

Here, There & Everywhere

NEED RIM SHOT? - Today, Wednesday, Aug. 31, is the deadline to register for the adult and younger-than-19 talent shows during the I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival in Jubilee Park. Late entries will not be accepted. Phone 596-2719.

FOOD PLEA - Donations of food, including extra produce from home gardens, is needed by Illinois Valley Open Door in Selma. During the past two months, the grass-roots organization has served 1,121 people, said Dodie Vandermark, owner. Open Door obtains items from the main food bank in GP, but donations there have been low, she said. Donations can be dropped off Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 18250-B Redwood Hwy. Phone 597-2197 for more information.

PAYCHECK BOOST - “The Hidden Labor Market, Applications & Cover Letters,” is the title of a free workshop Thursday, Sept. 1 in a series of Job Council employment search workshops at Illinois Valley Family Resource Center, in cooperation with I.V. Family Coalition. Workshops run Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The next two workshops will be Sept. 15, “Identifying Your Skills,” and Sept. 29, “Preparing A Resume.” There will be no child-care. There is limited seating. Phone 592-6139; or 476-1877, Ext. 305 to sign up.

NEEDLE NEWS - Donors are sought for an American Red Cross blood drive Thursday, Sept. 8 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Illinois Valley Senior Center. Donors should phone (800) 448-3543 to schedule a donation, each of which can save up to three lives.

GAMBLING GRIP - Those who are addicted to gambling can obtain free, confidential help from a program sponsored by JoCo Human Services Dept. For information phone 474-5393.

MEAL-WHEELERS NEEDED - Food & Friends, the area’s “meals-on-wheels” program, needs delivery help. Those with two noon-time hours available should phone 955-8839 for orientation and a ride-along.

NOTEPAD - CJ Swimming Pool will close for the season at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2 ... **Five Measure 37** claims, three of them from Illinois Valley, were to be considered by JoCo commissioners Wednesday morning, Aug. 31 in GP ... **An automotive swap meet**, sponsored by Caveman Vintage Car Club, will be held Sunday, Sept. 18 at Josephine County Fairgrounds in GP. There is no admission fee for spectators. Vendors with vehicles should phone 476-3365. Others should phone 479-7580. Watch the “Noose” for more details ... **“All About Advanced Directives”** is the title of a free Lovejoy Hospice workshop Tuesday, Sept. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m. Phone 474-1193 for a seat ... **Substation North**, an annual gathering of retirees from the Long Beach (Calif.) Police Dept., has been going to Indian Mary Park in rural GP for the past three years, instead of Illinois Valley, for those wondering. The reason is that the rural CJ location used previously is for sale; so the site couldn’t be guaranteed anymore ... **Humorous headlines:** *Marijuana issue sent to a joint committee. *Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says. *Squad helps dog bite victim. *Drunk gets nine months in violin case. *Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers.

LAST WORDS - A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort. (Herm Allbright).

I.V. jewelers in Kerby a couple of gems

By CHRIS HILL
Correspondent

When Michael Yanase’s back was broken in a car accident as a teenager, he spent a couple of years in and out of surgeries.

A friend of his family started teaching him how to be a jeweler, and Yanase discovered he loved it.

Fast forward more than three decades later, and you will find Yanase and his wife of 13 years, Karen, successfully running their own jewelry business: Yanase Jewelers.

Located in Kerby on Hwy. 199, the Yanases are centrally located to serve all their local customers, plus the many tourists and out-of-town customers from the coast and Happy Camp who drop off pieces for express service work while on their way to Grants Pass or Medford.

The Yanases haven’t always been jewelers.

“We had another business that we closed down, AC Valley Ambulance,” said Karen. “Michael was a paramedic, and I was a medic. We wanted a change of lifestyles, and Michael had been doing stuff with jewelry off and on since he was 18, so we shut down the business and opened our store in 1994,” she said.

Karen is now a graduate gemologist. She is certified to perform appraisals and stone identifications among other such tasks.

Michael casts and fabricates his own line of jewelry along with repairing pieces for others.

Together the Yanases melt old gold down into



MICHAEL and KAREN YANESE

beautiful nuggets, set stones, make old rings into new pendants, resize pieces and do repairs. The only thing they send out for is stone cutting to a “very good stone cutter” they “trust very much.”

