

Here, There & Everywhere

Letters to the Editor

'ARKANSAW BEAR' - Illinois Valley High School Drama Club will present, "The Arkansaw Bear," a musical comedy about a dancing bear which teaches life lessons. Performances are set for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 13 to 15 at 7 p.m. at IVHS. There is a fee for admission.

KUCINICH IN CJ - Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich will be present at Blue Moon Coffee and Books in Downtown CJ on Friday, May 14 from 11 a.m. to noon. A silent auction to help his campaign will be held the same day.

CHILDREN 'N' PETS - The seventh annual I.V. Children's Fair and Pet Parade will be held in Jubilee Park in Cave Junction on Saturday, May 15. There will be a pet parade featuring some animals in costumes. Activities will include sand and goo tables, birdhouse building, fishing booth and painted pet rocks. I.V. Fire District will have its Fire Safety House, and I.V. Lions Club will run its train.

ROGUE RIVER CLEAN-UP - BLM, Stop Oregon litter and Vandalism's "Down by the Riverside" event, America Outdoor's "National River Clean-up Week," and Josephine County Parks is co-sponsoring the 12th annual volunteer Rogue River cleanup on Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. at the Hog Creek Boat Ramp, five miles west of Merlin. Following clean-up, BLM will host a barbecue at Griffin Park with a raffle and prizes.

ITALIAN FEAST - The Selma Community & Education Center will serve an Italian dinner on Saturday, May 15 at 6 p.m. There is a fee.

PROJECT HIKES - Siskiyou Project will host two hikes in the Squaw Mountain and Rough and Ready Creek areas on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16 respectively. Phone 592-4459 for more info.

FREE GOLF LESSONS - Illinois Valley Golf Club is participating in "PGA Free Lesson Month" offering free 15-minute lessons with PGA professional Michael Day on May 22 from 8 a.m. to noon. Phone 592-3151 to reserve a lesson.

CLOTHES GIVE-AWAY - Takilma Bible Church will give away free clothing to those in need on Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, 10343 Takilma Road.

VIKING FOOTBALL - Lorna Byrne Middle School Vikings will hold a car wash behind CJ Video Mart & Radio Shack in Cave Junction on Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

VETERANS DEDICATION - A flag-raising and "All Veterans Field" dedication to honor the service of all U.S. veterans will commence at Lake Selmac on Saturday, May 22 beginning at 11 a.m. Anyone can attend.

NOTEPAD - Caveman Kiwanis Club has pulled out of the annual Lake Selmac fishing derby claiming drunken parents, cheating kids, and the potential liability for injuries or crimes as reasons the group pulled out of its planned June 12 derby... **Oregon Caves Chateau** listing in '03-'04 telephone directories could raise eyebrows for its spelling of "Shateau."

LAST WORDS - I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it. (Mae West)

(Continued from page 2)

Library funds From Don Herr O'Brien

Libraries are a necessity for any community.

However, levies every year or so to raise our property taxes for more funding is not necessarily the best option.

Every time our property taxes go up, whether from sheriff or school levy, or libraries, it places an unfair burden on property owners.

Some use the argument that it's only 20- or 30-cents or whatever per \$1,000 of valuation.

One after another, time after time, the taxation puts many retired seniors or others on fixed incomes in jeopardy if the increases prevent us from paying the taxes.

Another option is for the county to issue library cards for users of the service. We were involved in this years ago in the Eastern United States.

Counties charged a nominal fee for individuals or families, with each immediate family's name on the card, and it was great. At that time the fee was \$12 per year per person, or \$20 per family, collected at the library.

The government subsidized the libraries on everyone's back like they do here, but anyone actually using the facilities paid a little extra for the privilege, so taxes did not have to be increased. Cardholders needed to renew every year by themselves, as no notices were given.

Just a thought, but I urge everyone to consider alternative funding, and vote "no" on this latest money grab.

'Libraries - yes' From Deborah C. Murphy Cave Junction

Literature, love of knowledge.

Information, internet access.

Books, books, books for everyone at different levels, interests and at different branches of Josephine and Jackson counties.

Reading for pleasure, education, entertainment, job training, hobbies and professional development.

Asset to the entire community; directly and indirectly to patrons.

Read some more. Even non-users.

Yes. Vote yes. It's an investment for you and our community and our future.

Now look at the first letter of the first word in the above.

Likes library From Sharon Work Kerby

It takes a library to raise a child; in fact, many of them.

