

## Here, There & Everywhere

**'SPECIAL FRIENDS'** - The Special Friends Program, sponsored by Coalition for Kids, is seeking volunteers willing to spend 45 minutes a week with a child who will be their "special friend" at Evergreen Elementary School. The intent is to allow children to direct the play time during each session, and has proven to have a significant, positive effect on them, said Don Gray, coalition executive director. There are more than 100 volunteers countywide. "They report that the program provides them personal satisfaction as they watch their 'special friend' gain more from their educational setting," said Gray.

**ROOTIN' TOOTIN'** - Model railroad layouts in various gauges, plus various other railroad-type displays and merchandise, will be featured at the 27th annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 27-28 at the Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy. Show times are 10-5 Saturday and 11-4 Sunday. Proceeds of the nonprofit sponsors go to improvements at the city of Medford Railroad Park. Children 14 and younger with a paying adult will be allowed in free.

**ELEPHANT ENERGY** - Longtime Illinois Valley booster Jim Frick was elected Nov. 10 as chairman of the Josephine County Republican Party for the next two years. Frick, broker for Century 21 Harris & Taylor, devotes much of his time to assist various community groups. Elected to serve with him are Vickie Stephens, vice chairman; Nancy Ryan, secretary; and Alex Zeltway, treasurer. Delegates will be John McLoughlin, Chuck Findley and Pamela Morris. Because of an increase in Republican voter registration due to the party's drive before the Nov. 2 election, an additional delegate and alternate were added.

**MASONIC MANEUVER** - Grants Pass resident Vern Laugsand won the ATV raffled by Belt Lodge 18, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons on Nov. 4. His name was drawn by Ricci Coultas, a student at Illinois Valley High School, Student of the Month selected by the lodge. Laugsand is a longtime member of the Grants Pass Active Club. All proceeds from the raffle, approximately \$7,000, will go to support valley scholarships, youth activities and Masonic charities. Lodge members sold 1,505 tickets.

**YULE LOVE IT** - An annual free, public Crèche Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4 at 1969 Williams Hwy., home base for the Grants Pass Stake of the LDS Church. The festival will be held in the cultural hall. Crèche festivals are synonymous with displays of the Nativity scene, as the origin of "crèche" in several languages is "manger," according to spokesman Jeanette Dickson. Those who want to display their crèche can contact Angelique Moser at 471-1090 or ammoser1@earthlink.net.

**TRACTOR FACTOR** - Jack Heald, "tractor expert extraordinaire" from rural Cave Junction, will teach "Tractors 101" Saturday, Dec. 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Oregon State University Extension Service auditorium at 215 Ringuette St. in Grants Pass. The class will include a guided tour of the extensive tractor collection at Peterson's Sand & Gravel. There is a \$5 registration fee per individual or couple. Phone 476-6613 to register. Heald has more than 25 years experience with tractors; owns 20; and is national director of the Fordson Tractor Club, which he started in 1976. He is a recognized tractor expert involved in writing and lecturing.

**NOTEPAD** - A CJ City Council report from the meeting Monday night, Nov. 29 will appear in next week's issue. The delay is because the "Noose" was put to bed prior to the meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday coupled with printing and delivery schedules ... A new store is open in Downtown Cave Junction, operated by CJ-based Southern Oregon Guild. The group is offering a holiday gift bazaar until Christmas at 140 Redwood Hwy. ... A Light Up A Life celebration, sponsored by Lovejoy Hospice, will be held Tuesday, Dec. 7 (also Pearl Harbor Day) at 7 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church in CJ. The annual event is to remember loved ones who have died ... Donations of art or entertainment for the third annual Winter Woolly Gala in CJ on Feb. 6 are sought by co-sponsors, the Southern Oregon Guild and Illinois River Valley Arts Council. Phone Rebecca Pearson at "Bebe's ART for everyone" to sign up ... T-shirt: What this country needs is more unemployed politicians ... Another T: Nothing ruins good parenting like teen-agers ... One more T: Do you really think they're laughing with you?

