



**FLAMES REMEMBERED** - It was announced that the Biscuit Fire was officially extinguished on Nov. 8, 2002. With the wet season upon us, we can be thankful that the valley escaped a repeat of the summer '02.

## Disabilities help to cement a friendship between men

By **DANIEL J. VANCE**

“He’s taught me more than I’ve taught him,” said Bob about his older and only brother Maurice. “Those people who’ve known him have been profoundly affected. Maurice is a loving, caring, happy, wonderful human being. I wish the world had more people like him.”

And if Maurice could, he’d likely say much the same of Bob. The two love each other.

“Bob” is 53-year-old Dr. Robert Pasternack, assistant secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Dept. of Education. He is the highest-ranking federal official specific to special education and rehabilitative services, sworn in during August 2001.

“Maurice” is brother Maurice Pasternack, 61. He was born with Down’s Syndrome, and now also has Alzheimer’s Disease and fractured hips. Bob has been Maurice’s legal guardian the last 20 years, since their parents died.

Now having to live near his work in Washington, D.C., Bob misses Maurice, and as much as possible he visits his New Mexico group home.

“When Maurice was born,” remembered Bob, of what his mother had said, “he had a duodenal obstruction. The doctor said the best thing would be not to operate, and to let him starve to death because he wasn’t going to amount to anything.”

But mother Lillian

had other ideas. Bob said, “Someone had placed a newspaper ad saying they had a retarded child and didn’t know what to do. If you are in the same situation, the ad said, come to my home.” So Lillian and 11 other women founded in a Brooklyn home a support group, the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

Like all Down’s Syndrome children then, Maurice immediately went to a state institution. Eventually, Syracuse professor Burton Blatt exposed that particular institution, Willowbrook, in his 1974 book “Christmas in Purgatory.”

“[The book] showed the nation that people with disabilities shouldn’t be abused, mistreated, warehoused, or put naked in the middle of a room to be hosed down,” said Bob. “This is how people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities were treated.”

Bob wishes his mother were alive to witness the positive change and services now available for disabled students and their families.

There has been a “significant investment” in parent training and information centers. “If Maurice had been born today, he would have been able to do so much more because of what we are blessed with in our country,” he said.

For more, visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) or [www.danieljvance.com](http://www.danieljvance.com).

## Abduction

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unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, reckless endangerment, and for a probation violation.

David Edward Anderson Jr., 33, was also arrested after being found in another stolen vehicle near the scene. He was charged with two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle and for a probation violation.

Deputies said the two men spent most of the evening and early morning of Nov. 31 and Dec. 1 burglarizing vehicles and homes in Josephine County. Other charges are pending following the completion of the investigation.

## Dam ...

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Grants Pass residents meet the court-approved deadline for installation of pumps, securing \$750,000 in funding during fiscal year 2002 and 2003 to study and design the pumping system.

The Wyden/Smith provision authorizes the secretary of the interior to “implement, and enter into financial assistance or other agreements as may be necessary to undertake such activities identified for implementation (including construction) generally in accordance with the consent decree.

It also authorized the appropriation of “such sums as may be necessary to carryout out this provision.”

The bill is no on President Bush’s desk.

This legislation is supported by the Grants Pass Irrigation District, Waterwatch, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Trout Unlimited, and a number of Oregon river guide and sport fishing concerns.

## Woman dies in truck vs. car accident

On Tuesday, Nov. 25 at approximately 7:35 a.m. a fatal motor vehicle crash occurred on Hwy. 199 near milepost 5 in Grants Pass.

The crash involved two vehicles and closed the highway for approximately two hours, according to Josephine County Sheriff’s Office.

Local traffic was routed through the alternate routes.

Frances R. Dalton, 41, of Grants Pass was operating a 1994 Mercury four-door sedan southbound on Midway Avenue.

As she crossed the intersection of Midway Avenue and Hwy. 199, her vehicle was struck by a westbound 1985 Kenworth truck that was operated by Lance C. Humphrey, 41, of Grants Pass, the sheriff’s office said.

Frances Dalton was transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital, where she died as a result of her injuries. Lance Humphrey was not injured.

A preliminary investigation indicates that Mrs. Dalton failed to obey a traffic control device.

Rural/Metro Fire Department, American Medical Response, Josephine County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon Department of Transportation all provided assistance at the scene.



## The Magical Musical Christmas Murals

**DOWNTOWN GRANTS PASS • 2003**

NOVEMBER 15TH - DECEMBER 31ST

**S**tarting the second week of November and running through the first of the new year, downtown Grants Pass will radiate with the fiberoptic dazzle of 18 gigantic Magical Musical Christmas Murals. The oversized Christmas murals include automatic sound systems to play the old-fashioned Christmas music we all loved as children. The murals are wired with miles of fiber optic cable and thousands of points of light.

And what lights! They flow and blink so that snow falls and accumulates, bells ring back and forth, gifts collect under the tree. Each mural takes 20 to 30 seconds to tell its “story.”

The whole idea is to bring back that old fashioned, small town, magical Christmas feeling. Browse at antique and specialty shops, listen to music, tour the art galleries, have a great cup of coffee, sip wine, or enjoy a restaurant meal—all without the over-hype of the mega-stores and mega-malls and without the mega-crowds.

[www.magicalmurals.info](http://www.magicalmurals.info)



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**Country Breakfast**  
**I.V. Senior Center**

- \*Biscuits & Gravy
- \*Pancakes
- \*Eggs
- \*Bacon
- \*Sausage Links
- \*Coffee, Milk, Juice

**\$4.00 - Adults**  
**\$2.50 - Kids Under 12**  
**Saturday, Dec. 6 - 8 to 11 a.m.**