I can't imagine parenting four sons without the help of the libraries in

every locale where we resided.

From the days of married student housing where the only book purchases had to be textbooks, we were grateful for the opportunity to "borrow" picture books.

The boys could stretch out on the floor to make their selections before vast shelves full of surprises awaiting their discovery.

Back at home, cherished moments of each day were those snuggle-up-to-read times, especially at bedtime. Their pride upon learning to read for themselves translated into sharing their delight with younger siblings.

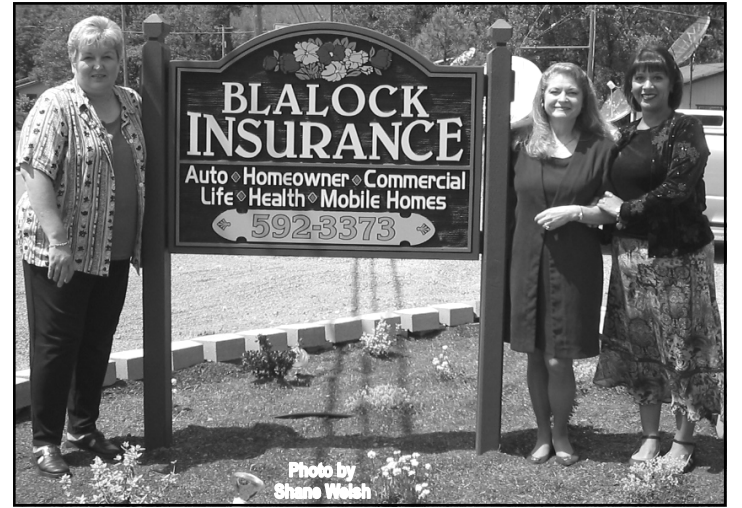
As they worked their way through the grades, we could see each level of graduation viewed as the opportunity to explore a new library at the next school.

The libraries of their youth garner much of the credit for a couple of the boys becoming National Merit scholars.

It is rewarding today to see these reading habits passed on as they raise their own children.

Now our libraries need you. Support our libraries with your "yes" vote and you support all the young parents who look for all the help they can get to raise responsible, caring, and informed young citizens.

Some people reach the top of the ladder, only to find it is leaning against the wrong wall. - Anonymous -



Ruth Blalock, Karen Luevana and Anna Hurt

Blalock 'insures' position

By SHANE WELSH Staff Writer

Ruth and Terall Blalock, co-owners of Blalock Insurance in Grants Pass, are working hard to "insure" their place in the Illinois Valley community.

Blalock Insurance expanded its services in April by opening an additional business at 328 Caves Hwy. in Cave Junction; in the former Mrs. Jobe's Bakery.

The business offers coverage for a wide range of commercial and personal insurance needs including auto, home, fire, mobile homes, and liability.

"We have been in Cave Junction since 2000, and used to be located at the Oregon Mountain Real Estate complex," said Ruth, who owns and manages the new location. Bla-

lock Insurance opened its original Grants Pass office in March 2000.

Their new location features handicap parking and a convenient turnaround allowing easy access for larger vehicles.

Ruth said they plan to open a drive-through window at the new location soon so customers can conveniently pay their bills from their vehicles.

The Blalocks' Cave Junction office is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with professional staff on hand to answer and handle insurance claims and questions. Phone 592-3373 for an appointment.

"We have received overwhelming support from the valley community," said Ruth, and "it looks like we're here to stay."

● CONE TEN POTTERY

Classes begin for kids, teens & adults Wednesday, May 19

25895 Redwood Hwy. 592-4646

Your vote can change the future...



- Protect our land and water for future use and enjoyment.
- Encourage businesses to create jobs for our families.
- Manage growth to preserve our lifestyle.

"My vision of the future is not limited by what others think is impossible."

- Cherryl Walker



ELECT WALKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 3

"I have found Cherryl Walker to be thoughtful and committed to working on issues that impact families. Cherryl has the ability to see issues from both the 'big picture' to day-to-day details."

- Midge Renton Retired School Administrator

Cherryl Walker, as independent as you.

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Forest Edge Farm

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- * Ranch Tour & Llama Walk
- * Call to see if any spots are left in our Felt Hat-making Workshop — Saturday, May 22, 2004

Contact Joyce or Harry Abrams
llamuz@forestedgefarm.com
541-592-6078