

Established 1937

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, November 26, 2003, 4 Sections, 45 Pages, Volume 66 No. 36 Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

Single Copy 50-cents

'Home For the Holidays'

I.V. soldier returns home from Iraq See page 7

Service clubs prepare for holiday season of giving

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 27 from noon to 2 p.m., dozens of valley volunteers will forgo their "family festivities" to serve a complete home-cooked Thanksgiving meal in the Jubilee Park pavilion in CJ to those in need.

The meal will consist of turkey, ham, candied yams, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, rolls, butter, coffee, punch and pies.

It's an annual tradition dished up in the valley for years by the Cave Junction Cares Program.

The program began with six volunteers who saw a need to help feed families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Since then it has mushroomed into one of the largest volunteer events in the valley.

In its first year of service in 1989 CJ Cares served approximately 50 people. This year between 250 and 300 people will be served hot meals with the help of volunteers and area businesses.

Lynn Boucher, coordinator of Cave Junction Cares Program, "gives up" her family holiday meals to help make sure people in need are fed. It's something she transplanted to the valley when she moved from California.

"It's open to everybody," Boucher said of the Thanksgiving dinner.

"Business owners come and they sit with the people that don't have as much. If you don't have anybody to share the day with please spend it with us."

Boucher encourages her volunteers to help serve the all-you-can-eat meals and then to sit with the people being served and make them feel comfortable.

Volunteers are always needed. CJ Cares can be contacted at 592-6855.

Once Thanksgiving dinner is served, CJ Cares will prepare for its annual Christmas Meal. That event will include two Santa Clauses, one to give toys during dinner and one to deliver toys to those in need, including the elderly, who are homebound.

Other programs are also trying to make sure that everyone in the valley has a good Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas.

Bear Images offered 47 free turkeys to those in need this year. Anyone in need of the main dish was able to pick one up at Bear Images.

As Christmas approaches barrels will be placed around town to collect non-perishable food items, and baskets will be placed at area businesses to collect toys for the annual Illinois Valley Christmas Basket and Toy Give-

(Continued on page 8)



Turkeys 'not dumb,' but tasty

The American turkey is probably never more popular than during the Thanksgiving holiday.

During the rest of the year this much-maligned bird doesn't get a shred of respect.

Why? Turkeys may be the top choice for the holiday feast, but the live birds don't have much of a reputation for smarts. The result -- the turkey has become synonymous with dumb.

Tom Savage, a poultry scientist in the Oregon State University (OSU) Animal Sciences Dept., is tired of all the ridicule turkeys have had to endure. A nationally known poultry geneticist, Savage has studied turkeys, chickens and other birds throughout his 30-year career and has conducted numerous studies on ways to improve turkey production and meat quality.

The researcher has spent a lot of time with turkeys, the winged kind, and feels strongly that the use of the turkey as a metaphor for stupidity is unfair and inaccurate.

"I've always viewed turkeys as smart animals with personality and character, and keen awareness of their surroundings," said Savage. "The dumb tag simply doesn't fit."

Backing up his claim, Savage referred to a story about how turkeys are so stupid that they sometimes look up at clouds overhead while it's raining and keep staring skyward until they drown.

Although he has never heard of this actually happening, Savage noted that some turkeys do cock their heads back, stare up at the sky and hold that position for up to a minute or more.

But the behavior is a genetically caused nervous disorder called tetani toticollar spasms, he said. Savage studied and identified the condition in the early 1990s.

"It's an example of how misunderstood animal behavior becomes identified as proof that the animal is extremely lacking in intelligence," Savage said.

He admits that some of the turkey's unique characteristics probably do en-

courage people to think turkeys are stupid.

For example, domestic turkeys tend to look awkward, particularly when they are running. Savage counters that this is because they have been bred to be heavy, meaty birds, much larger than their sleeker wild cousins. Also, domestic turkeys often run and flap their wings, trying to fly but failing to get airborne because they are simply too massive to get off the ground.

People who observe this behavior may conclude that the turkey is too dumb to realize that it is capable of flight.

Savage responds that wild turkeys are very good fliers so it's not unusual that domesticated turkeys instinctively try to fly.

A realist, Savage acknowledges that improving the turkey's reputation for intelligence is an uphill battle. Just the same, he insists on doing what he can do to debunk the myth of the dumb turkey.

