



CARLOS' CELEBRATES SEVENTH - To celebrate its seventh anniversary, Carlos' Mexican & Seafood Restaurante brought a four-person Mariachi group from Michoacan, Mexico. The musicians played throughout the lounge and restaurant with enthusiastic response from customers. The special event was also a prelude to Cinco de Mayo.



LORNA BYRNE TOP STUDENTS - Students of the month for April were honored at Lorna Byrne Middle School by many, including principal Peter Maluk (top left). Selected for their accomplishments: (middle from left) eighth-graders Robert Roth and Tahisha Buck; (bottom from left) sixth-grader Sara Austin, and seventh-graders Sabrina Miller and William Maher. Sixth-grader Chris Nolan was unavailable for the photo. (Photo by Sam Newton)

I.V. Arts Council reviews, plans events

When the Illinois Valley Arts Council had its monthly meeting at the I.V. Family Resource Center on March 26, many interesting items were discussed and planned.

The group pledges, "To foster creativity and encourage the arts in the Illinois River Valley." They have undertaken many projects. One is the annual River Celebration called "Hathapasuta," which refers to a "family gathering at the river," a diverse community activity which includes such attractions as the Natural History and Environmental Education Village, live music, artists' displays and demonstrations, a Solstice Parade with giant puppets and many other activities for children and adults. The activity is held at the Forks River off of Redwood Hwy., just South of Cave Junction.

This year it will be held on June 21.

An Art Walk grant application was approved by a CRT committee. There was also a donation to the Art

Walk by Dr. Kathy Mechling of Selma, to fund the library. The library declined the offer because of a policy enacted by the county library association that there would be no art in the libraries "due to budget constraints." Because of this policy, the "Through the Eyes of Children" mural had to be removed from the I.V. branch. A letter was to be sent to the Josephine County library board urging them to reconsider their policy, as there would be no expense to the library.

Other items covered were: A student from IVHS asked for help with ideas for decorations for the 2003 Prom. Thom Legay showed a poster announcing an artistic gathering for artists to be held at Half Moon Rose.

Ginger Casto of the Arts Council of Southern Oregon reported on further favorable activity regarding the "Through the Children's Eyes" projects. Also mentioned was the "Artists in the Schools" project grants devel-

opment. She is in need of more artists to participate in the salaried program that would like to see more I.V. artists apply. She also reported on the partnering of the Arts Council of Southern Oregon and the Goodwill, who will donate all art supplies given to them to nonprofit organizations for art experiences.

Phone 541-779-2820 for more info.

Al Devine reported on the work being done in front of Evergreen Federal Bank in Cave Junction, sharing a picture of the proposed finished project which will include two life-size bears and a large water feature.

Devine also discussed the Art Along the Rogue Festival to be held in October. It will include chalk art, fine art, and the selection of the art print to be used for fund-raising in 2004.

Roger Brandt talked about community days at the Oregon Caves that will include an open house, free tours, and artist demonstrations June 20.

Farmers Expanding Operations

As Farmers Insurance Group celebrates 75 years in business it is also expanding the agency ownership program in rural areas due to continued favorable profit margins. Typically, the rural communities support the metro area when it comes to profit. "This is one of the major reasons why rates in rural areas have stayed below inflation and why increases in these areas are much less than those taken by policyholders living in the larger metropolitan areas," notes Craig Christianson, District Manager in Roseburg, Oregon. Competitive rates allow Farmers Insurance Group to grow their markets in the rural area, which is especially appealing in the current economic conditions. In return this should help offset and minimize the price fluctuations. "The new Business-Ownership program," Christianson states, "is especially appealing in the current economic conditions. In return this should help offset and minimize the price fluctuations. "The new Business-Ownership program," Christianson states, "is extremely appealing for someone wanting to own their own business and be in control of their own destiny." Besides having one of the largest product lines in the industry, Farmers has also expanded into Financial Services. Three years ago no one had heard of Farmers Financial Solutions and today they are one of the top 10 largest broker/dealers firms in the United States. For more information about Farmers new Business-Ownership opportunity visit www.farmersinsuranceagent.com or phone Craig at (541) 464-8224.

RVMC sets rebuilding plan

A new campaign is about to begin to rebuild Rogue Valley Medical Center (RVMC) in Medford.

The hospital has grown into a regional medical hub, providing close-to-home care for more than a half-million people who live in Southwestern Oregon and Northern California.

Fewer than 5 percent of people from Josephine and Jackson counties have to leave the area for healthcare, RVMC said. RVMC's cardiac program has been named one of the top 100 in the country -- the only hospital on the West Coast to have done so for three consecutive years.

However, the facility needs more space and patient beds. Therefore, dramatic expansion and rebuild of RVMC is needed, and will include:

*A new emergency de-

partment.

*An Integrated Diagnostic Center on one floor.

*A four-story bed tower for efficient, private, family-centered care.

The project cost of \$118 million will come from three sources -- \$90 million is funded through bond debt, \$10 million through donations, and the balance through operations.

Donations are an essential component of the funding mix, without which the full project cannot be completed as planned and needed, said RMVC.

On Saturday, May 3, during a celebration at the Voorhies Mansion, RVMC publicly launched its \$10 million fund-raising campaign: "Building on Our Promise." More than \$5 million has already been given.

Support the advertisers in the 'I.V. Noose'

The four cornerstones of character on which the structure of this nation was built are:

Initiative, Imagination, Individuality and Independence.

- Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker -

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Mom's Garden Fence

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Very Cute, but we need a garden fence.

To **Do it Best**

I would start with a Post Hole Digger.

Remember to Call, if you have Questions.

To be Continued next week

434 Caves Highway, 592-3540

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Sat. May 17th

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for our Annual "Down by the Riverside" Enhancement, Clean-Up & Appreciation Day at the **THE ILLINOIS RIVER FORKS STATE PARK**

This year we have added Grayback, Caves Creek and Chinqapin campgrounds to our enhancement sites.

*** 9:00AM-1:00PM**
Bring your cordless drill and favorite hammer to help repair signs and posts at campgrounds.

*** 1:00PM-2:00PM**
Join your friends and neighbors for a potluck picnic.

*** 2:00PM-3:30PM**
Enjoy music and a good time sharing your day.

*** Contact: Audrey Moore @ Rising Suns 597-2470 or gifts@cavenet.com**

Don't forget we will meet at the Forks State Park at 9:00AM. Bring something to sit on, your own table service and a favorite dish. Hot dogs & drinks will be provided.

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