all of them big eaters. When Penny was 12 her mother developed an illness that left her walking with crutches. She taught her only daughter how to cook for the crowd.

"My uncles worked in sawmills and logging," Penny says. "They grew up on meat and potatoes and gravies, so that's



Penny Alford prepares salad at the Ukiah Senior Center. "I'm a big food person," Penny says. "You're supposed to eat."

what I learned to cook."

After she married, Penny began cooking at restaurants, again in large quantities. She moved to Ukiah from Stanfield in 1995 with her husband, Ted Alford.

"We used to hunt and fish here and go camping when we lived in Stanfield, raising our boys," Penny says. "After the kids were raised, we asked why do we want to stay here when we love Ukiah so much?"

Since then Penny has cooked at all the restaurants in Ukiah. Dedicated fans have followed her from one restaurant to another, and now to the Senior Center.

Lunch starts at the Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. each Friday, but people often start arriving about 11 for cookies, coffee and visiting.

Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors and \$6.00 for all others.



Though called a Senior Lunch, the Friday meal at the City of Ukiah Senior Center is open to everyone. And while the food is good, the visiting is even better.



Banana cream pie is a favorite dessert. Penny uses two bananas per pie, and a healthy dose of the crème de banana syrup used in espresso drinks.

Volunteers always welcome

The Senior Lunch program depends on volunteers to collect money, serve meals, wash dishes, clean up and keep records. To volunteer, call Donna Fagg at 541-427-3021 or Penny Alford at 541-427-3019.

The Senior Lunch menu is available at the Ukiah Post Office, the City of Ukiah Senior Center, and online at www.ukiahoregon.org

In Memoriam

The last of the big trees



Elaine Childers-Gilliland, Dec. 3, 1948-July 22, 2011.

Deloris Elaine Childers-Gilliland, 62, died on July 22, 2011, at a Kennewick, Wash., care home after a long illness. A memorial service was held at the Ukiah School on Saturday, July 30. Elaine was buried in the Ukiah Cemetery.

Elaine was born in Emmett, Idaho to Jack and Lois (Moss) King. She was raised in Phoenix, Ore., and graduated from Phoenix High School. She moved to Ukiah from the Tri-Cities, Wash., in 1990. In Ukiah she worked for the school district for 16 years as a cook and school secretary. She worked with a high school foreign exchange program that brought many students to Ukiah and also hosted a number of students in her own home. Elaine served on the Ukiah City Council and as temporary mayor from April to December 2008. She had been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

After a public proposal during Ukiah's 4th of July celebration Wayne Gilliland and Elaine married in Reno, Nev., on July 8, 2003.

In her eulogy at the memorial service, Norma Barber described Elaine as a person who wore many hats. She owned her own business, trained animals, loved horses and served in a number of civic positions. When she was needed, Elaine was always willing to take on a new task. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. The 2009 Ukiah High School yearbook was dedicated to Elaine as "a person who has dedicated her life to children."

Elaine is survived by her husband, Wayne Gilliland of Ukiah; children Kim Childers, Rebecca McBride and Heather Childers, all of Kennewick, Wash., and



Rodney L. Erickson, May 12, 1938-August 6, 2011.

Rod Erickson, 73, died peacefully at home in Pendleton on August 6, 2011. A Celebration of Life service was held at Grace Baptist Church in Pendleton on August 13

Rod was born in Portland, Ore., on May 12, 1938 to George and Edith (Garver) Erickson. As a young man he worked on the Portland truck docks unloading freight. After moving to Pilot Rock he worked at many different jobs. In the 1980s he began working at the Eastern Oregon Psychiatric Center, then transferred to the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, where he was employed until he retired.

In 2000 Rod and his wife Saundra Erickson moved to Ukiah, where Rod loved to hunt and fish. He and Saundra lived there until his health failed and they moved to Pendleton.

Rod is survived by his wife, Saundra Erickson, in Pendleton; by sons Rodney Erickson and Craig Erickson, both of Pilot Rock and Bunn Erickson of Pendleton; by daughters Pamela Carstens of Pilot Rock and Sheri Portman of Hillsborough, N.C.; by a sister, Patricia Searls of Culver, and by 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Elaine Childers-Gilliland

Sara Gilliland and Matthew Gilliland, both of Ukiah; brother Jack King of Kennewick, Wash.; sisters Sandi Miller of Burbank, Wash., and Kelli Pape of Albany; 15 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.



The last big tree in the city park came down in July, after a fire started in the hollow cavity at the base of the trunk.

Volunteer firefighters were roused out of bed at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, with reports of a fire in the park. They arrived to find the base of the tree in flames and put it out with a fire extinguisher and water. A few days later workers from Columbia Power Electric Co-op identified the tree as a hazard to a nearby power line and topped it at about 30 feet.

The tree was the last of three big ponderosa pines growing in that corner before the park was established. Bettie Barber remembers the local boys climbing up into them when she was a girl in the 1940s. The other two trees were removed when they became old and filled with rot.

No one knows how the tree caught fire, but there has been speculation that an ember from fireworks during the 4th of July may have lodged in the cavity and smoldered for three days before igniting.

The volunteer firefighters included Pat and Stephanie Picard, Tom Gatens and Ed Farren. City maintenance manager Rick Icenogel and volunteers Kenny and Wayne Gilliland later cleared the debris. The city plans to remove the remaining snag and leave enough to support a picnic table.