



John and Jude McLaughlin (Shane Welsh photo)

A matter of salvation ...

(Continued from page 5)

my father did; I think on purpose. She didn't know any other way to live other than under my father's thumb. He had dominated every aspect of her existence and relegated her to more than a non-entity. She was a convenience to him; a baby dropper; his servant," he said.

Inside the cover is a dedication to his mother Emma. "For all of your children, I thank you mom, gone these many years, the light in you has not dimmed."

"Because my mom cared so much and loved so much, and never closed a door to anyone, I did this in her memory," he said.

A portion of the book sales also will go into a

fund to aid abused children; the "Emma" fund.

"When I left the jail, they had a pool and the longest I think they said I would last was 68 days. Here I am now, 15 years and five months later," he said smiling.

"All my life I had gone to prison for despicable crimes," said McLaughlin. "I now have an attitude of gratitude. I know what a scumbag I was; that man died, Jan. 10, 1989 when I got out of jail and accepted Jesus Christ as my savior."

McLaughlin has since married his wife, Jude, whom he met after prison. He lives each day with a new understanding of what a difference having love and peace in his heart can make in life.

Restrictions increased due to high fire danger

Increasing fire danger has prompted Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) officials to tighten restriction on activities that have historically caused wildfires under similar existing conditions.

Increased restrictions are designed to prevent costly human-caused wildfires that Oregon can no longer afford, said ODF.

Activities which have been between 1 and 8 p.m. are now restricted between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

As of Monday, July 19, the following restrictions are in effect on all state, county, private, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands protected by ODF in Josephine and Jackson counties. For the general public, this means:

*Use of fireworks is prohibited, except in cleared areas free of all flammable vegetation. Fireworks use is prohibited year-round, on BLM land protected by ODF, on national forest land protected

by the U.S. Forest Service, and within many city limits.

*Debris burning is prohibited.

*Chainsaw use is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

*Non-agricultural mowing of dry or cured grasses between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. is prohibited.

For commercial/industrial forest operators, the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) is changed to Level 2.

Added ODF, "These public and industrial restrictions will be strictly enforced.

"If a person is willful, malicious, or negligent in the origin of a fire, ODF is required by state law ORS 477.068 to recover costs associated with suppressing the fire, and the responsible party will be billed for these costs.

"Parents can be held responsible for costs associated with suppressing fires started by their children."

Life Lines sends hope, comfort to incarcerated

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

Cave Junction-based Life Lines Ministry started nearly 10 years ago, sending letters of comfort to three prisoners, and has grown to involve more than 2,200 monthly newsletters to 482 prisons in 46 states and nine countries.

Founded by Joy Hoskins, of Cave Junction, the Christian ministry has become a "life line" to prisoners and others by sending letters of love and encouragement to help strengthen hope and faith.

Life Lines Ministry is operated out of the Hoskins' family home. The main crew consists of Hoskins, her husband, Doug, and their daughter, Melanie Gayle.

"The idea didn't just come to me," said Joy. "I bought a country magazine to pass the time while my mother was in a doctor's appointment. While flipping through the pages, I happened to notice a pen pal page.

"There were three names with numbers following them; I realized these were prisoners. I decided to write to them like family, just to say hello; and that's how it all began," she said.

During the next six years, the Life Lines mailing list grew to 52 people as Joy kept buying magazines looking for more prisoners to write.

"In 2000, we decided to go into the ministry full time," said Joy. "We even began making connections (through listings on the internet) with people who are on death row."

There are currently more than 20 volunteers that serve the ministry by performing tasks such as answering, folding and sorting hundreds of letters, delivering and collecting food, and raising funds.

The ministry has grown so large since it began, it nearly engulfs the Hoskins' home; filling each room with stacks of mailings, food donations, and computer and copy equipment.

"We send our newsletter to people for three months. If they choose to write back to us, then we put them on our regular mailing list," said Joy.

Their seven-page monthly newsletter is comprised of stories and poems written by prisoners; letters from volunteers who aid the ministry; and words of spiritual guidance and encouragement from Bible scriptures.

"For specific needs, we have a staff of prayer warriors that give prisoners prayer or send them personal notes," said Joy. "We even have a couple of ladies that send about 100 birthday cards a month," she said.

In 2000, the Grants Pass Gospel Rescue Mission began donating its excess food to Life Lines to help distribute food to those in need in Illinois Valley.

At first, the Hoskins made two trips a week to Grants Pass to get food. As donations grew, their trips increased to five per week. Since there is no warehouse (other than their home) to store food, the organization must distribute perishable items immediately instead of holding



Doug, Joy and Melanie Gayle Hoskins (Photo by Shane Welsh)

food until the need arises.

The network of food distribution includes 13 local churches, two senior housing complexes, the I.V. Senior Center, and many families and homeless people.

In 2001, the ministry began printing artwork produced by a Delaware prisoner, Ed Thompson, who gave permission to sell the items to help raise funds for the ministry.

In 2003, Life Lines started a community service program with Josephine County Community Service's Work Alternative Program. The program allows people from the Illinois Valley to work at the registered nonprofit organization to help pay off restitution and fines.

The organization is funded entirely through donation and fund-raisers. Each year, Life Lines conducts at least four fund-raising events where it sells donated items such as prisoner artwork, hand-crafted items, locally preserved jellies, bookmarks, booklets and art.

During the last three years, the ministry began publishing books written by prisoners, including a book by Selma resident John J. McLaughlin, a former prisoner and abused youth who tells a story of love, faith, hope, peace and restoration. Three other prisoners from California, Texas, and Michigan have also submitted books which were published.

There is also a "faith-inspiring" booklet available that was written by Joy Hoskins. Life Lines anticipates the release of at least two more book publications. All proceeds from book sales are used to help fund the ministry.

Recently, Life Lines began "Operation: Freedom," a program which will sponsor McLaughlin's book, "A Walk to Freedom." The goal is to put a copy of his book in every prison. So far, 89 books have been sent to various

prisons, 27 of which were recently sent to all Massachusetts prisons.

Although there are many facets to the growing ministry, the objective of Life Lines is simple. "We starve the emptiness and feed the hunger," said Joy.

**Art's Red Garter
Steak House & Saloon**

LOW CARB DIETERS!

'Steak & Fish are 0 carbs!'

Check out
our new



Low-Carb
Menu

**Open 5 to 9 p.m. - Restaurant parking in rear
126 S. Redwood Hwy., CJ 592-4222 or 592-2892**



470 Addison, Cave Junction

**Light, open, floor plan
3-bedroom, 2-bath,
1,658 sq. ft
\$195,000**

H.D. PATTON JR.
CONSTRUCTION

1-541-476-2127

A Perfect Start...



...with room to grow!

Bunkbeds complete with Mattresses

from **\$288**

Visit our Showroom and find Bedroom Collections, Futons, and Sleeper Sofas.

Queen Mattress Sets from \$198!



BEDS FOR LESS

Your Bedroom Specialty Center Open 7 Days

GRANTS PASS SHOPPING CENTER - (541) 474-1060
Stores also in Medford and Roseburg

Say you saw it in the 'Illinois Valley News'

Dave's Perfect Pizza

212 N. Redwood Hwy. (next to I.V. Video) 592-2220

SPECIAL:

1 Large Ultimate Meat
or
1 Large Ultimate Veggie
\$14.95 or



1 X-Large Ultimate Meat
or
1 X-Large Ultimate Veggie
\$17.95



Phone for delivery