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Kettle Falls Focus

A town with lots of friendly people and 1 grouch



Spring Brings New Wildlife: Guidelines for Humans

contributed By Tina Matney

Springtime in Northeast Washington is a beautiful time of year. Our fields and forests turn from dull brown to lush green in a matter of weeks and as the landscape changes we hear the call of many species of wild animals and birds. Along with lighter skies and warmer temperatures, spring brings a rush of baby wildlife. Baby songbirds, baby raptors, fawns, skunks, coyotes, even bear...this is baby season!

With wildlife and humans merging closer together each year, phone calls to Northeast Washington Wildlife Rescue increase as well-meaning citizens attempt to lend a hand to Mother Nature. But this is a friendly reminder to maintain a strict "hands-off" policy when it comes to wildlife. There are times when we must step in and rescue an orphaned animal or raptor, but 90% of the time the mother is simply staying out of sight and we strongly suggest that you do not interfere. If you have positive proof that the mother of a suspected orphan is indeed dead then call your local game department or us first.

If you find a fledgling songbird in your yard, try placing it back in the nest. If you cannot find the nest, but you know the parents are nearby then place the bird in a small box or strawberry basket as high in a tree as you can safely reach. Our organization does not rehabilitate songbirds so if you rescue one you may call us for feeding and care instructions, but you will have taken on the responsibility of caring for the young bird until it can be safely released.

If you find a fawn that you suspect is orphaned, call us! Please don't pick it up. More often than not the mother is somewhere nearby. She will leave her fawn for hours at a time, often only returning to feed and tend to it at night or when she knows no one is around. Don't assume it's orphaned just because it's been in the same place for six hours. It's normal for a doe to leave her fawn for extended periods of time.

Baby animals do not do well in captivity. Fawns will often go into shock when "rescued", and this alone will kill them even when they've suffered no other injury. If they survive, they often need to be euthanized as adults if their behavior turns aggressive after well meaning citizens hand feed them. If a fawn is to be released back to the wild it has to be fed and cared for under a strict regimen, as do all other species.

As for raptors or predator babies, you must call the authorities or Northeast Washington Wildlife Rescue immediately. Never attempt to capture or rescue a raptor or predator. They are dangerous and can inflict serious injury no matter how tiny and "cute" they are.



Feeding Fawns .. mother is nearby
Photograph submitted by Dani Bull

We take our jobs seriously here at Northeast Washington Wildlife Rescue. We are not making pets out of wild animals or raptors. We follow strict guidelines and often must make very difficult choices to rescue or euthanize animals or raptors, but we are here to help do what we can to get wild animals and raptors back to their natural environment whenever we possibly can. This may mean feeding and caring for an animal for a few days, or it might require a six month regimen of feeding and exercise before a release is possible. Help us, and more importantly help the animals, by calling first! You can reach us at 509-738-2760 or 509-684-2102 or 509-675-2760. If you cannot reach us and you have an emergency situation please don't hesitate to call your local game department. Thank you for caring for wildlife!

Kettle Falls Focus: Business of the Year - Family Support Center Bestows Honor

by Susan Urhausen

The Family Support Center in Colville recognized the Kettle Falls Focus as its 'Business of the Year' for 2010. One of several such awards they bestow each year, this award is granted to a business that has made a key contribution towards generating awareness of abuse. The award was presented on April 15th over a friendly cup of coffee at Little Gallea Restaurant.

To say that this award took us all by surprise could be the understatement of the century. The staff of the Family Support Center was not forthcoming about the reason for a requested meeting. When Peggy Mandin was contacted about gathering the staff, she naturally asked why. They demurred, stating that it was a surprise. It

served to pique our curiosity, but in all the scenarios we could come up with as to why they wanted to meet with the staff, an award was never mentioned.

Regular readers will recall that in April 2010, a centerspread was dedicated to the subject of abuse; signs, where to find help, how best to help a friend or loved one, statistics and more. The idea for this undertaking was Peggy's. In her background with social work, the subject was near and dear to her heart, and she had some specific plans as to how she wanted her article to look. The second half of the success of that article was the artistic vision of David Bull. Peggy had only to share her idea, and David ran with it, creating a visually attractive lay-out of text, pictures, images and statistics. My only contribution was to nod in agreement when Peggy stated she wanted to create two pages of information, and to help proof the article once it was done. Clearly, this award belongs primarily to them for their work in creating what they did. If they force me, though, I will share.

As each year progresses, so does this little paper that started out so humbly in March of 2008. We now count amongst our staff new contributors who we

think are award winners in their own right; Pat Elliot with Kettle Falls: Ya Gotta Love It!, DeLores Hall with What's Cook'n (this month's is great!), and Sue Richardson, our new Chief of Distribution. While these three weren't on staff a year ago, they share in the award nonetheless.

The picture of these awards is not large enough to enable readers to see what the Family Support Center wrote on the beautiful framed statement that they presented to us. Here is the text:

Family Support Center is pleased to recognize the KETTLE FALLS FOCUS As our Business of the Year 2010

Because of the Kettle Falls Focus, we have an excellent medium to share crucial information with the citizens of Stevens County. Through your small but powerful staff, you graciously help us "get the word out" about issues that affect so many of our local residents: domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and so many other crimes. Partnerships are especially vital in rural communities, and we value the one we share with you. It is always a pleasure when our Family Support Center staff has the opportunity to collaborate with one of your fine professionals. You are a valued resource to our local residents and we truly appreciate you...our friends at the

**Kettle Falls Focus
Thank you for all you do!**

In addition to the framed statement, we were presented with a replica of a Royal typewriter. A card that was included with the typewriter award is by author David McCullough who writes all his books on his secondhand Royal that he bought in 1965. The card tells all about his relationship with his typewriter. The replica has an inscribed plate that states "Family Support Center Business of the Year".

We have not decided yet where to keep our awards. The Kettle Falls Focus does not have an office as such, but several ideas have been discussed. We do hope to have it displayed prominently for viewing by the town that inspired us to start the Kettle Falls Focus and continue on with it now for three years. It belongs to all of you as well. When it finds a home, we will be sure to let you know.

Humbly, graciously and gratefully, the staff of the Kettle Falls Focus wishes to thank the Family Support Center for giving us an overwhelming moment in our life. It is impossible, even for us, to express in words what this award means.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Standing left to right Mary Page of the Family Support Center, DeLores Hall and Sue Richardson of the Kettle Falls Focus. Seated left to right Peggy Mandin and Susan Urhausen of the Focus.