

## Here, There & Everywhere

**FAIRCHILD FAME** - 'I.V. News' reporter Steve Fairchild won third place at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association contest for a sports story he wrote on a blind youth soccer coach while working for the Grants Pass "Daily Courier."

**FOOTBALL HAUL** - A fund-raiser is under way to help support the Illinois Valley High School varsity football program, plus the freshmen and JV program there; and the program at Lorna Byrne Middle School. Approximately \$4,000 is needed by the middle of August. As part of the fund-raiser, businesses can exclusively sponsor a quarter of the coming season's five home football games for \$150 each; or share them with other businesses for a total of \$100 per quarter. Sponsors will be announced on the P.A. system, and can be included in the game programs. For more information, phone Jannie Heller of the CJ Football Club at 597-2060; or at Evergreen Elementary from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Aug. 7 at 592-3136.

**ATTRACTION FACTION** - I.V. Chamber of Commerce is considering a request to place a special phone number on the two chamber "Welcome" signs at opposite ends of the valley, if a tourism information phone plan is realized. George Fence of I.V. Community Response Team outlined the idea during the chamber board meeting on Thursday, July 17 at Wild River Brewing & Pizza. Fence said that CRT is working with the phone company to have a special number that tourists could phone for information about lodging, food and other attractions. With the number of cell phones continuing to rise, it seems a logical plan, he said.

**ENLIGHTENING EVENING** - Ram Dass will appear at Central Point High School gym, 4410 Rogue Valley Blvd., for an evening of music and kirtan chanting on Saturday, August 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. There is a fee. For tickets, phone (541) 734-8581.

**TRACKING TALENT** - A talent show will again be part of the I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival this year. Amateurs of all ages are encouraged to participate in the event on Sunday, Aug. 31 and Monday, Sept. 1 in Jubilee Park. Prizes and cash awards will be presented to winners. Entries are due on Thursday, Aug. 28. Late entries will not be accepted. Phone Donna at 596-2719 for more information.

**LIP SERVICE** - Festivities at the 2003 I.V. Lions Club Labor Day celebration will include a karaoke contest on Saturday, Aug. 30 in Jubilee Park. Trophies will be awarded to winners. Phone 596-2719 for more information.

**HORSING AROUND** - The 2003 I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival horseshoe tournament will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30. To sign up and for more information, phone 596-2719.

**NOTEPAD:** A golf tourney in September is being planned by I.V. Chamber of Commerce to help raise operating funds. Vicki Gill is leading the plans for the event at I.V. Golf Course, with businesses sponsoring teams...**I.V. Community Response Team** is hopeful that its plan to be the concessionaire at Oregon Caves National Monument for the next 10 years will be approved. An answer is anticipated sometime during August, and it would help provide stable funding for CRT and its valley community efforts...**Oregon Dept. of Forestry** announced that chainsaw use is now prohibited from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Letters ...

(Continued from page 2)

There is no way the library could absorb a 25 percent budget cut without significant operations changes.

Perhaps it is because the library is so skilled at making do with so little, that few realize how tightly budgeted library operations are.

Long before the levy vote, the library budget has been very "lean," without any "fat" to cut. Oregon labor laws and the union contract also affect how reductions may be handled.

The only way to get a balanced budget was to make major service changes. The staff managers and I developed a core services proposal, concentrating on books, online catalog/SOLIS, children's services and reference assistance.

The library board discussed it extensively. They approved it because they agreed it provided the best service for the dollars available. Then the Josephine County Board of Commissioners reviewed it and confirmed the library board's recommendation as practical and effective.

Interestingly, while the reduced hours are undoubtedly less convenient for some, people are getting to the library. For June 2003, checkouts were actually up slightly, to almost 45,000 items, even though the hours were reduced 22 percent from a year ago.

This proves our point that it is more important to do core services well than to do many things poorly. In the meantime, the library board is studying financial options, looking for ways to stabilize funding and to restore hours and other reduced services.

Mr. Long takes issue with mine and our library managers' salaries. I do not think there is anything I can say that would change his mind about our worth. I can refute his erroneous claim about myself, because I clearly stated I was taking a 10 percent cut along with my managers, and I am.

A letter can be only a brief review of this complex issue. Please, anyone with questions contact me. If you like, send me a note by dropping it off at the Illinois Valley branch.

### Vacancy to be filled on JoCo library board

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications from volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees.

The deadline for accepting applications to the board is Friday, Aug. 1.

For more information phone the board's office at (541) 474-5221.

### Positions open on EMS Board

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the Emergency Medical Services Board.

The deadline for accepting applications is Aug. 15.

Applications are available in the board's office, Room 154, Josephine County Courthouse, Grants Pass. Phone (541) 474-5221 for more info.



**AMERICAN LEGION FACELIFT-** American Legion Post 70 recently received a long overdue makeover thanks to some very ambitious American Legion members including Dan Warden (photo above). Along with a new paint job, the post parking lot and yard were graveled. The entire renovation project took approximately two weeks. (Photos contributed by Dan Warden)

### Correction

A 'Clubs and Organizations' entry in the July 9 issue of the 'News' for the area American Legion Auxiliary was incorrectly placed under the heading of American Legion Post 70.

You're invited  
To a  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rock Concert**  
featuring  
**Rock Robin and The Toasters**  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 p.m.

"Out 'N' About" Treesort  
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- MIKE JOHNSON, P.T.
- JEFF WOOD, M.S., P.T.

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