

Established 1937

Illinois Valley News

Happy New Year
Welcome 2004!

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SANTA SHOWS IN VALLEY - Children in Illinois Valley received gifts from Santa Claus and the I.V. Bikers (bottom photo by Michelle Binker) on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at the I.V. Senior Center in Cave Junction. The bikers, with help from a few of their friends, collected numerous toys, many bicycles and other goodies for valley youth during their annual Toy Run, held earlier in the month. Santa (top photo) also showed up on Thursday, Dec. 25 at the Jubilee Park pavilion for the annual CJ Cares Christmas breakfast and toy distribution. A large crowd came to the park and enjoyed pancakes, eggs and ham while children selected their toys and gifts.



Al-Anon offering hope, help to beat the bottle

Each alcoholic affects the lives of at least four other people: family members, co-workers and neighbors.

There is a community resource for these people: Al-Anon Family Groups.

Al-Anon (including Alateen for younger members) meetings are being held in 116 countries.

While many alcoholic families experience despair and hopelessness, members of Al-Anon learn to identify those parts of life for which they are grateful, and to find happiness whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not.

In the following stories, excerpted from Al-Anon's monthly magazine, "The Forum," Al-Anon members share how the program has given them a more positive outlook. For example:

"Today I face the same problems and people that I faced before I found Al-Anon. The difference is I have the tools of the program to help me keep my serenity. I take responsibility for my actions while letting go of trying to con-

trol the things I cannot change.

"If I truly live my life, it becomes easier to let other people live theirs.

"After growing up in an alcoholic home, even though my father later found sobriety, I managed to marry three alcoholic husbands. I can truly say I am thankful for my third husband because he introduced me to Al-Anon.

"For the first time in my life, I found serenity and learned to take care of myself, instead of everyone else. Thanks to Al-Anon, I no longer seek out alcoholics to make me happy. I learned that my happiness depends on me and no one else.

"Since my first year in Al-Anon, life has not been easy. Now I understand that life is a balance. Sometimes things are good and sometimes they are bad, but I have the program to help me live through all of it. I emphasize the word live because I merely survived before I came to Al-Anon."

For meeting information, (888) 425-2666.

Shooting in O'Brien 'homicide'

A man found dead in O'Brien on Tuesday, Dec. 23 was most likely the victim of a homicide, according to the Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 6:40 p.m. deputies responded to a call in the 100 block of O'Brien Road where they discovered the body of Eddie Goodwin, 40.

Deputies determined that Goodwin, a transient, had a gunshot wound to his chest.

Detective Sgt. Ken Selig said they had no further details on the crime. Investigators are seeking any information the public can provide.

If anyone has information regarding Goodwin's past residences, employment, relationships or associates they are asked to phone a confidential tip line at (541) 474-5160.

Oregon State Police troopers and Grants Pass police detectives assisted the deputies in processing the scene and interviewing witnesses.

Investigation is continuing.

Safe house plan on the clock

Alliance seeks \$55,000 to purchase site with close deadline

Time is ticking away to purchase a certain property for a sought-after facility that will accelerate service to abused women and children in Illinois Valley.

Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (The Alliance), which came into existence two years ago, has made an offer on a 5-acre parcel with an existing home within a 3-mile radius of the city of Cave Junction, said Executive Director Chris Mallette. The home "will serve as our supportive services facility where women and children can come to meet with advocates, discuss safety or other concerns, and attend education and support groups," said Mallette.

Josephine County Sheriff's Office recommended a maximum 3-mile limit in the event that emergency response to the

planned safe house is required.

Meanwhile, a deadline of 90 days or less looms before The Alliance to raise approximately \$55,000 to finalize the purchase and move in, she said. Deadline negotiations

Response to counteroffer could shorten the deadline.

are continuing, with the latest planned for Monday, Dec. 29, although a response to a counteroffer likely will take a couple of days.

In its effort to acquire the property, she added, "Every staff member, board member, advisory board member and volunteer has committed to help us meet this fund-raising goal by asking family, friends and colleagues to

help us do this good work. We are offering the chance to help move this phase of the safe house project forward."

