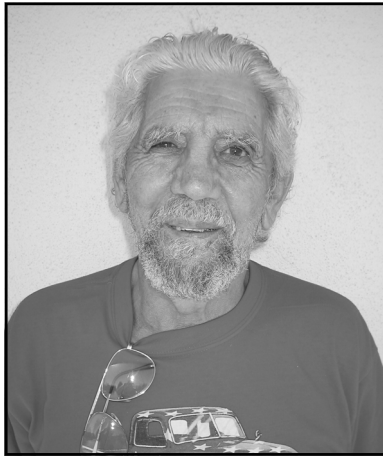


Ten minutes with ...



... Manuel "Manny" Romero, 74, of Cave Junction

Where are you and your family from?

I was born in 1930 in San Francisco, Calif. My family came from Spain. My father and mother were born in Spain and my mother came here when she was three. She came

over on a ship; it took her 50 days to get here. I had two brothers. Frankie was my twin and Johnnie was my oldest brother.

Did you do much fighting as a youth?

My twin and I were close growing up. Some of the family used to get us to fight for nickels. We didn't use gloves, we used bare hands. A nickel was a lot to me back then; you could go swimming for a nickel.

One day, I got into a fight in front of the house and the kid beat me. When I came into the house, my dad said, "You're not coming back into this house until you go back out and fight him, and you better win." And I did. My dad then took me to a place they used to call "The Bucket of Blood," and put me in the ring. The guy hit me so hard he knocked two of my back teeth out. I said later on, "If that's the way it's going to be, then I better learn." That's how I got started boxing.

When me and my brothers got into Golden Gloves, they called us "The Three Romero's." One time, my twin brother's manager asked me if I wanted to fight my brother for \$10. It was called "Smokers;" a staged fight. I couldn't beat him, but we made it look good.

What else did you do to earn a buck back then?

I used to go pick bones for 50-cents a bag. I used to go up to my knees in the water behind a slaughterhouse and pick out the bones they dumped. I also shined sailor shoes for 10- to 15-cents each. I saved up \$14 to buy my mother a new set of dishes. She didn't know I was going to do that, and it sure made her happy.

I didn't finish high school because I was kicked out for fighting; so I had a learning disability because I couldn't read. It was embarrassing when I looked for work. I used excuses like, "I don't have my glasses." Or, "Can I take the application home and bring it back." When I used to drive trucks, I made 23 stops a day without knowing how to read or write. I had to memorize everything. I would get a stack of deliveries, and then go to a guy and point to an address on the sheet and ask, "Hey, could you tell me where that street is?" One day, when I was making a delivery in San Rafael, I made a mistake. The boss called and asked, "Did you know you delivered it to the wrong place?" I delivered it wrong because I was going by addresses, not names. Two of the stops had the same number.

I wanted to learn to read. I met this lady one day who offered to help me learn, so when I was about 55, I learned to read. I was even in a documentary talking to kids with learning disabilities.

Are you married?

Yes. My wife Judy is from England. We've been married for 20 years. We met at a dance. She was sitting at the bar having a coke. I saw her looking at me and said, "What are you looking at?" She said, "Nothing much." And that did it. We started dating and we've been together ever since. We moved up here from Lodi, Calif. because is was so cheap to buy a house and property. I love it here; it's like being on vacation all the time.

What is your favorite ice cream?

Rocky Road. I love chocolate.

~Interview and Photo by Shane Welsh

RV flyers help others take wing

Have you ever yearned to fly, but never could muster the nerve to take the controls?

Your wait is over.

On Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Josephine County Sky Park, out Kerby Mainline Road, you can take control of a radio control airplane and see why so many individuals, and families, are hooked on this sport.

The Rogue Valley Flyers (RVF), a nonprofit organization based in Grants Pass, has been building this sky park for aeromodelers of all ages to enjoy.

In an effort to continue to promote the radio-control hobby and bring awareness to this park, RVF members will be present Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to give visitors the chance to experience flying a radio-control airplane.

There is no cost, but as a nonprofit organization, donations for the continued construction of the sky park are always accepted.

Besides holding this open house, RVF is preparing to unveil a new youth program that will allow five Josephine County youth the opportunity to experience RC-powered flight.

Through this program, they will be introduced to the science behind powered flight, construction of a radio control airplane, flight instruction and more.

Upon completion of the program, these five youths will take home the airplane they built, all the building tools, radio, flight line gear, and the thrill of competence in a project; valued at approximately \$1,200 per youth.

In addition, this may be some youth's first experience in a peer-mentoring environment. The actual airplane they will build will be displayed during this open house.

For more information about RVF, the October open house, or the youth program, visit www.rvfgp.org or phone (541) 476-0791.

Accident claims life of valley resident

Following a head-on collision on Takilma Road on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 21, Mary L. Reed, 84, of Cave Junction died of her injuries later the same day, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

Mrs. Reed was northbound in a Nissan van near the 7000 block when, for an unknown reason, her vehicle veered onto the opposing lane. The vehicle collided head-

on with a Ford van driven by Rose M. Hamilton, 66, of Cave Junction said JCSO.

