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Peace,
Love & Joy

during this
holiday season

Teen drug use topic of meeting

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

There is no denying that methamphetamine use is a problem in Illinois Valley. Often referred to as "white trash" cocaine, it's one of the easiest and most inexpensive drugs to make and sell.

However its prevalence here is primarily among adults; the majority of pre-teens and teen-agers favor other high-inducing substances like ecstasy, ketamine, LSD, marijuana and more.

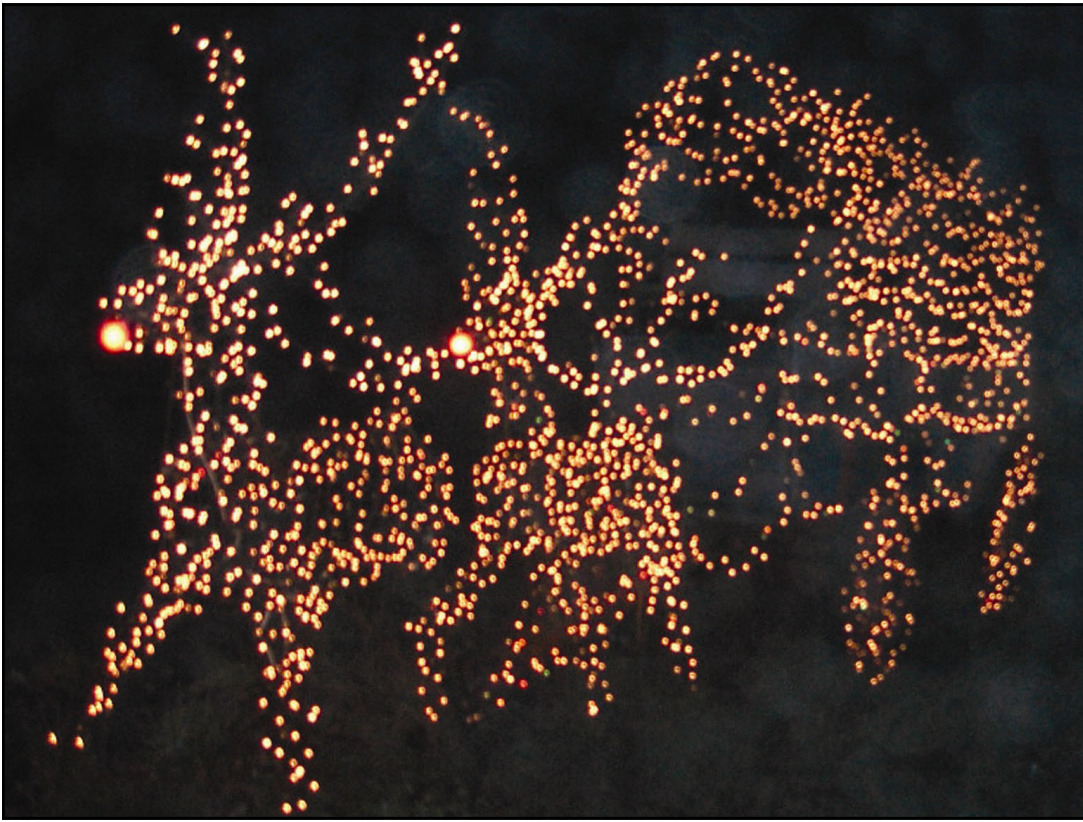
"We have them all in our community," drug and alcohol counselor Skip Saegar told some 20 persons during a Dec. 11 meeting at I.V. Family Resource Center.

The meeting was held at the request of several parents wanting to learn from Saegar, an outreach counselor for the drug treatment program CHOICES, how to deal with their children who are using drugs. Juvenile counselor Mike Rustom, Jan Michels, adult probation officer for Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and Sara McDonald from the Children and Families Commission were also present.

Intertwining personal experiences, questions from parents and startling drug statistics -- 87,000 teen-agers will go to the emergency room this year as a result of smoking pot for example -- Saegar facilitated the two-hour meeting in a serious and purposeful but informal manner.

"This isn't a slam session," he said, noting the intent of the meeting was to give parents resources for drug and alcohol treatment and not name those teens using drugs.

Some of the most dangerous drugs teens are using are those that can easily be purchased at a grocery or drug store to treat common cold symptoms, (Continued on page 7)



HAPPY HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS - With the Christmas season under way, valley residents are experiencing various events. Pamela Kennedy (top photo) of I.V. Family Resource Center, helped distribute toys and food in the Christmas Basket Program on Saturday, Dec. 20. The I.V. High School Choir (middle photo) sang 'Up on the Rooftop' as part of a holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 18. Reindeer and a wagon (Bottom photo) sparkle at Don Clark's residence on Redwood Hwy. in Kerby.

