

Service clubs prepare

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away, which has just kicked into high gear.

The Josephine County Christmas Basket Program assists people in need by providing food baskets for Christmas dinner.

"Last year we served 563 families, and we anticipate helping more than 600 this year because of the growing numbers of families in need in the Illinois Valley," said project organizer Celia Siemer.

Siemer said the program needs donations and volunteers as she has maximized the program this year by eliminating overhead to make every penny count.

"We try to honor all requests," said Siemer. "We've even had a request to help an applicant's dog. A volunteer bought him a 40-pound bag of dog food. This program really brings the spirit of Christmas alive."

The toy program gives parents an opportunity to pick out specific toys to take home, wrap and put under the tree for Christmas morning.

"The participating parents often tell us that they don't know how they are going to pull off Christmas," she said. "This program gives them a chance to have a really positive family Christmas."

On Dec. 20, the entire Illinois Valley Resource Center will be turned into a Santa's workshop with distribution of toys, Christmas baskets, clothing, cookies and punch.

"This year we are pretty concerned because donations are running behind and we want to help all families in need," Siemer said.

All donations of toys and food go directly to Illinois Valley residents, she said.

Contributions can be sent and checks can be made payable to the Illinois Valley Christmas Basket and Toy Program in care of Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., Cave Junction, OR 97523. For pick-up arrangements phone 592-4149, Ext. 232.

The Illinois Valley Bikers will hold its 21st annual Toy Run on Saturday, Dec. 6 from noon to midnight at the Junction Inn Timber Room Lounge.

"Broadway Phil and the Shouters" will be on hand to perform.

Other activities will include a raffle, auction and poker run. Proceeds will be used to buy toys for needy Illinois Valley children.

I.V. Bikers also would welcome donations.

Toll-free ..

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dents about the no-toll zone -- but not advocating for or against it -- IVCRT recently mailed pamphlets describing the proposed plan to postal patrons.

Perhaps the best way for phone customers to learn about the EAS, have their questions answered and state their opinions, Ring said, is to attend a public comment hearing on the matter.

An informational open house is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. Other public meetings are planned in Grants Pass, Medford, Wolf Creek, Shady Cove, Applegate and Eagle Point.

"It's a chance for people to put in their 2-cents," Ring said of the meetings.

She encouraged residents to be proactive and review their phone bills to see how much they currently pay each month in toll charges to those specific areas so they can make an informed decision.

Those in each exchange -- 18 exchanges are in the proposed calling region -- decide as a group, and not individuals, on whether to opt in or opt out of the EAS, Ring said.

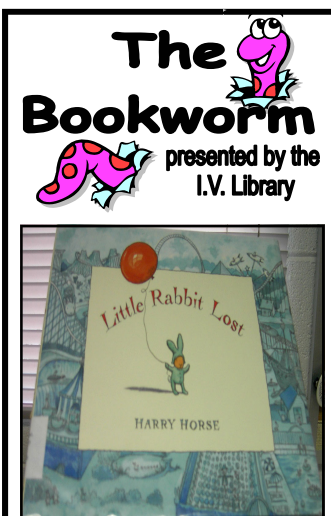
She stressed that if an exchange decides not to be part of the EAS, then an individual in that area can't decide to join after the fact.

"If our area chooses to opt out we've lost our chance to access this," Ring said.

An exchange that wishes to join the region after it is formed must go through an involved petition process to establish a "community of interest" with the region, as is stated in the information IVCRT mailed.

At the conclusion of the public meetings, OPUC will complete the final no-toll zone boundaries. Implementation is proposed for October 2004.

For more information about the new Southern Oregon Local Calling Region contact IVCRT or visit the www.notoll.org Web site.



'Little Rabbit Lost'
Author: Harry Horse
Ages: 3 to 6 years
It's 'Little Rabbit's' birthday and he's in a hurry to be grown-up. On a trip to Rabbit World, he realizes he's still a little rabbit and that's just fine with him.

