



'SANTAFIED' - Hundreds of Illinois Valley residents turned out for a helping hand Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Illinois Valley Resource Center, as I.V. Family Coalition volunteers helped distribute donated toys and food.

IVFD policy rates down

Having no insurance claims during 2003 means that Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) likely will realize lower rates.

IVFD directors were advised of that during their monthly meeting at IVFD administrative headquarters Wednesday evening, Dec. 8.

Jeff Griffin, insurance consultant with Wilson Heirgood Insurance in Eugene, presented the board an annual report regarding claims and rates.

"I think we're going in the right direction," said Griffin, "last year you were at 19.2 or 19.4 percent (last year's annual percentage rate). This year, you are down to 8 percent."

His report included discussion about safety practices that could help keep IVFD insurance costs down. He also outlined different insurance options the district could consider to help lower the cost.

Griffin's overall report was that "everything is well under budget. You just haven't had any claims, and that's good." IVFD had no claims during 2002 either.

Chief Harry Rich noted the district's safety record and adherence to department rules as aiding in insurance rate reduction.

He felt that with the current trend in claims, the district could look forward to considerable savings during the next year.

-Shane Welsh

Don't horn in

It's OK to use your horn to alert another driver or pedestrian if they're not looking at you, said Oregon Driver & Motor Vehicle Services (DMV).

But horns are not to be used to display temper or irritation, the agency said.



Lucky Duck apparently not

A 22-year-old employee at The Lucky Duck in Grants Pass told police that the suspect in an armed robbery is a "possible Black male adult with a large frame."

Valerie Mellick told Grants Pass Police that at

approximately 3:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20 a man came through the front door brandishing a firearm.

She gave him cash, and he left. He is described as 6-2 to 6-5, 250 pounds, wearing baggy jeans and a hooded coat.

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Fri. Christmas Eve -
Closed at 4

Sat. Merry Christmas!

Sun. Recover

See you next week!
Dale, Al & Debbie for
New Year's Eve!!!

'T. TIME' - It was an emotional farewell time Thursday, Dec. 16, as T. Lund, 12-year music director for Illinois Valley High and Lorna Byrne Middle schools conducted his final holiday concert at the high school. He will retire as of Dec. 31 and move with his wife, Sandi, to Gold Beach. During the concert (top), students gave heartfelt good-byes and presented 'T.' a large card signed by students and staff schoolwide. Also as part of the concert, while 'At Last' played, he danced (bottom left) with his wife, and numerous other couples joined the opportunity. Lund concluded the concert by playing guitar and singing his own composition, 'Time For a Cool Change,' which brought tears to many. On Saturday, Dec. 18 at Wild River, students gave him a surprise retirement party (bottom right), which included a bit of Silly String spray.

JoCo population up a tiny bit

Josephine County population increased by only 250 persons during 2004 while overall Oregon population rose at a rate of 1.2 percent to reach 3,582,600.

The figures, from Portland State University's Population Research Center (PRC), are for the period July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004.

Josephine County's population reflects a rise of 0.32 percent. It is a 3.7 per-

cent increase from the 2000 census.

PRC noted that Central Oregon continues with the most growth. Between April 2000 and July '04, Deschutes County, which includes Bend and Redmond, shot up 17 percent.

Other areas are Washington and Clackamas counties. They added nearly 35,000 and 18,000 people, respectively since 2000.

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