Cottage work boost link to aid economy

Hard on the heels of a pioneering analysis of Illinois Valley strengths and weaknesses some 10 years ago, "Close to \$20 million has been received in grants and loans for infrastructure, the family coalition, I.V. Airport Industrial Park, Siskiyou Community Health Center, and project and operations funds for Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT).

"And," continued Al Koski of the former Josephine County Economic Development Dept., "Another \$3 million is on hold for the Kerby Potable Water Project."

The latest economic study, known as a "Strengths and Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis," occurred earlier this year. Koski issued the report two weeks ago.

One major point of the analysis notes that, "Since larger companies move away, we must make sure that the 'pipeline' remains full. We need to turn our full attention to the entrepreneurial and business expansion strategies. Entrepreneurs and cottage industries people should be encouraged and assisted so they can grow and hire more workers."

It was noted that larger firms -- including Fire Mt. Gems, Krauss Craft and Energy Outfitters -- have relocated to the Grants Pass and Merlin areas for better access to Interstate 5 among other factors. Aspects also include a larger workforce, better access to a major airport (Medford International), and larger pieces of commercial land and facilities.

IVCRT and the Illinois Valley Airport Advisory

Board, working with the county commissioners, continue to work on development of an industrial park at I.V. Airport. Koski said that completing the park would be useful "so those businesses that have outgrown their home-based operations will have access to fully serviced property at relatively inexpensive land-lease rates."

Construction of an

Arts/incubator center seen as intermediate step to accommodate home-based businesses.

arts/incubator center, as proposed by IVCRT, would be a good intermediate step, said Koski. "For the business that can't quite afford to build its own building yet," he said, "rental of a smaller space with some common staff like receptionist, accountant, business advisers and possibly others would allow growth to the point they could afford their own facility and staff."

He suggests "an extensive cottage industries/entrepreneurial inventory to identify those that need and desire advice, space, staff or financing to help them grow." One respondent in the study suggested the possibility of a secondary wood products cluster in Kerby.

Improved and enlarged medical facilities are recommended in the study, such as the planned new medical center.

Koski said that although the study is not a statistically valid sample of the broad Illinois Valley, "It represents the writer's

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'Healing touch' offered by counselor at IVFC

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

After Dr. Dorothea Hover-Kramer settled into her new home in Illinois

She was right. It didn't take long for Kathleen Doyle, executive director of I.V. Family Coalition, to provide the office space and referrals for Hover-Kramer to get her volunteer counseling service off the ground.

"The state budget cuts have impacted services here," Doyle said. "There are gaps in the system. Dorothea gives help to people in trauma or with other needs. It's so necessary."

"The other great thing about Dorothea is she is a registered nurse so she knows what people are talking about when it comes to physical pain," Doyle added.

Hover-Kramer started offering counseling services for free to low-income people in need. Most have been referrals from other government agencies. But those pa-

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'Meth' threatens Josephine County

With 45 methamphetamine labs "busted" so far this year, the Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT) continues to see meth as one of the biggest problems in Josephine County.

"We've made a dent in the labs," said Deputy Kristine Crews, "but not as large a dent as we'd like." The agency notched 42 meth labs last year, down from a record 63 the year before. JOINT consists of three detectives, a supervisor and an analyst (Crews), and there is a chance that an Oregon State Police trooper, cut last year because of OSP budget problems, could be added next

year. Currently, officers from Josephine County Sheriff's Office can aid JOINT operations, Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety, and the county district attorney's office.

Of the 45 labs uncovered this year, the figure includes 10 "dump sites" consisting of items used in the manufacture of meth, including precursor materials and leftover chemicals. A number of processing reports still are outstanding, said Crews, so the number of labs found this year could rise. She noted that when a working lab or a "hot" dump site are located, JOINT con-

tacts a federal agency, which calls in a contracted company skilled in removal of such items.

Private citizens, she said, should use extreme caution if they come upon a suspected meth site. "They should not handle anything," she said. "Some of the items, such as liquid, can be highly flammable, and some ingredients are real dangerous to be around." Those who find suspected sites are urged to telephone JOINT at (541) 474-5160 or the main sheriff's office number, 474-5123.

Crews said that so far this year, eight meth sites

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Early 'I.V. News' deadline for Dec. 31 Issue is noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24; Paper comes out on Tuesday, Dec. 30.

***Look for this week's Christmas Greetings on page 9**



Dr. Dorothea Hover-Kramer

Valley she walked into the I.V. Family Resource Center and simply asked: "How can I help?"

As a registered nurse, clinical nurse specialist and licensed psychologist in California with four published books under her belt, Hover-Kramer knew she had plenty to offer her new town.