

Here, There & Everywhere

MASKED BALL - Music, dancing, food, and local wine and beer will be featured during the fourth annual Mardi Gras Masked Ball on Saturday, Feb. 12. The event, a benefit for the Takilma Community Bldg., will run from “8 to late” at the building. “Altered States” will play live music for the event, open to those 18 and older. Masks will be available at the door.

COUNCIL CLOCK - Cave Junction city councilmen will begin meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14 instead of the previous 7:30 p.m. time. The change was approved by the council last month, after considering a proposal by a city resident. Councilmen meet in open session on second and fourth Mondays.

GRAD PLAN - A meeting of the 2005 Grad Night Committee at Illinois Valley High School will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the IVHS cafetorium. Plans for “Movie Night” will be completed. For more information phone Mary Paul at 592-2116.

HEART SMART - Cardiac-care questions will be available free from “an expert panel of physicians” from Rogue Valley Medical Center Wednesday, Feb. 16. The session in Smullin Health Education Center adjacent to RVMC will begin at 10 a.m. Speakers will be Drs. George Wilkinson, Richard Schaefer, Eric Pena, and Kenneth Lighthouse. Refreshments will follow. RSVPs are needed by Thursday, Feb. 10 to (888) 688-4920.

‘CAMPAIGN CUT’ - True to their words, newly seated JoCo Commissioners Jim Raffenburg and Dwight Ellis have taken 10 percent pay reductions as of January. The move will reduce their monthly pay by approximately \$570 each per month, for a total of around \$5,127. Chairman Jim Riddle will continue to receive the base pay of about \$5,697. The saved money will stay in the county budget for allocation elsewhere.

NEAT HEAT - Pacific Power and Oregon HEAT are noting their appreciation to PacPow customers and other Oregon residents who have “generously donated to assist neighbors in need this winner.” Envelopes were sent customers in November bills and will again with February bills. The two organizations and their supporters help low-income senior citizens, disabled persons and working-poor families with needed energy assistance during winter months. PacPow matches all donations from its customers dollar-for-dollar.

COLLEGE AID - For those 16 and older and who will start or are returning to college, five free classes are offered by Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Classes will start Feb. 17, and the topics for each class are, “Self-Discovery & Available Programs,” “Scholarship Essay Writing,” “Financial Aid & Registration,” “Registration and Essay Returns,” and “Expectations & Setting Goals.” To register, telephone 592-4149, Ext. 302.

NOTEPAD - “Saturday Night at The Movies” is set for Feb. 12 at 6:30 at Bridgeview Community Church. Refreshments and fellowship will follow ... **OMSI** will present a program at Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) Thursday, Feb. 10 ... **Jeff Golden**, author of, “As If We Were Grownups,” a collection of “suicidal political speeches that aren’t,” will speak at Selma Community Center Friday, Feb. 11. The event beginning at 7:30 p.m. will include book-signing, and a dessert potluck, and is a benefit for the center and Deer Creek Valley Association. Phone 597-2110 or 597-2880 for further information ... **The Marine Corps League**/Rogue Valley Detachment will meet Saturday, Feb. 12 at noon at J.J. North’s in Grants Pass for elections and awards. New bylaws also will be read. Phone 479-2707 for more info ... “**Eating for Your Heart’s Content**” will be addressed Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Three Rivers Community Hospital Washington Outpatient Center, 1505 N.W. Washington Blvd. in GP. Phone 955-5419 to register for the free talk ... **Jack Shipley**, of the Applegate Partnership, is the first-time winner of the National Community Leadership Award. He is honored for his “outstanding conservation work,” including helping design the Applegate Fire Plan ... **Family Night** with science projects will be held at LBMS Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 ... **Smith & Wesson**, the 153-year-old firearms manufacturer, has introduced “Heartbeat,” a second-generation Automated External Defibrillator ... **A blacksmith** was teaching his teen-age son the trade. “OK,” said the blacksmith, “I’m going to use tongs to place this red-hot horseshoe on the anvil. Take the sledge hammer, and when I nod my head, hit it with the hammer.” And the son did ... **Did you hear** about the duck who went to a drug store for a bottle of aspirin? The pharmacist asked if it’d be cash or charge. The duck replied, “Just put it on my bill.”

LAST WORDS - Agriculture is the most useful, the most noble employment of man. (George Washington)

Letters to the Editor -- The Public Forum

(Continued from page 2)

calm, politically correct manner, presenting insane policies and taking over the country: getting away with it. Why? Because the masses don’t like abortion and gay marriage?

People should wake up and try to keep their eye on the prize, before biodiversity fades away and our planet can no longer support life.

Biscuit ‘ecoterrorists’
From Pat Simonson
Cave Junction

I am 80 and nearly died last year. Now I have a strong desire to speak up.

The Biscuit logging project is wasteful and wrong, and forest service employees entrusted with the care of these ancient forests should be ashamed. As trustees of our public land, these representatives are tasked with preserving the forest for future generations.

