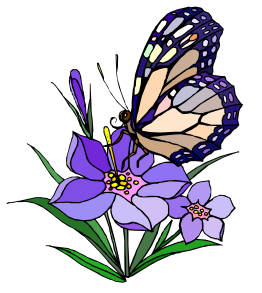


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Protests planned on Biscuit

Recovery project final EIS released; Greenpeace coming

Removing 370 million board feet of fire-killed wood from the Biscuit Fire area is proposed, and indications are that Greenpeace and possibly Earth First! will conduct "eco-resistance" efforts in and around Illinois Valley this summer.

In addition, the plan includes a pioneering research proposal for a Landscape Management Experiment on Restoring Late-Successional Forest Habitat.

Cave Junction-based Siskiyou Project has tried to communicate with Greenpeace, and it is not involved with that organization's plans, said Don Smith, Siskiyou Project executive director.

"We're pretty much out of the loop," he said.

In connection with Biscuit Fire salvage, Greenpeace earlier announced that it would establish its first "forest rescue station" in the country on public land in Josephine County.

The Greenpeace station is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land at the Kelsey-Whisky Timber Sale site, approximately 35 miles northwest of Grants Pass.

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Waiver set for aiding Medicaid

A waiver from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to help Oregon improve its nursing home industry is applauded by U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.).

The waiver will allow Oregon to provide better Medicaid reimbursements to the state's nursing homes. And it will attract additional Medicaid matching funds, according to the senators.

Rate increases "will be used to enhance working conditions for employees and improve the quality of care they provide to clients."

Oregon's reimbursement rates were established in July 2002. They reimburse less than 80 percent of the amount that facilities spend to care for Medicaid clients during 2004.

With this waiver, Oregon will move out of the bottom third of state rankings of Medicaid nursing facility payments.

Illinois Valley High School's varsity softball team reached quarterfinals in the state playoffs. See page 11



TO SAVE A LIFE - Illinois Valley volunteer and staff firefighters, with American Medical Response medics, stayed with an injured Nathan A. Ross, 20, of Washington state, who fell asleep and crashed his pickup truck on Redwood Hwy. in Selma just south of Fort Hay Ranch at 6:35 a.m. on Friday, May 28. The care and

extrication took nearly 90 minutes, as the vehicle cab was crushed and the pickup was in an awkward position. Jerry's Towing came to help; and Ross was taken by helicopter to Rogue Valley Medical Center, where he was treated for various injuries, none of them apparently life-threatening.



Music, food, crafts features of Shining Stars Festival

Southern Oregon's largest music festival will be back in Illinois Valley on Friday through Sunday,

June 4, 5 and 6 at Lake Selmac under sponsorship of The Shining Stars, a not-for-profit organization

raising funds to benefit valley youth.

The third annual Shining Stars Festival will feature performers covering a wide variety of musical genres throughout the weekend, on an outdoor stage "with first-rate, professional sound."

On Sunday afternoon, a festival highlight will be the Dell 'Arte Community Theatre Performance. This internationally known troupe will give children and adults the opportunity to participate in interactive

drama.

Added the sponsor, "Shining Stars Festival is woven together by an army of volunteers donating services, supplies and time. Even the musicians, forfeiting usual fees, come from around the country to raise money for Illinois Valley youth and soak up great atmosphere."

"Craft and food vending booths encircle the festival bowl area. Folks can choose between quiet en-

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HONORING MILITARY VETERANS - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 70 members placed flags at Laurel and Deer Creek cemeteries on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31 to honor veterans who gave their lives serving this



nation. Junior auxiliary member Matt Ollis (left) places a flag on a grave at Laurel Cemetery, and member Michelle Colbert (right) places one at Deer Creek Cemetery. (Photos by Shane Welsh)

WWII vets memorial at Selmac

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

"Freedom is not free. It must be earned and protected from those who would conquer it and oppress us," said Dwight Ellis, Vietnam veteran.

Ellis, director of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, was master of ceremonies for a celebration on Saturday, May 29 at Lake Selmac, held in conjunction with the inauguration of a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The ceremony was led by members of the Illinois Valley High School Cougar Band, led by T. Lund, playing U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps songs, followed by the "Star Spangled Banner."

Ellis gave a speech before more than 100 veterans and Oregon residents, praising their "selfless dedication and patriotism" that helped save this nation during WWII.

During the past eight years, nearly \$200 million was raised to build the Washington, D.C. memorial. It took four years to decide where it would go and what it would look like, and the last four years for fund-raising.

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Nicole Navarro

Navarro top Oregon idol

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

Illinois Valley is filled with talented residents.

And 16-year-old Nicole Navarro, a junior at Illinois Valley High School, is no exception.

Navarro, who has been singing for the past five years, recently won the Oregon state title in America's High School Idol Contest.

The singing competition is open to talented high school students. It is a non-profit organization that offers scholarship opportunities to gifted singers, like Navarro. Navarro, also known as "Idol Oregon," won a \$2,500 scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to compete in New Orleans for the national title.

"The winner at nationals will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and a recording demo," said Navarro.

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