"I'm an advocate for turkeys," he said, "except on Thanksgiving."

Turkey time calendar lists various closures

Various businesses and organizations will observe special days off for the Thanksgiving holiday.

As this week's issue of "Illinois Valley News" was published a day earlier than usual, the office will be open until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, and closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving. The office will be open for business from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with regular deadlines on Friday the 28th.

SOFCU in Cave Junction will be closed Thursday and Friday, as will public schools and the DMV office in CJ. Cave Junction City Hall also will be closed both days.

Klamath First Bank, Home Valley Bank and Evergreen Federal Bank will be closed the 27th, but open Friday, as will post

offices and the U.S. Forest Service's I.V. Ranger District office.

Most stores will be closed for Thanksgiving, although Shop Smart Food Warehouse will be open until 2 p.m.; then open all day Friday.

Some valley consumer sites will feature Thanksgiving meals.

Those that have advised the "Noose" they'll be open are Stevereno's Family Restaurant, Almost Heaven Resort, Junction Inn, Z Coffee, and Art's Red Garter Steakhouse & Saloon. Dave's Perfect Pizza and Taylor's Sausage Country Store, as well as Shop Smart, are offering pre-Thanksgiving specials. Foris Vineyards will conduct an open house on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28-29.

LBMS sex education fears seem resolved

Three Rivers School District board hears parents, pastors

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Some parents feel that the seventh- and eighth-graders who participated separately in sex education classes at Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) learned "a little too much too soon."

Several Illinois Valley pastors and parents addressed Three Rivers School District (TRSD) Board members regarding the matter during their regular meeting in the LBMS library on Wednesday night, Nov. 19.

Their concerns however, didn't overshadow the course of the meeting, nor the feeling of overall pride in the new school among those in attendance.

An official dedication of the new school was held prior to the meeting. For many of the parents and other community members who came it was an opportunity to tour the school for the first time.

"This is a wonderful facility, isn't it?" Bridge-

view Community Church Pastor Charles Bridges asked the audience at the meeting.

Most of the dozen or so in attendance nodded or voiced their agreements.

Bridges was the first to speak during a public comment period. He told the board that a meeting he and other area pastors attended with LBMS Principal Peter Maluk was a good step toward perhaps reworking the current program so that it still followed state educational guidelines, but presented material in a more "age-appropriate" manner.

Questions were raised among various parents and others in the community when they began hearing stories from their children, and other students and adults, about what was being taught in class.

"We understand it's a hard issue for the school board and educators," Bridges said. "I'm not here to denigrate that. We would like to work with

the school board and the schools."

TRSD Superintendent Dr. Dave Burgess and board Chairman Dave

Toler, likewise noted their interest in working with the pastors and parents on ways to better inform them

(Continued on page 8)



BRICK LEGACY -- Lorna Byrne Middle School students (from left) McKenzie Yeoman, Raesha Yeoman, Kelcie Yeoman and Steven Paul sold bricks from the old LBMS building Wednesday, Nov. 19 to raise funds for school activities. The engraved bricks are engraved with the name of the buyer and the school year he or she attended. See 'Here, There & Everywhere' for more details. (Photo by Britt Fairchild)

Toll-free phoning proposed

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Imagine telephoning a Grants Pass or Glendale number without paying long-distance charges.

Sound good?

Members of an area citizens advisory task force -- with one member being Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) Executive Director George Fence -- think so.

For more than a year the task force has worked with the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) and various phone companies to establish a toll-free calling zone connecting Josephine and Jackson counties, as well as Glendale in Douglas County.

The plan is anticipated to reduce phone-bill costs, for customers who regularly make calls outside of their current toll-free zones, by eliminating the per-minute charges.

Establishing an extended area of service (EAS) also means that dialing 1-541 before the phone numbers in areas included in the zone would be eliminated.

However, the implementation of a regional calling area would change the standard rate charged by phone companies; that rate will vary depending on how many customers are within each exchange, or local calling area.

"Residents need to be careful (when deciding to join or not join the EAS)," said Emily Ring, IVCRT outreach coordinator.

To help educate resi-

(Continued on page 8)

Because of Thanksgiving the 'Illinois Valley Noose' office will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 28. Enjoy the holiday!