

It’s no longer IVCRT: Welcome I.V. Community Development

“I^VcanDO” is how to pronounce Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) -- the former I.V. Community Response Team.

“Beginning this year, we are IVCDO,” said Bob Schumacher, executive director, who took the reins from Ron Phillips, who moved overseas.

“This year,” said Schumacher, “marks the start of a new decade for our organization. With expiration of federal funding, the challenge is to become a self-supported entity.

“Our objective is to reach the goal through revenues produced from social ventures such as the concession at Oregon Caves National Monument, combined with grant administration.

“This,” he noted, “will allow us to continue to seek funding from federal, state and private grants to support projects to achieve economic and community development.

“Thus the need to change the name to be more in line with what we’re doing,” said Schumacher.

He noted that the entity’s Oregon Caves Outfitters (OCO) last year successfully completed the third year of its 10-year National Park Service contract at Oregon Caves National Monument, 22 miles east of Cave Junction.

Josiah Dean, OCO’s general manager at Oregon Caves Chateau, said that he and his staff have worked diligently to make sure visitors have positive experiences.

Dean, who has a background at four-diamond establishments, said that he provided intense hospitality training for staff. The result, he noted, is that visitors commented, “They’ve never seen anything like it.”

Dean plans to undergo a

program to become an Oregon hospitality trainer.

Besides the Chateau, IVCDO last summer took over management of Grayback and Caves Creek campgrounds from the U.S. Forest Service. Both are on Caves Hwy. on the way to the monument.

Although not big money-makers, “They are definite assets,” said Schumacher, “and fit in well with our social ventures plan. Plus, they will be part of our marketing informa-

Organization working toward social ventures for funding and betterment of Illinois Valley community

tion for helping promote the valley’s attractions.”

Schumacher said that the plan to make IVCDO self-sufficient began four years ago, as it was known that federal funding would expire.

On another major front, he said, “Last year the organization was awarded more than \$750,000 in grant funding for Illinois Valley projects, and they are under way.

“They include construction of a business incubator building at the I.V. Airport Industrial Park to house emerging businesses, and business consulting to match businesses with education and support from experienced mentors and educators.

“In addition,” he continued, “in the Thompson Creek area we are working on a project in conjunction with I.V. Fire District and Bureau of Land Management to make that neighborhood safe from wildfires by reducing brush and small-diameter trees on private property.

“In an effort to help other service organizations, such as I.V. Chamber of Commerce, we are administering a grant to help fund organizational development and other services for those groups.”

Schumacher also noted that in working to boost Illinois Valley, IVCDO has cooperated with other, similar groups and found that varying levels of funding aid can be available.

Through its business assistance program, IVCDO can handle loans, for those qualified, of up to \$10,000 for expansion and improvements. On the other hand, he said, business assistance funding from \$10,000 to \$25,000 can be available from Southern Oregon Women’s Access to Credit (SOWAC).

And funding from \$25,000 to \$50,000 can be available from Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc.

“We’re all partners in this,” said Schumacher, “and we’re not trying to compete, as we don’t want to reinvent the wheel.”

Each organization also can provide business consulting services, he added.

“Our goal of self-sufficiency on a long-term basis,” said Schumacher, “is far from being achieved: It’s a continual challenge to find funding to continue to provide the services that would otherwise be lacking in our community.

“For all these efforts to succeed, it is imperative that the whole community be involved and supportive.

“To this end, we continue to reach out to other organizations for help and guidance.

“Working together with a can-do attitude will result in a community we can be proud to call our home,” he concluded.



RIGHTING THE WRONGED - Josephine County Public Works employees were out and about Thursday, Jan. 13 replacing posts on scores of valley mailboxes felled by heavy, wet snow thrown by county snowplows. Glenn Crookshanks (left) and Gordon Kennedy said they had replaced ‘at least 20 posts,’ and straightened as many as 30 in Illinois Valley. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

Bike helmets said required

Oregon law requires anyone under 16 years of age to wear approved protective headgear when riding or being carried on a bicycle.

The parents or person with legal responsibility for the safety and welfare of children will be held responsible, said Oregon Driver & Motor Vehicle Services.

The law does not require bicycle helmets for persons 16 and older, but they are strongly recommended by DMV.

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Devine backs ‘Pride Inside’ attitudes

Constantly celebrating the positive aspects of a community can only have positive results, noted the founder of the hugely successful “Pride Inside” effort.

“Showing the ‘good stuff’ for tourism and working on self-esteem issues of the population is important for a community,” said Al Devine, a member of the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) board.

“Fostering community spirit is a large part of what

Pride Inside is about,” said Devine.

A rural Cave Junction resident who is vice president of marketing for Evergreen Federal Bank, Devine said that Pride Inside “worked wonders” in Grants Pass.

“Alternatives to negativity, flaunting the community’s best sides and boosting pride in people and the town” begin a snowball effect that continues year-after-year, even after the

initial organization runs its course, Devine noted.

“Illinois Valley should celebrate itself,” he said, “and through IVCDO we hope to implement a Pride Inside effort.

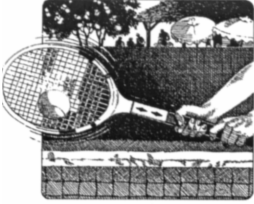
“We’ll be looking at work ethics and attitudes,” he said, “because Illinois Valley has much to offer. We simply need to approach our ‘problems’ in new ways and solve them for the betterment of the entire valley,” he concluded.

RIVERSIDE PHYSICAL THERAPY

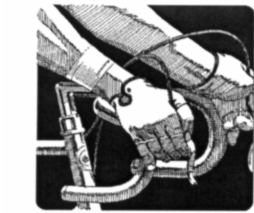


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JEFF WOOD, M.S., P.T.

Some smiles are sarcastic. Some smiles are artificial - diplomatic smiles. These smiles do not produce satisfaction, but rather fear or suspicion. But a genuine smile gives us hope, freshness. If we want a genuine smile, then first we must produce the basis for the smile to come.

- The Dalai Lama -

Stringer Gap crash info requested

Information about a traffic crash that occurred in the 2100 block of Stringer Gap Road in rural Grants Pass is sought by Deputy Jim Geiger, of Josephine County Sheriff’s Office.

The crash Dec. 24 at approximately 7:17 p.m. involved a white 1984 Toyota Supra.

A 19-year-old woman suffered serious injuries in the accident and was taken by air ambulance to a Portland medical center.

Geiger said that the crash involved a single vehicle that swerved to avoid colliding with an oncoming vehicle.

Information about the accident can be phoned to 474-5123, or the tip line at 474-5160.