

Shining Stars fest at Selmac in June

(Continued from page 1)

Ader and Tree are also traveling performers with the "Illuminated Fools Giant Puppet Troupe," based in Takilma.

Most members, all of whom work for free, have overall clocked in nearly a thousand hours this month alone in preparation for the group's biggest event of the year: The Shining Stars Festival.

This year, the third-annual festival will be held in the Mallard Loop area at Lake Selmac on June 4 through 6, a Friday-through-Sunday period.

Children 12 and younger will be admitted free. Daily passes, valid from 10 a.m. through midnight, can be purchased. Also for festival fans, weekend and camping combo passes can be obtained.

The festival, which features live music, free workshops on a variety of topics, art, crafts, food booths and a Kids Village, is a family-oriented event. All profits directly benefit the youth of Illinois Valley, said Schroeter.

"Over 1,000 people come to the valley for the festival," she said. "We're bringing in 18 bands this year. We're the biggest music festival in Southern

Oregon.

"We put nine bands on the stage every day, including local people; and the I.V. High School band is going to play for us this year," she said.

According to Schroeter, a special performing guest group will be "Del'Arte Troupe."

'We're the biggest music festival in Southern Oregon.'
- The Shining Stars -

"It is a nationally recognized performing arts and theater group," Schroeter said. "They're completely amazing, and their work is geared toward children. They will take the stage on Sunday."

Of course, none of this would be possible if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of each Shining Star member.

"We're only five weeks to show, and it takes a lot of effort to have 1,000 people in a field," explained Schroeter. "This is a full-time job. We're not paid for this, and most of us work full-time. We all do this out of the goodness of our hearts," Schroeter said.

She claims that the festival couldn't occur if not for the help of volun-

teers and fund-raisers.

"We have to have more than 200 volunteers to pull off this festival," Schroeter noted.

While volunteers certainly help, the festival still needs money to make it happen. To fund the festival, The Stars are busy year-round conducting fund-raisers. From writing grants to Christmas bazaars, The Stars raise money to fund not only the festival, but other valley projects that they are working on. One is the skateboard facility at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction.

"We're big on not-for-profit projects such as free days at the Cave Junction Pool, children's theater, and an artist-in-residence program with the seventh-graders at Lorna Byrne Middle School," said Schroeter.

The Shining Stars strive to enrich the lives of children through art, music and recreational activities.

For more information on The Shining Stars or the festival; to purchase tickets; or for information on how to volunteer, visit The Shining Stars website at www.shiningstarsfestival.com. Also, the group can be reached at (541) 592-2236; or contact Schroeter at 592-6167.



SWINGING INTO SPRING - T. Lund (right), director of music for Illinois Valley High and Lorna Byrne Middle schools, directed a spring concert on Thursday night, April 29 at IVHS. A large and appreciative crowd heard performances by the swing choir, concert choir, and band.

I.V. Pregnancy Center offers wide range of help

Help with pregnancies is available through Pregnancy Center of The Illinois Valley between Sterling Savings Bank and Carlos Restaurante in Downtown Cave Junction.

A "Bridges to Motherhood" group is among of-

ferings. The group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the center.

Maternity items, including the following, can be provided: clothing, pregnancy information, prenatal development information, prenatal vita-

mins, and information about childbirth classes.

Baby supplies include: clothing, diapers, wipes, formula, bottles, blankets, booties, toys, bibs, diaper bags, strollers, and cribs.

For more information phone 592-6058.

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Time is Nature's way of preventing everything from happening at once.
- Herb Caen -
A room hung with pictures is a room hung with thoughts.
- Sir Joshua Reynolds -

THE ISSUES: Meet Jim Raffenburg

Candidate

Josephine County Commissioner • Position 2

The incumbents seeking reelection claim that you need their experience on the Board of Commissioners. Let's take a look at some very important issues and see what the incumbents "experience" has meant to Josephine County.

THE ISSUE: Fiscal Responsibility

The incumbents have allowed the following:

- A culture of uncontrolled departmental spending
- No central purchasing to control supply costs
- Hundreds of separate shopping trips each month for minor purchases
- Embezzlement of nearly \$600,000
- 9 week paid vacations for managers, at a cost of \$1.9 million per year
- Managers earning average salaries of \$54,000 -- and supervising fewer than 3 employees
- 3 separate retirement plans available for every employee
- No Josephine County reserve funds

These fiscally irresponsible policies of the incumbents are leading us to a financial crisis. In September 2006 the \$14 million in Federal money we now depend on goes away. Our current commissioners have known for more than five years this loss was going to occur, yet they have done nothing to plan for this event. That is a failure of "leadership" and is a breach of the public trust.

SOLUTION: To restore fiscal responsibility and trust, Josephine County needs commissioners with proven financial and management experience, who will improve our financial position by requiring independent forensic audits of all departments, implementing strict spending controls, and reforming county personnel policies.

THE ISSUE: Intelligent, Planned Growth

The incumbents have failed to plan for our future and have left us adrift. They have given us urban levels of development without requiring urban level infrastructure. We also have no functioning Economic Development Office.

SOLUTION: Planned, intelligent growth contributes to a healthy economy, which benefits everyone. Intelligent planning establishes specific goals and strategies needed to make our vision for the future a reality. County, city and community leaders must work together to implement comprehensive land use and economic development plans. County policies must encourage new private investment in existing businesses and promote relocation of new businesses to Josephine County to create family wage jobs.

THE ISSUE: Funding Criminal Justice

For twenty years, funding for Criminal Justice has been inadequate, despite multiple surveys showing that residents believe this should be our top priority. The current commissioners have failed to respond to these surveys. Voters no longer trust that our existing money is spent wisely and in line with public opinion.

SOLUTION: Restore trust by adjusting priorities. Put deputies back on the road in safe numbers, increase jail staffing to help keep criminals off the streets, ensure all crimes are prosecuted, and make sure we are better prepared for natural or man-made emergencies.

It's time for... **Leadership.**
It's time for... **Results.**
It's time for... **Change.**

THE ISSUE: Experience

The incumbents claim that their government experience and vaunted statewide political connections are crucial to solving our problems. If so, why is there wasteful government spending? Why is there a serious potential for bankruptcy in two years? Why are we experiencing urban sprawl? Why are criminals walking the streets? Perhaps it is because the incumbents had no private sector management experience and were not (and are not) qualified to run a complex, multi-million dollar operation with 618 employees.

SOLUTION: Elect qualified commissioners. Our system of government allows anyone to seek elective office, regardless of their experience or qualifications. For too long, elections have been popularity contests or competitions filled with empty promises. It's time for CHANGE.

Hard work and tough decisions await the new commissioners next January. It will take skill, common sense and determination to ensure county government makes the changes needed to live within its means and to prepare for a difficult transition in 2006.

I have over twenty-five years of practical experience in the construction industry, from apprentice to Construction Administrator for NASA where I managed multi-million dollar projects and was successful at cost control in a very difficult government organization. For the past eight years I've served our county as Planning Commissioner, Court Mediator, Citizen Involvement Coordinator and Reserve Deputy Sheriff, preparing myself to be an effective commissioner.

If you agree that it is time for skilled management of county government, time for fiscal responsibility, government accountability and intelligent planning for our future, I ask you for your vote on May 18th. Thank you.



Questions? Want to help? Call 476-1298 • raffenburg@budget.net • P.O. Box 293 Grants Pass OR 97526
Paid for by the "Committee to Elect Jim Raffenburg Commissioner"