We’ve been fed lies, as the agencies and the timber industry prey on public fears brought about by the Biscuit Fire. Yet I remember how the back-burns set by the forest service, in many cases, were larger and more damaging than the wildfire itself. The Biscuit Fire episode merely provided logging proponents the excuse they needed to get at old-growth in the deep wilderness, and these forest abusers are taking everything they can get their greedy hands on.

If the forest service really cared about protecting our valley from wildfire, it would implement projects to thin the forestland between the community and wilderness. Instead, this so-called salvage project targets many deep wilderness areas that should be left to recover naturally.

There are few places left on Earth that still resemble creation as it intended by God. How dare we presume to override this ancient plan that provides life for all?

We choose to reside in this beautiful, fragile living museum and these forests burned naturally for thousands of years, and recovered just fine without our bumbling interference.

These last intact remnants of old-growth forest sustain countless threatened and endangered life forms; and for those who might not care much about that, then what about their own self-interests? These forests also provide the same clean air and water that sustains them.

I feel nauseated when a truck drives by with old-growth logs destined for a mill. There is no valid excuse for destroying the last ancient old-growth forests.

This supposed salvage project being rammed down our throats is one of the nation’s largest logging projects and is advancing at a huge financial loss to be absorbed by taxpayers.

Yet we cannot keep our

library open; schools continue to cut programs; and criminals walk free because our police force is underfunded. Instead, our tax dollars are used to fund this inappropriate logging that will cause landslides and erosion; further damaging public land, pristine waterways, salmon and other wildlife.

I say that the timber industry and agencies are the ecoterrorists.

Market ID jeopardy
From Roger Brandt
Cave Junction

Within view of Cave Junction is an opportunity for a sustainable economic future, a story of national significance, something that sets us apart from all other travel destinations on the West Coast.

It is our marketable identity. It has the potential to bring millions of dollars to our community annually.

It could be used to leverage national and international travel to Oregon worth billions of dollars to the state economy.

There are significant economic reasons to protect this unique market identity, but decisions made outside our community are about to erase it forever with the Biscuit Fire Harvest Plan.

The plan is going to throw out a billion-dollar sustainable tourism economy, and replace it with a tree farm in an area where tree farms have historically been failures.

We will not see an economic harvest from these farms for more than 80 years; the lifetime of a child born today. And during that lifetime, billions of tourism dollars will pass through our community, stripped of its market identity by decisions in another part of the state.

It would take less than 1 percent of the total Biscuit Fire harvest to save Illinois Valley’s nationally significant identity: 1 percent for the travel industry; 99 percent for the timber industry.

This 1-99 split has no significant effect on the timber industry, but would give local travel-dependent businesses an equal opportunity to make money on public land. The final decision, however, gave everything to the timber industry, and no effort was made to understand how this decision would affect the economy of travel-dependent businesses in our community and the surrounding region.

The U.S. Forest Service, with the support of elected officials, proposes to throw out the T.J. Howell Botanical Drive, -- our market identity and a nationally significant tourism opportunity worth billions of dollars -- so a tree farm can be established where it takes 25

years to grow a tree that still isn’t big enough to make a 30-cent dowel.

What kind of economic planning is this for our community, and why are we sitting around letting it happen as if we don’t count for anything?

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FORESTRY ACTION COMMITTEE

Open House



**Saturday,
Feb. 12th
Food & Beverages
Butler Building
Lower forest
Service Compound**

Paula Yablonski: 'Talk About Trees' - fun for the whole family, 10 to 11 a.m.

Rich Nawa: 'Importance of Wood to Streams & Wildlife', 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Joe Cercedes: 'Nutritional, Medicinal, Herbicidal, Insecticidal & Mycofiltration Uses of Mushrooms', Noon to 1 p.m.

Bob Budes: 'Weed Management Methods', 1 to 2 p.m.

Mike Mitchell: 'Micrositing for Tree Planting', 2 to 2:30 p.m.

You are cordially invited to

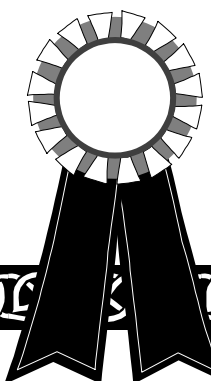
**The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce
annual General Meeting
plus
Business of the Year Award
and
Citizen of the Year Award**

**Saturday, February 26 at 1 p.m.
Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co.
in Cave Junction**

It is not too late (Tues., Feb. 15) to submit your entry for the 2004 business and citizen of the year awards.

**We hope you will join us for this fun event.
Refreshments will be served.**

**The chamber has some exciting things
planned for 2005.**



Forest Edge Farm

Nikodemos got to go to the “Wooly.” Neon says it’s his turn next.

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

llamuz@forestedgefarm.com