This book presented by Senior Library Specialist Jennifer Berubee and available at the I.V. Library. Phone 592-3581 for more information. (Public service announcement)



TALKING SHOP -- Lorna Byrne Middle School Principal Peter Maluk talks with some of the guests who attended the dedication of the new school on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Informal tours were given of the state-of-the-art building.

LBMS sex education fears ...

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of what students would be learning as well as looking at other usable materials.

Burgess also informed those concerned of a district policy that allows for educational materials to be challenged with a letter to the board.

Board member Bill Bonville added that some of the concern could have stemmed from the fact that the health educators were not from the school, but from Siskiyou Community Health Center.

One mother of a Fleming Middle School student stated that it "was morally wrong" to teach any form of sex education in school and that it should be left up to parents to discuss with their children.

Maluk noted that in the

number of years he has been at the school, this is the first time he has received any complaints about the program.

In other business, the board was notified that save for some painting and other minor work, the LBMS construction project is extremely close to completion.

It also decided to table until the December meeting, so they could seek additional information, a vote on a plan to issue bonds to pay its PERS Unfunded Actuarial Liability. Which based on the original 2001 valuation, according to Business Manager Kathy Krouse, is estimated to be more than \$47,500 as of March 2004.


A decision to participate in the program offered

by Oregon School Boards Association and Seattle Northwest Securities is required by Dec. 18, Krouse told the board.

The process would provide the district the possibility of reducing its overall unfunded liability cost over the next 26 years.

However, there was some discussion among board members about a fluctuating stock market and how it would affect their funds.

Directors' concerns were about the market not performing above a certain percentage rate. And the related administrative and other fees they would be required to pay for participating in the program, and also that the district would not be able to use the bond money for other purposes.



**Art's
Red Garter
Steakhouse
& Saloon**

124 S. Redwood Hwy.
592-2892

**Open 5 to 9 p.m.
Restaurant parking in rear**

**TAYLOR'S
Sausages**

202 S.
Redwood Hwy.
592-5358

COUNTRY STORE

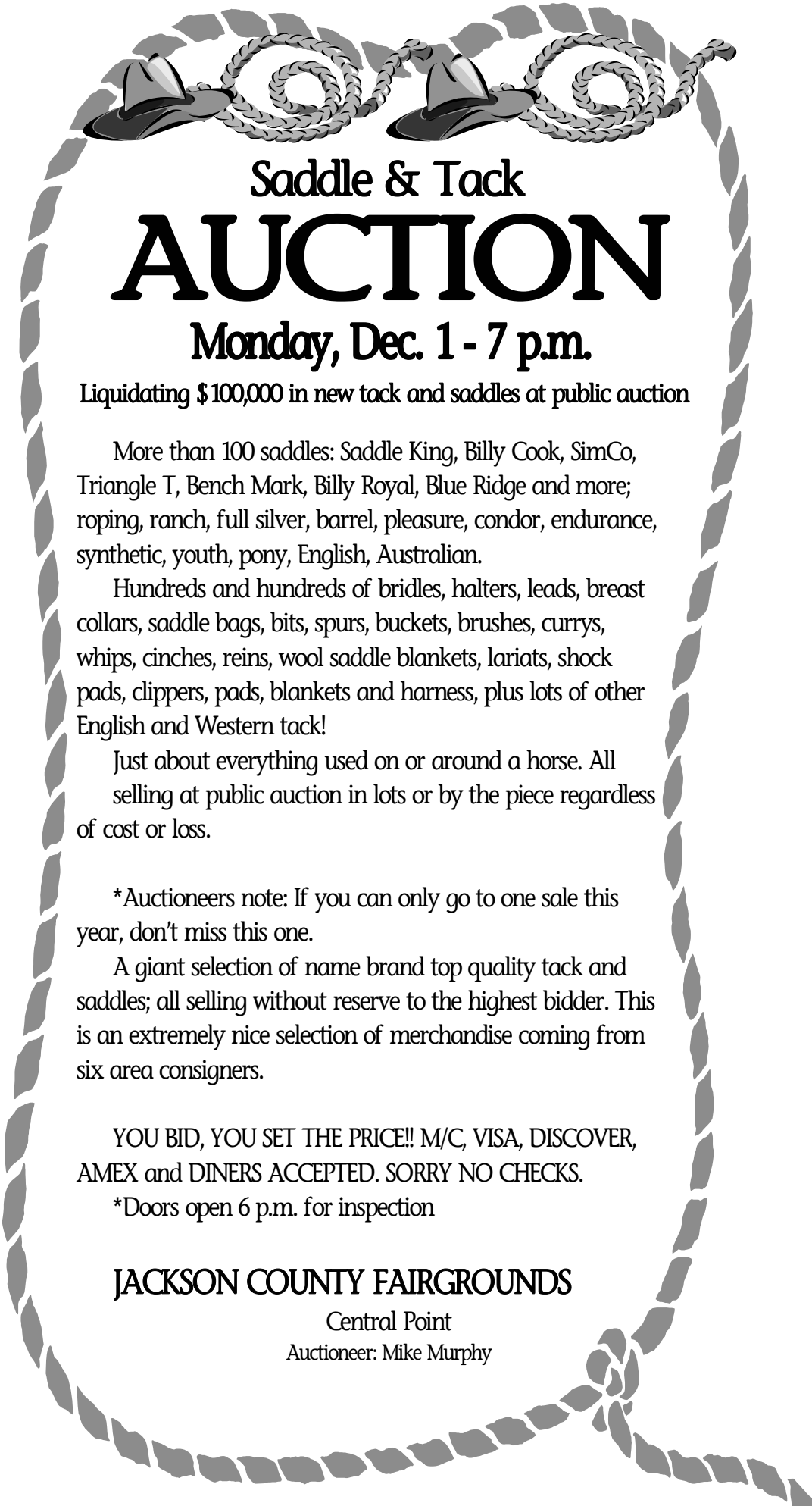
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Taylor's will be closed on Thanksgiving but will be open on Friday, Nov. 28 while we decorate for Christmas

