



‘NEW’ PREGNANCY CENTER - An open house at the new facility for The Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley (formerly Living Alternatives) was held Saturday, Aug. 7 at the site on S. Junction Avenue next to



Fountain of Life Assembly of God Church. Guest speakers were Rep. Gordon Anderson and Myrna Sheneyleft of Josephine County Right to Life. They cited ‘doing God’s work’ and ‘providing a beacon of hope’ to aid women with pregnancies in making decisions and rendering support.



‘Braveheart’ the chicken

Chicken ...

(Continued from page 1)

jumped the road. but stopped at the green grass in the yard.

Here is an area where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. When fire is coming over the hill, it’s not the time to start clearing around your home.

Do it before the fire comes, and you may be as fortunate as the chicken, sitting in your house looking at all the burnt stuff around you.

I have a new respect for chickens.

Firefighters in air, on ground fought fire to mat

Quick and intense multiagency response, including aerial support, contributed to a Cave Junction wildfire doing far less damage than it might have otherwise.

That was the underlying theme of a 50-minute “recap meeting” at Illinois Valley High School on Thursday night, Aug. 5, the day after a 210-acre wildfire that stirred memories for many of the 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire two years ago. Approximately 30 persons attended the meeting.

“We need to be grateful to the Oregon Legislature for allocating funds for firefighting aircraft,” said Jeff Schwanke, Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) district forester for Josephine and Jackson counties.

“Without that money, we would not have had those resources,” he said, “and that would have resulted in a far worse outcome than what occurred.”

Schwanke said he thinks it’s a good idea for residents to write their leg-

islators to let them know that the money for aircraft was used to good advantage.

It was stated that only three loads of retardant were dropped because of poor visibility due to smoke, and because of strict guidelines related to populated areas.

Overall, representatives of various emergency agencies that responded to last week’s blaze agreed that despite hot, dry and windy conditions, firefighters made quick work of getting a handle on the fire.

In addition, despite a complaint about people not being allowed to enter the fire area to reach their families, it was noted that officers from Oregon State Police and Josephine County Sheriff’s Office did the best they could under the circumstances to keep traffic lanes open for fire rigs.

It was noted that the city of Cave Junction and surrounding area need an evacuation plan in case of such an emergency in the

future. CJ Mayor Ed Faircloth said that people didn’t know what to do or where to go if they left their homes.

Officials indicated that such a plan will be developed, perhaps in conjunction with Illinois Valley Fire District’s current work with residents on a community fire plan.

ODF’s Phil Turnbull said that getting fire rigs into the area quickly was of paramount importance. He noted that two task forces responded; one from Jackson County and one from northern Josephine County.

In addition, another task force was on alert in Jackson County, but was not required. Each task force consists of five fire trucks, a tender and a chief. The first one from Jackson County took only 45 minutes to arrive, Turnbull said.

“If this never happens again, it’ll be too soon,” said Chief Harry Rich, who joined Illinois Valley Fire District on March 1. He expressed great appre-

ciation to responding agencies, particularly noting the work by ODF.

Agency representatives noted that the entire process of coordinating efforts “went like clockwork.” Also that it was “a classic interface (wildland and potential structure) fire involving a populated area and spreading along the edge” of such an area.

The consensus of firefighter supervisors is that, when wind conditions improved “We jumped on it (the fire), and stopped it.”

IVFD Division Chief Joe Feldhaus said that firebreaks cut for the 120-acre Daisy Hill Fire in June 2003 were a help in stopping the latest blaze.

Crews stayed in the area through Friday night to deal with snags and to find hot spots.

“Sight-seers” were identified as one problem during the fire, as whether in vehicles or on foot, they contribute to emergencies by putting themselves in harm’s way, and can hamper firefighting efforts or block roads.

**Those who
contemplate the beauty
of the Earth find
reserves of strength that
will endure as long
as life lasts.
- Rachel Carson -**





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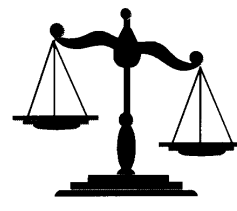


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