**LAST WORDS** - Life goes by pretty fast. If you don't slow down and enjoy it, you might miss it. (Ferris Bueller)



**ESCAPED DEBRIS BURN** - Contractors burning the remains of a barn that they had knocked down in the 300 block of S. Old Stage Road found that the fire was willing to also burn an adjacent house. The alarm was sounded Thursday, Nov. 18 at approximately 11:04 a.m., and Illinois Valley Fire District firefighters responded to quickly extinguish the flames.

## Letters ...

### Caring response From Larry and Suzie Hill Cave Junction

We want to express our appreciation to the I.V. Fire District and all the other great people of this community for their quick and caring response after the fire of Nov. 10.

Larry is doing much better now, going to the Roseburg VA twice a week for physical therapy for the second- and third-degree burns to his hands.

The donations of dog food have been absolutely fantastic, and they are appreciated very much.

We expect to be back on the property in a mobile by mid-December. We especially want to extend our appreciation to all the people we don't know, as we can't thank them personally.

## I.V. Fire Plan progresses

By DALE & ELAINE SANDBERG  
Special to 'I.V. News'

A draft copy of the Illinois Valley Fire Plan was the main topic during the second meeting of the I.V. Fire Safe Council.

The gathering, with Robert Hirming as chairman, was held Nov. 15 in the I.V. Fire District (IVFD) administrative center.

The fire plan is designed to identify areas of the valley that need reduction in fuel for wildfires, and to view areas where that process is under way.

One locale where that is occurring is the Thompson Creek area. Discussion of the effort included the use of defensible space, and the need for fuel reduction.

An Indian Creek Road resident brought up the need for brush reduction and clearing that road of overgrowing brush. Such action would allow safer access to fire units and personnel.

Another discussion item concerned the need for a water supply. The possibility of placing several storage tanks throughout an area, such as Selma, was discussed. Selma is one area without a lot of water, and in

the event of a major fire, a usable water supply would be a factor.

It was thought that perhaps the former Selma mill would be a good central location. Several Selma residents expressed willingness to accommodate water tanks on their properties.

Funding such a project through grants is a distinct possibility. Several works in progress are being funded with grants, and the availability of more grants was a topic for the council.

Drafts of the fire plan will be available for public inspections at the I.V. Branch Library in Cave Junction, the I.V. Community Response Team office, and the IVFD administrative center at 28195 Redwood Hwy. (the former site of Fire Mt. Gems).

The next meeting of the fire council is set for Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the administrative site. Meetings are open to the public.

A community meeting to present the fire plan is set for Jan. 4 with details announced in "Illinois Valley News." For more information phone IVFD Fire Marshal Jerry Schaeffer at 592-2225.

Support the merchants who advertise in the 'Illinois Valley News'

**The Strip**  
(5 miles south on Redwood Hwy., Snodgrass Lane at the I.V. Airport) 592-4466

Come support the IVHS sports program and listen to the great music of Southern Oregon Blues band

Saturday, Nov. 27 - 6 p.m.

Pasta dinner - \$15 per person  
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Fresh, Never Frozen Regular & All Natural

**Monday** 1/2 lb. burger dinner or Owen's Korean Chicken Microbrew pitcher specials. **\$5**

**Wednesday** Senior night \$1 off entrees Special Cajun Grilled Shrimp **\$9.95**

**Thursday** Happy Thanksgiving!

**Friday** Kick-off Christmas Season Decorating Day 'KC & Sundowners' Fred, Kenny, Mary playing Country & Christmas Songs - 4-8 p.m. Green Chili **\$6.95**

**Saturday** 'Rapp Brush' is back - Country Pork Spare Ribs **\$7.95**

**Sunday** Finny's Heavenly Ham - Broccoli Casserole **\$5.95**



**The Shining Stars Can & Bottle Drive**

All proceeds will fund free days at CJ Pool, Summer 2005  
Please bring redeemable cans & bottles to Shop Smart Saturday, Nov. 27, Noon - 2



Happy Thanksgiving from **Forest Edge Farm**

May the beauty around us feed our bodies and our souls and

Call or email us and come for a visit.  
Joyce & Harry Abrams  
592-6078

llamuz@forestededgefarm.com



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