Hamilton's passenger, William A. Abercrombie, 74, also of Cave Junction was able to exit the van without help. Hamilton and Mrs. Reed had to be extricated by personnel from Illinois Valley Fire District.

Hamilton and Abercrombie were taken by American Medical Re-

sponse to Three Rivers Community Hospital. They were listed in critical to serious condition.

Mrs. Reed was taken by Mercy Flights helicopter from near the crash to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford.

She died shortly after 9:30 p.m. the same day, said JCSO, which noted that she appeared to have suffered an apparent head injury and numerous fractures.

Herbicide used on right-of-way foliage

(Continued from page 1)

happy with the decision to use Garlon-4, a trademarked product of Dow AgroSciences.

According to Caroline Cox, staff scientist for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, the herbicide tryclopyr, in the form of butoxyethyl ester, contained in Garlon-4 and related products, has been demonstrated to have detrimental effects on fetal development in laboratory studies.

"Pregnant rabbits fed the ester had fewer live fetuses, more embryo loss, and offspring with more skeletal abnormalities than did unexposed rabbits," she said in an herbicide fact sheet printed in "The Journal of Pesticide Reform (Winter 2002)".

Furthermore, Cox

writes, the butoxyethyl ester form of tryclopyr, which the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture determined more likely to move into surface water than the amine salt form, has been shown by the Environmental Protection Agency to be "highly toxic" to several species of fish, including the coho salmon.

Trees Inc.'s Harris says the chance of contamination from the type of spraying he's doing, concentrated half-to-one ounce applications on individual trees, is remote.

"I don't know of a single instance in which

we've had any off-target spread since we started using Garlon-4, four or five years ago," he said.

Harris indicated that he was attempting to contact every property owner who would be affected by the right-of-way spraying, and he stated that residents have the right to say "No spray."

"This is different from routine trimming," he said. "We talk to each property owner and get an OK" before spraying, said Harris.

No indication was available on how long the spraying might continue, however.



LINDA SALLMAN AGENCY

Farmers Insurance Agent
In the valley since 1979

Get that unbeatable
combination now with
Auto, Fire, Life or
Commercial insurance from
Farmers Fast, Fair, Friendly Service

NOW WITH TWO LOCATIONS
TO SERVE YOU!

128 S. Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction, OR
(541) 592-4541
(next to Treehouse Florist & Gifts)

134 N.W. 'E' St.
Grants Pass, OR
(800) 888-6704

**The Strip' Restaurant has
five beers on tap!**
Red Hook ESB * Heineken * Fat Tire
Kona Longboard Lager * Busch

FREE:
female neutered, outside cat. All shots,
good hunter,
unusual good looks.
Not used to children.
592-2713



Ready-to-Rent

"Opening Doors Through Education"

Classes begin Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 6 P.M.

**Location: Illinois Valley Family Resource
Center, 335 River St., Cave Junction**
Phone (541) 476-2373 Ext. 103 to register

*Helping Tenants Overcome Barriers to
Rental Housing...*

- Six week tenant education training
- Learn about your responsibilities as a tenant
- Create your own personal contract & start taking real steps towards repairing credit & finding housing

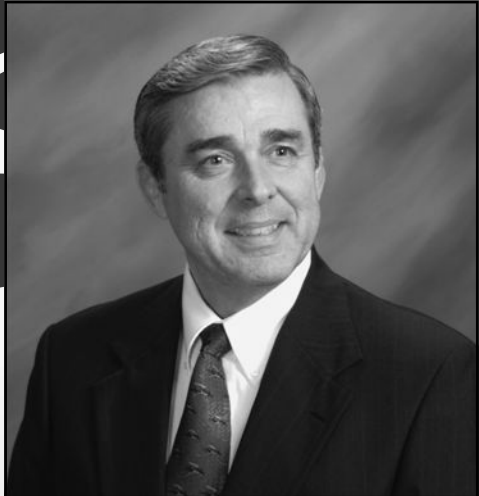
Ready-to-Rent was created with help from landlords & covers topics that they are concerned about, such as:

- What do landlords expect from tenants?
- Making and following a budget
- Understanding rental agreements
- Communication and conflict resolution skills

Classes are FREE but you must be registered.
Phone 541-476-2373 ext. 103 to register

In matters of style, swim the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.

- Thomas Jefferson -



ELLIS FOR COMMISSIONER

*Commissioners need to have a financial and managerial background. I have both the background and the backbone.

*Public Safety: family wage jobs; planned growth; improved senior/disabled services; protecting taxpayers dollars; and adjusting the excessive salaries, vacation, managerial/staff ratios.

*On water resources, I would save Savage Rapids Dam and complete Elk Creek Dam.

"Hard working, consistency, ethics... it is my pleasure to support my friend Dwight Ellis."

- Senator Jason A. Atkinson

www.dwightellis.com
P.O. Box 1704, Grants Pass, OR 97528