ILLINOIS VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE conducted opening day ceremonies in Jubilee Park on Saturday, April 23, and included refreshments for the players. Travis Robbins is serving as league president. The Illinois Valley teams will compete against those from Brookings, Gold Beach, Rogue River and Gold Hill until mid June. Home games will be played daily at Jubilee Park. (Photo provided)

Ronan down to business at I.V. Family Coalition

"If you've got a need, this is your place," notes Selma resident Carol Ronan, new executive director at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC) on E. River Street in Cave Junction.

With a solid background in business administration, Ronan jumped into her new job last week, after first resigning from her IVFC directorship.

She had joined the board to become involved in the community and because she believes strongly in IVFC, and is pleased to have the opportunity to further IVFC aims as executive director.

"We work on finding solutions here," said Ronan, who previously served three years as administrative manger for Josephine County Mental Health Dept.

"The entire building and its tenants are geared to help people in areas including safety, housing, employment opportunities, and training -- striving to help prepare people to their best advantage.

"We provide services or direct people to where they can obtain what they need. Primary goals are to help make people safe first, and self-sufficient second."

Carol Ronan with some of the equipment available for free public use at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition.

At IVFC, Ronan supervises principal areas of overall administration, coordination of services, and managing the building, plus working on finances and grants.

Prior to moving to Oregon and working for Josephine County, she was administrative and business manager at Cedars-Sinai, a major hospital in the Los Angeles area.

In her "spare time," Ronan and her husband raise 80 Angora goats and 30 Shetland sheep on their acreage in Selma.

She's a native of the Pacific Northwest, having been born in the Yakima Valley of Washington state.

She and her husband, Jeff, a computer consultant, came to S.W. Oregon by way of looking for a pleasant community with good weather and a good community environment for her parents.

They found this area to their liking and decided to also move here, first to Grants Pass and now in Selma. Her parents, who had resided in areas including Hermiston and Weston, live with the couple.

Regarding her background, Ronan said, "My employment has always been focused on processes to implement the latest business functions to support social service programs.

"There are a lot of needs in our community," she said, "and I'm looking forward to a more complete understanding of how we can help people. It's going to be an evolving process."

She noted that Bruce Stone, of Illinois Valley, has donated the work for a website (frontiernet.net/~ivfc/) where information about IVFC can be found.

"The coalition," she said, "is a one-stop service location: This is not a welfare site." From bus rides to computer use, IVFC will work to help, she said. Tenants include:

I.V. Safe House Alliance, Community Human Services, Senior & Disability Services, I.V. Alternative Center, Work Source Employment, Vietnam Veterans of America, Early Intervention, Family Friends, and The Job Council.

Ronan said that she has a strong, positive connection with all tenants. She sees them as "customers," and she works to ensure that their needs are met, so that they in turn can assist others who come for help.

Despite her relative newness at IVFC, replacing Vikki Miller, Ronan said that she knows the board of directors and the representatives of each agency are good to work with, and that they are dedicated to the valley community.

Oregon House salutes bill for Pledge option in class

Linda Flores (R-Clackamas) announced passage of HB 2806, which requires school districts to give students an opportunity to salute the U.S. flag each school day.

"Every day, our legislative session begins with the opportunity for us to salute the flag," said Flores, carrier of the bill and chairman of the House Education Committee.

"It's time we offer our students the same opportunity by allowing them to say a daily pledge to honor our country and all that it stands for," she said.

Currently, school districts are required to allow students to say the pledge of allegiance on a weekly basis.

The House Education Committee heard testimony from parents that even with the current weekly law in Oregon, some school districts don't give students the chance to salute the flag.

The goal of HB 2806 is to make the pledge a part of everyday activities in Oregon public schools.

"The pledge was started in our schools," said Flores.

"We say it to remind ourselves of the principles our country was founded on. Millions of children across the country say the pledge at the start of every day. Thirty-five states have some type of pledge law.

"It's time we give Oregon a law that will make the pledge a part of our children's school day, every day."

At Illinois Valley High School, the pledge is recited before home games in the gym, but not otherwise. At Lorna Byrne Middle School, some teachers lead the pledge and some don't; it's up to them individually.

At Evergreen Elementary School, at least one teacher leads the pledge daily; otherwise there is not a schedule per se, but a number of teachers lead the pledge periodically.

March busy for deputies in CJ

March was a particularly busy month for deputies in Cave Junction.

According to a crime statistics report provided to the city council by Josephine County Sheriff's Office, the total number of calls and incidents, at 472, nearly doubled from the previous month.

"Property and person crimes both took a drastic increase," said Lt. Lee Harman. Traffic incidents and stops also rose.

Jubilee Park was also a busy place for deputies, who conducted a number a drug arrests, netting small quantities of marijuana.

Overall in the city there were eight assaults, four burglaries, and six disturbances, as well as 15 thefts and four third-degree theft ("shoplifting") incidents. Six cars were reported stolen in city limits during March, Harman noted.

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Infrastructure added to CJ

New streets and sidewalks, among other infrastructure items, were added to Cave Junction's inventory during the city council's regular meeting Monday night, April 25 in city hall.

Presented by developer Larry Osborn, of Manor Communities Development Company LLC, the roads and street lights, sewers, curbs, storm drains and fire hydrants for Hanby Vistas Estates and Cedarbrook Planned Unit Development met with the approval of city staff. They recommended the city accept the new public infrastructure.

The council did so, voting 4-0 for both developments. Additionally, the council voted to approve the final plat for Hanby Vistas Estates.

Councilman Rita Dyer was absent.

The council also unanimously approved a zone-change request put forward by Ronald and Suzanne Gagin pertaining to their property on S. Boundry Street. The .22-acre parcel, which city staff found met all applicable criteria, was rezoned Multifamily Residential.

The move is consistent with the city's comprehensive plan. At most, a two-family dwelling could replace the existing single-family residence.

Reflecting the Boundry Street zone change, the council then approved without dissent Ordinance 464, which amended the city's zoning map.

~ **Michelle Binker**

ILLINOIS VALLEY PREGNANCY CENTER held an open house at its facility on S. Junction Avenue adjacent to Fountain of Life Assembly of God Church on Saturday, April 23. A cake noting the center's 18th anniversary is admired by (top from left) Executive Director Mary Lefner and Bernie Pinard, and (bottom) Corrinna Fierro and Tina Palmer. The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-5, Tuesdays 9-1, and Fridays 1-5. Pregnancy tests and post-abortion counseling are among the many services offered. (Related story and photo on page 13)

Hotline with legislators set May 4

A free, public legislative telephone hotline session with state Sen. Jason Atkinson's office will be held Wednesday, May 4 from 7:30 to 8 a.m. in Room 154 of the Josephine County Courthouse.

The hotline session for Wednesday, April 27 is canceled.

On May 4 the hotline will involve Atkinson, plus Reps. Gordon Anderson, Dennis Richardson and Susan Morgan.

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