



MOVIN’ DIRT FOR NEW STATION - Batzer Construction of Medford has begun preparation work for a new Selma Fire Station on a 3.5-acre site a short distance south of the current station. The new two-story structure will contain approximately 6,300 square feet of space including apparatus bays. The project was to be completed by April 2005, but due to delays caused by a Josephine County ruling that a lift is required under ADA, the completion date is uncertain. The new station is funded through a bond issue approved by district voters.



FIRE DISTRICT ADMIN NOTED - Kathleen L. Jones, wife of Illinois Valley Fire District Director Larrick Jones, donated a 4-by-6-foot sign for the district’s administrative headquarters at 28195 Redwood Hwy., the former site of Fire Mt. Gems. Posing with the sign are (from left) Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik, and Firefighters Gerry Bjornstad and Nick Bjornstad. The district board recognized the donation by Mrs. Jones, plus the donation of a set of double-sided wooden benches from River Valley Restaurant in CJ. The benches will be placed in the district training room. (Photo provided)

Avoiding semitruck ‘no-zone’ prevents mishaps

The “no-zone” is the area near a semitruck’s side and rear where cars seem to disappear into blind spots. Vehicles lingering in the “no-zone” can’t be seen by truck drivers, causing potential hazards if a lane change becomes necessary. Tailgating in the rear “no-zone” not only hides you from truck drivers, but radically reduces your view of the traffic ahead. When passing, avoid cutting in front of a truck and abruptly slowing.

Because it takes longer to pass trucks, maintain speed and wait until the front of the truck is visible in your rearview mirror before returning to the other lane.

Computers for Kids project helping younger pupils with free equipment

By CHRISTINA HILL
 Correspondent

During November 2003, John Burns, a young husband and father of two from Selma, received devastating news. He was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Finding himself disabled and unable to work, he felt hopeless, until he decided to do something about it. Instead of letting his disorder get him down, he’s using it to help provide students at Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) and Evergreen Elementary School in Cave Junction with free computers. “I still needed something to do, so I started fiddling around with computers, and then I came up with the idea of starting the Computers for Kids program,” Burns said. Burns is a certified electronics technician. He and his wife of 12 years, Maryanna, have a girl, Ashley, and a boy, Vestin. “At the beginning of the year,” said Burns, “the schools have students fill out papers when registering, and one of the questions is, ‘Do you have a computer at home?’” Said Dyanne Beach, family advocate for LBMS, “If they say ‘no,’ then I make a list of all the students who don’t have one.” Next, Burns obtains used computers and uses donated parts to refurbish them.

“People donate their old computers to me that aren’t running or aren’t running well,” he said. “It doesn’t cost them anything. I fix them up and get the parts

Donations sought for the program

they need to run Windows 98 or something similar and Microsoft Word. “They’re not high-tech, but at least the students are able to get experience using them,” Burns said. Since September, Burns has presented two LBMS students computers. His goal, he said, is to present at least two computers a month to students from the two schools. He will present another computer to a student from Evergreen early next year. Burns said that students are selected to receive a refurbished computer based on need. They must also have the space and power available at home to operate a computer; and lastly, the parents must not object. “I don’t send any modems,” said Burns, “because Internet access is something best left determined by the parent. “I make sure it’s ‘software clean’ and that it runs well. If it had Windows XP, I take it off and install Windows 98 because kids need a starting point, and it’s Windows 98.” Once he finishes refurbishing a computer, Burns

bishing a computer, Burns contacts Beach, who contacts an appropriate student and their family. They arrange a time at the school, where Burns presents the student a new computer free. He shows them how to connect them when they get home. For a number of reasons, Burns said, he will not be presenting computers to students from Illinois Valley High School at this time. “We want the students to have access to computers at an early age, so that by the time they get to high school they’ll be better off, and they can use the computer labs there,” Burns said. “Smaller kids have a better retention of the basic functions of the computer structure,” he said. “There (is) limited equipment and limited parts,” he said. “Parts are hard to come by, but TC Computers and Budget Internet have donated a lot. CM Extreme has also helped out quite a bit. “Eventually if I can, I am going to set the program up as non-profit, so I can get grants and so forth, because right now it’s totally by donations, but doing it that way is good. “It gets the community together,” Burns concluded. For more information on Computers for Kids or to donate used computer parts,

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