

Here, There & Everywhere

REWARDING RAFFLE - Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance is holding its annual fund-raiser drawing, and tickets are available at several locations around the valley until Oct. 23. They include Cabin Chemistry, Book Exchange and The Boarding House Reach. Prizes include a free computer upgrade, certificates for coffee, food, lodging and more.

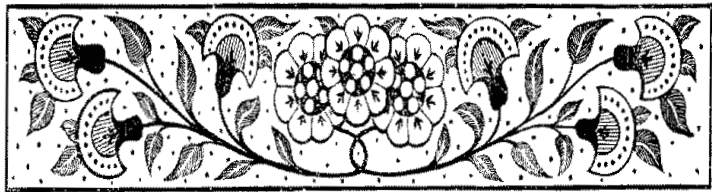
FIRE WALK - On Sunday, Sept. 21 the Siskiyou Project will sponsor a free tour of different areas within the area burned in the Biscuit Fire. Naturalist Romain Cooper will lead the tour, which will include periodic stops and short walks to view how the fire affected the landscape. Hikers need to bring lunch, drinking water, wear good walking shoes and are to meet at the Illinois Valley Visitor Center at 9 a.m. The tour is scheduled to last until 3 p.m. Phone 592-4459 for more information.

SAVE A LIFE - American Red Cross Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services will hold an I.V. blood drive at I.V. Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 25 from 1 to 6 p.m. To schedule a donation, phone (800) 826-5920.

MIXED MEDIA - An exhibit, "Art Along the Rogue," will be on display Oct. 1 through Nov. 1 at the Rogue Community College FireHouse Gallery in Grants Pass on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The juried exhibit features work by 11 area artists that focuses on the Rogue River. A First Friday Art Night reception and street painting demonstration will be held on Oct. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.

ROGUE REVEL - The city of Grants Pass will hold the first Art Along the Rogue art and musical festival on Oct. 3-5. Featured in the musical portion of the event on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center, on the GP High School campus, will be Grammy-nominated performers Peter Rowan and Don Edwards, and Laurie Lewis. For ticket and other information, phone (541) 476-5510.

NOTEPAD: Josephine County Public Health Dept., Public Health Division has been awarded a one-year grant from the Greater Oregon Chapter of March of Dimes to increase the availability of services and health education to pregnant women. Through development and implementation of a maternity case coordination program, the dept. will provide information and services to area women. For more information, phone (541) 474-5331...**Two Cave Junction** residents in their seventh decades of life had a Good Samaritan episode recently. They were leaving I.V. Building Supply, and their plywood and lumber fell from their pickup truck bed onto Caves Hwy. A battered pickup truck with two men stopped, and they quickly and with good humor put the dumped load back into the couple's pickup truck. They are extremely grateful to the two Good Samaritans, noting that, "You can't tell a book from its cover"...**During the weekend** a CJ resident was at a Grants Pass store picking up items not available in Cave Junction. He needed to phone an employee in Selma for more information about a particular item, but misdialed. However, the resident he reached was happy to look up the employee's number, showing once again that there are a lot of nice people out there.





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Women's financial freedom goal of IVSHA project

By **BRITT FAIRCHILD**
Staff Writer

Illinois Valley women involved in a new project are hopeful it will help them earn a livable wage by establishing their own businesses or forming one together.

I.V. Safe House Alliance (IVSHA), through a partnership with Southern Oregon Women's Access to Credit (SOWAC), is providing its Self-Sufficiency Program to help area women identify and overcome employment obstacles toward becoming financially independent.

Such stability, said IVSHA Executive Director Chris Mallette, is especially critical for survivors of domestic violence. They often remain in, or return to, abusive relationships because they can't afford to support themselves and their children on their own.

"Women (in the valley) need to be able to earn enough money to be able to have their own homes (and care for their children)," Mallette said.

Around a dozen women attended the first program workshop on Sept. 4 at I.V. Family Resource Center.

In introducing themselves, most of the women said they came because they wanted to learn more job skills and how to become self-sufficient.

Several noted they were interested in starting their own businesses. Others said they wanted to be on the "Dream Team" to work with IVSHA and SOWAC management, IVSHA advocates, business skills trainers and other women to establish a cottage industry.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," said Gail Stone, IVSHA self-sufficiency advocate. She noted that the initial meeting was mainly to brainstorm ideas on what types of ventures would best serve the valley, as well as to discuss the women's "dream" businesses.

"The hope is it will provide more economic opportunity," she said.

The idea for a cottage industry evolved during an IVSHA board meeting in December 2000.

"We realized it was going to take a lot more than a two-week stay at a safe house (to get women on their feet)," Mallette said.

Conversations then developed between Mallette and SOWAC Executive Director Helen Wallace, and the two eventually decided to partner to further IVSHA's long-term dream for I.V. women.

"There's nothing like

this going on in our county," Wallace said of the Self-Sufficiency Program.

She added that it has the potential to become a model for other similar organizations to emulate.

The women who become part of the Dream Team, as well as those who want to open their own businesses, will have access to much of the business training and other services SOWAC offers at no charge.

Wallace, counselor and instructor Ruthie Painter, and other SOWAC individuals are volunteering their time, expertise and services to those in-

volved in the program.

"I feel good about it," said Chandra Williams, who attended the meeting. A domestic violence survivor who has lived in the valley since 1994, Williams said she was excited, curious, and somewhat relieved, when she read about the possibility of earning a livable wage.

Currently unemployed and studying nursing at Rogue Community College (RCC), the mother of two adult children and a young son (all live in I.V.) said she was concerned she might have to commute to Grants Pass or farther for employment.

"I thought I should

explore all of the possibilities," she said about the program.

During the second half of the Sept. 4 meeting, Williams, who has a medical office assistant certificate from RCC, said she met with the other women interested in identifying a cottage industry.

One idea that was discussed, she said, was a "skills bank" where all the women involved could put their skills and talents together to offer such services as child-care, adult-care, a taxi service and others.

But, she said, the

(Continued on page 4)

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