Tired of Thanksgiving turkey? Try
Taylor's Italian Links
*Sweet
*Hot (with garlic & anise)
*Swiss (mild with oregano, basil and onion)
\$2.29 per lb.

Events
*Friday, Nov. 28 - Rest up after Thanksgiving and bring in your out-of-town guests

Libby Goines - Sings cool jazz
Dinner Special
Pork tenderloin with plum sauce
\$7.95
Friday, Dec. 12 - Last Art Walk until spring
B Wishes - Crankin' out her originals
Thai Satay Chicken and Sushi
Mondays thru Football Season
1/2 lb. barbecue burger with fries and salad - \$4.95
Draught pitchers - \$6
THURSDAYS - 6:30 p.m.
Open 'Mic' Night with Jake Thompson

Serving beer & wine ESPRESSO Open for breakfast 6:30 a.m.



**Saddle & Tack
AUCTION**

Monday, Dec. 1 - 7 p.m.

Liquidating \$100,000 in new tack and saddles at public auction

More than 100 saddles: Saddle King, Billy Cook, SimCo, Triangle T, Bench Mark, Billy Royal, Blue Ridge and more; roping, ranch, full silver, barrel, pleasure, condor, endurance, synthetic, youth, pony, English, Australian.

Hundreds and hundreds of bridles, halters, leads, breast collars, saddle bags, bits, spurs, buckets, brushes, currys, whips, cinches, reins, wool saddle blankets, lariats, shock pads, clippers, pads, blankets and harness, plus lots of other English and Western tack!

Just about everything used on or around a horse. All selling at public auction in lots or by the piece regardless of cost or loss.

*Auctioneers note: If you can only go to one sale this year, don't miss this one.

A giant selection of name brand top quality tack and saddles; all selling without reserve to the highest bidder. This is an extremely nice selection of merchandise coming from six area consigners.

YOU BID, YOU SET THE PRICE!! M/C, VISA, DISCOVER, AMEX and DINERS ACCEPTED. SORRY NO CHECKS.
*Doors open 6 p.m. for inspection

JACKSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Central Point
Auctioneer: Mike Murphy