Besides the supportive services facility, "The property is large enough to also hold the safe house facility," said Mallette, "and it already has a large shop where the women who comprise our Dream Team can begin building our first micro-enterprise that will help women to learn business skills, earn a living wage; and over time, begin to be a source of sustainable income for the services we provide.

"Having a supportive services facility means that we can serve more women and children; we can offer more comprehensive services; and in all likelihood it will accelerate our timetable to build the safe house.

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Women foil apparent kidnapping

By MICHELLE BINKER

Two women in the right place at the right time may have thwarted an attempted kidnapping of two boys on Dick George Road.

On the afternoon of Dec. 3, Marjorie Maloney and Deanette Demming were out looking for Maloney's son, who was returning with another boy from a friend's house up the road. (The boys' names have been withheld.)

The women, riding in Demming's pickup truck, noticed a black sedan which appeared to be having engine trouble.

"The car was moving sort of erratically, sort of stuttering," Demming recalled. The driver of the vehicle pulled over to the side of the road; and Demming, who was driving, moved to pass.

Maloney, in the passenger seat of the pickup, looked down into the car.

"I saw what looked like a girl, face down in the man's lap. I said 'That doesn't look right. Pull over!'" Maloney said.

Demming stopped the pickup in the middle of the street, and both women got out and moved toward the vehicle. That's when Maloney saw her son and another boy. The children were being held down in the front seat by the driver, the women said.

"I started yelling, 'That's my kid! Stop! Let him out of the car!'" Maloney recalled.

The driver sped away, as both women continued to yell.

"He just gunned it, and took off," Demming said, "and we were yelling at him 'That's kidnapping! Let them out.'"

The women returned to their vehicle, and gave chase.

"He (the driver) was weaving all over the road." Demming said.

They had followed for nearly three-quarters of a mile, when Maloney's son opened the passenger side door, and jumped from the fleeing vehicle.

"We stopped to pick up (my son), and the guy just took off. He was probably thinking, 'OK they've got the kid they want. They'll just back off now.'"

Possible suspect denied wrongdoing in confrontation.

But the women were determined not to let the incident end there.

The black sedan drove up Kirkham Road, and turned onto a dirt driveway. The driver was forced to stop when he reached a house.

Maloney approached the vehicle, armed with Demming's small revolver.

"I was yelling at him, 'Shut that car off! Get out of the car!'" Maloney recalled. "I could smell alcohol on him, and he had a beer bottle between his legs."

The driver kept insisting he had done nothing wrong, but Maloney and Demming weren't buying it.

Fortunately, the home owner in whose driveway this confrontation was taking place heard the commotion and came outside.

"He (the home owner) was now yelling at us, 'You people get out of here! You're trespassing! You're out of control! I'm gonna' call the cops!'" Maloney recalled, "And we were yelling at him, 'Call the cops! This man kidnapped our kids!'"

The second child in the black car then managed to open a door, and fled into some woods nearby.

As both children were now free of the vehicle, Demming and Maloney returned to the pickup, and backed down the driveway.

"I stopped at the bottom of the driveway, to get a description of the vehicle and a license plate," Demming remembers. The man stopped, too, and again insisted he had done nothing wrong.

"I told him 'You knew something was wrong when we told you to stop.'"

The man then passed Demming's vehicle, and pulled into another driveway, which led to an obviously empty house. The two women considered this strange enough to warrant sticking around.

"I saw a young girl walking up (Kirkham) Road, probably walking home from the bus stop," Demming said, "I told her 'You go straight home. This guy just snatched our kids and I don't want it to happen to you!'"

The black car soon reappeared. The driver stopped near Demming's pickup. He told the women that "he was checking to see if his boss was home." The man then threw his beer bottle into the roadside ditch.

At this point, Demming, who claims extensive experience working with law enforcement, attempted to execute a citizen's arrest for drunken driving.

"I demanded his name, and he appeared to think about it some before giving me a name that was probably a lie," Demming

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