

New valley store, Out Horsin' Around, offers 'home on the range' products

There's plenty of horse sense at a new business in Cave Junction: Out Horsin' Around, at 315 S. Redwood Hwy.

The newly painted brown and tan store features new and used tack, plus "horsey" gifts, Western shirts and the like.

Skip and Liz Leahy, rural CJ residents with approximately 100 years of solid, wide-ranging equestrian background between them, have the slogan, "Everything you need to go out horsing around."

They've set the store hours to accommodate "the working folks with horses." The business is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Mondays through Fridays from 2 to 7 p.m.

In addition, they'll make special appointments, as in the case of fitting a saddle; or in situations where a piece of tack is needed right away, as for a show or a trail ride.

Their store number is 592-2149; the home number is 592-2143. "We're only 15 minutes away," said Skip.

Besides focusing on horse owners, the couple also has items for friends of horsemen, or those who simply like horses or horsey items. Merchandise includes greeting cards, bandanas (Skip calls them "wild rags"), candle holders, picture frames and writing pads. Plus new and used tack.

The couple, always ready to say, "Howdy," also want the community to provide suggestions on types and brands of products they would like them to carry.

They've got a bulletin board too, for those who want to post notices having to do with equestrian events, tack or stock.

"We would love to be a center for horse news and knowledge for Illinois Valley," said Liz.

In addition to their extensive background with horses, including trail rides and managing stock and ranches -- besides being riders themselves (they currently have 10 steeds) -- they are familiar with horse products. They can provide

advice on a wide range of horsemanship topics, from limping, joint compounds, wraps and creams to fitting saddles.

The couple is from New

absence of House. The place was known for its good stock, which meant there was no lack of volunteer help for those wanting the chance to ride.



SKIP & LIZ LEAHY

Jersey, where they lived in country areas so they could have horses. They met while working in the field of chemistry for a large company, and were married in 1968. They'll mark their 38th anniversary in July.

Skip has a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry from Montclair College in New Jersey. Her degree is in animal husbandry from State University of New York at Delhi, and Cornell University.

"As a chemist," he noted, "I rode horses instead of going to a psychiatrist."

He served in the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, and received his honorable discharge after two years service.

While still in "The Garden State," they worked in Palmyton Plains for Bill House, the former "Marlboro Man." Noted Skip, "He didn't smoke."

The place had 100 horses, and she gave riding lessons. He was the main trail boss; and they managed the entire operation in the

They relocated to California in 1978 from New Jersey. He successfully completed the Tevis, a 100-mile, one-day obstacle course ride from the Nevada border to Auburn, Calif.

"It's the most-difficult 100-mile endurance ride in 24 hours in the world," said Skip. "It includes a 37,000-foot change from beginning to end."

Although 50 percent of those who begin don't make it, Skip has a silver buckle to prove his achievement.

Among their joint endeavors in California, they operated Las Trampas (The Trap) for 17 years. They had 50 horses, and she gave riding lessons, while he led trail rides of varying lengths.

"Our motto," he said, "was, 'Ride the best in the West,' and no one ever challenged that." Their operation had an outstanding safety record, too, he noted.

Now they're looking forward to providing the best for riders here.

And that's right from the horse's mouth.

Cure noted for young in crashes

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

Young adults seem to be among those involved in many fatal traffic accidents, "Yet, we already have a cure," said Cara Johnston, a motivational speaker who recently addressed a student body assembly at Illinois Valley High School.

"We have choices," she said, "that could save your lives and the lives of others."

"Today, I'm going to share with you four choices that could save your lives. They could have saved my twin sister's life."

The four choices:

*First, don't get in a car if you know the driver is unsafe.

*Second, get out of the car.

"The important part about choice number two is to make sure the car is stopped first," said Johnston. "Choice number two is all about speaking up for yourself."

Child-care award goes to Denham for RCC work

Connie Denham believes that young children need skilled advocates to help overcome many hazardous societal problems.

Her dedicated work in training child-care workers and teachers has earned Denham selection as the 2005 Outstanding Instructor/Leader from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

"Children should have access to quality early education," said Denham, head of the Rogue Community College Early Childhood Education Dept.

"I feel like I'm making a difference in the world," she said. "It's a matter of circles of impact: every teacher I impact goes into the world and helps kids, some of whom are dealing with abuse and neglect."

Other instructors nominated for the award are Francine Gentile, Social Science and Human Services; Lutz Kramer, Humanities; Christine McCaffery, Adult Basic Education math and science; Mollie Owens-Stevenson, Counseling; and Linda Wagner, Allied Health. All nominees will be honored at RCC's spring in-service.

Denham will represent RCC at the NISOD spring conference in Austin, Texas.

*The third choice is about lying to make sure you're safe.

"My favorite excuses

well. I'm going to puke,'" Johnston advised.

"P" number three: "If you're a girl, this is the most powerful weapon. Say, 'Uh-oh, I started my period.' I don't care who he is, there's not a man on Earth who wants a girl to start her period on his passenger car seat. I guarantee the car will stop immediately," according to Johnston.

*Choice number four is, "Phone your parents if you need a ride," she said. "You might get grounded, but it's worth getting grounded rather than risking your life with someone else."

"I've visited 200 high schools a year in four different countries over 10 years, and I've never been in one where they didn't know somebody who was killed in a car crash," Johnston said.

Speaker provides tips to Illinois Valley students to avoid hazardous trips

are the three P's," Johnston told the IVHS students.

"P" number one: Tell the driver you have to pee. "Do the pee dance," she said. "Put your hand on your bladder; put your knees together; and in your most whiny voice say, 'But, I really have to pee now.'"

"P" number two: Tell the driver you're going to puke. "Bend over, let the drool start dropping and say things like, 'I don't feel so

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'Pet geek' Dan Fiske addresses FCE

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

Describing himself as a "pet geek," veterinarian Dan Fiske spoke to the Deer Creek Chapter of Family Community Education (FCE) at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Cave Junction.

Fiske, who earned his doctor of veterinary medicine from University of California at Davis, operates Crossroads Animal Hospital & Pet Supply in CJ with his wife, Sue, and their staff.

"I've been here since 1997," Fiske told the FCE members. "I'm one of those geeks that wanted to be a vet since the third grade, so I guess I'm living my dream, and I love it."



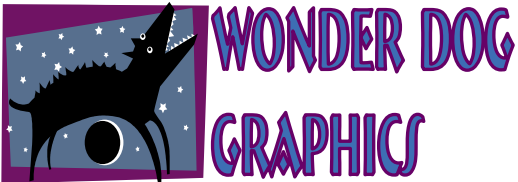
DR. DAN FISKE & 'MOTOR' (Photo by Christina Hill)

"I started working for a vet while I was in high school; then I went on to open my own practice here

in Cave Junction."

His talk focused on the
(Continued on page 13)

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