# **IVCRT** Insights

Only two weeks to go before Oregon Caves Outfitters (OCO) opens its third season at the Chateau at Oregon Caves National Monument, 22 miles east of Downtown Cave Junction.

Preparation is in high gear for May 1. Final interviews will occur this week, and new staff will be trained at the end of the month. A number of special events are planned for May. On the 9th, we will host a scrumptious Mother's Day buffet, which is fast becoming a valley tradition. May 14-16, OCO is partnering with Siskiyou Field Institute for the Valley in Bloom weekend. And June 11-13, Thomas Doty, a storyteller from Ashland, will lead a two-day workshop to explore native mythology and folklore. Thomas has been commissioned to write one of his "Doty Coyote" books about the monument, and it will be available in the gift gallery.

#### **Business Incubator**

The grant application for the I.V. Airport Business Incubator has been submitted to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for funding. When approved, the project will enable construction of a building with 11,200 square feet of space at the Airport Industrial Park to house local businesses in need of production space and business support services.

From the preliminary round of interested businesses, there is likely to be a commercial kitchen and 3,000 square feet subdivided into small wood-working areas with equipment and a varnish room for lease. If things go according to plan, this fall the facility could be open for business.

#### 'Forks' State Park Pavilion

With spring weather returning, the CRT is preparing to construct a day-use pavilion at "Forks" Park. Located at the far end of the picnic area, it would serve as a shelter for group events. Volunteers will be needed to help with the construction, so stay tuned for details.

#### 'We're Moving'

As anyone who has been in the offices lately cannot help but notice, we have outgrown the current offices. With the influx of VISTA members and Job Council placements - not to mention OCO during the winter - there just isn't enough room for everyone or everything. To better serve the community, IVCRT offices will be relocated to the former medical office next to CJ Select Market this month. Besides ending the noise and distraction of the bullpen, there will be a separate conference room on the second floor where the board committees can meet. We're all looking forward to the move, and hope that during May you will visit our new space.

### Fine follows house burning

A Williams couple faces a \$21,600 fine by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in connection with asbestos.

The potential fine is among \$168,343 levied by the agency during February and March.

DEQ said that Jeffrey Irish and Kendon Leet de-

Weather

Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, April 21

Clouds breaking

High--61, Low--36.

Thursday, April 22

Sunny, partly cloudy

High--67, Low--39.

Friday, April 23

Partial sunshine

High--68, Low--42.

Saturday, April 24 Mostly sunny

High-70. Low-42.

Sunday, April 25

Sunshine & warm

High-71. Low-48.

Monday, April 26

Mostly sunny & warm

High-74. Low-48.

Tuesday, April 27

Warm, clouds & sun

High-73. Low-44.

molished and burned a house in June 2003 without first removing asbestos-containing ceiling material and sheet vinyl flooring.

DEQ said that action put the public at risk. Other violations also were listed. The fine is being appealed by Irish and Leet.

## Grants Pass couple arrested in beating of man

A Grants Pass couple was arrested in connection with attempted murder involving a baseball bat, and believed to be related to marital problems, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

Arrested were Cory Lee Vierra, 21, and Irene Marie Vierra, 23, both of Rogue River Hwy. He was charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault and first-degree robbery. She was charged with firstdegree conspiracy to commit assault.

The victim was identified as Matthew Edward Houck, 23.

"Investigators believe the primary motive for the assault was a failing relationship between the Vier-

## Three die in I-5 head-on

Oregon State Police troopers are investigating a head-on crash in which three persons died on Friday, April 16.

Mark Gunz, 42, of Portland, was traveling the wrong way on Interstate 5 in Douglas County when his van struck an SUV, driven by Chanel Serpa, 25, of Martinez, Calif.

Chanel and her passenger, Maria Vafiadis, 26, of San Francisco, besides Gunz, died at the scene.

Shortly after the collision, a commercial vehicle driven by Travis Tretten, 42, of Santa Clara, Calif., struck one of the vehicles. He also struck a compact car, driven by Mikhail Ioffe, 16, of San Leandro, Calif. He suffered minor injuries.

> Highways 199 & 46 **Cave Junction**

Jeff Stiles, Dealer

ras, and Houck's involvement with Mrs. Vierra,"

said JCSO. On Wednesday, April 14, Houck underwent emergency surgery and other medical treatment at Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. His injuries were listed as a collapsed lung, a ruptured kidney, ruptured liver, ruptured spleen, fractured skull, a broken arm, and various contusions.

JCSO said that the injuries are believed to have occurred on April 13 around 11:30 p.m. in a remote area of the county off Jack Creek Road. The agency gave the following account:

Mrs. Vierra lured Houck to the site, where her husband was armed with a baseball bat. He struck the unarmed victim several times, and likely took his wallet, said JCSO. The couple then left Houck stranded, and returned to Grants Pass, some 15 miles south. The victim was located the next day at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Jump Off Joe Creek Road.

Both suspects were taken into custody without incident. Assistance was rendered by Grants Pass Police.



C.J. Video Mart & (R) Radio Shack

592-3080

145 N. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction 592-2233 Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Frl. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.