In addition to Michael’s own line of jewelry, ranging from pendants and earrings to rings and more, the Yanases offer four different lines of Black Hills Gold jewelry.

However, Karen said, her love is for phenomenal stones.

“I have a passion for unique stones like color-change stones,” she said.

“They’re something that’s a little different and one thing we have a lot of; and we’re trying to promote the Oregon Sun Stone, which is the Oregon state gem,” Karen

explained. “They range in color from clear, to orange, red and green,” she said. “They’re unique to Oregon because it’s the only place you can find Sun Stones with schiller, which is the presence of minute and varying levels of copper in the crystal,” she explained

“Diamonds, topaz and sapphire come in just about every color of the rainbow. Most people don’t know that,” Karen added. But one thing their customers know for sure, Karen said, is that they can count on her and Michael to get the work done honestly.

“You have to be able to trust your jeweler, and that’s our number-one thing: being trustworthy,” Karen said.

And, people all across the world trust the Yanases with their precious jewels.

“We’ve done customer work for people in Australia, Las Vegas, Montana, Washington and California,” said Karen. “Some people find us by our Web site, but a lot of our business is by word of mouth,” she said.

Between work and family, the Yanases stay busy, Karen said.

“We have five children and four grandchildren; the latest is our first granddaughter who is six months old,” she said. “We have two sons in the Navy, one daughter getting her teaching degree, one son works at Masterbrands in Grants Pass, and our other daughter in San Diego is a supervisor at an electronics store,” Karen said.

“Michael and I both have birthdays this summer, and together we’re going to be 100,” Karen added with a laugh.

Yanase Jewelers is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and from 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays. They are available evenings and weekends by appointment only.

For more information, stop by the store at 23772 Redwood Hwy. in Kerby or phone 592-4838.

Lyons, Gibson earn Helen Keller citations

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extremely active in fundraising, is retired from the Long Beach (Calif.) Police Dept.

The money donated to the foundation was raised by the club mostly by selling motorcycle raffle tickets, Jacobson said.

“Lew and John were voted on by members of the entire club, not just the board,” he said. “We look for people who give a lot of service to their community,

to Lionism and to themselves, more or less.

“A lot of them belong to other organizations than just the I.V. Lions Club,” Jacobson explained.

“John donated more than 2,000 eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt this year, and the I.V. Bikers donated the toys that we gave away to the kids,” Jacobson added.

Gibson and Lyons were surprised when they found out that they were selected

as Hellen Keller Benefactors.

“I couldn’t believe it. I don’t know why, you know. It is a very big honor for me,” Gibson said.

Gibson has been involved with I.V. Lions Club for the past 23 years since he’s lived here.

Like Gibson, Lyons’ initial reaction involved shock and surprise.

“I was very surprised,” he said. “I didn’t expect it. I’ve tried to be active in the

group and I guess they recognized that fact,” said Lyons, who joined I.V. Lions Club 12 years ago, when he moved to the valley.

“I wanted to join a community service organization,” he said. “I’m a retired police officer, and my son, Steve Lyons, was involved in the group before I was, and that was part of what caused me to want to be in it too,” Lyons explained.

For more club information, phone 592-4135.

Lions ‘very fun club,’ notes President Culver

(Continued from page 3)

thought it’d be an interesting club to belong to and because he knew a lot of the members.

“I thought it would be fun, and it is,” he said. “We do have our ups and downs because of all the work we have to do sometimes, but it’s a very fun club.

“I love all the members, and I know all the members first and last names, and I know almost all of their

wives’ first names too,” said Culver.

That’s an achievement considering that the club has nearly 40 members.

And, the secret to their club’s success, Culver added, is the wives.

“A number of the wives come and help,” he said. “If it weren’t for them a lot of things would be dead in the water, because they give a lot of help,” Culver said.

However, while the

wives help considerably, they are not able to gain membership, Culver said.

“The I.V. Lions Club decided many years ago, back before my time, that they wanted it to be men only, but we helped some members, who wanted to start their own club, so their wives could join, and so we helped the Cave Junction Lions Club start up and get their own charter.

“At the time, there were around 125 members, and to add the wives would have been too much,” Culver said.

Besides praising the wives, Culver praised club member Lou Spencer for all his hard work. Spencer recently received an award for dedicating 42 years of service to the club.

For more about the club, phone 592-4135.

Country Breakfast

I.V. Senior Center

520 E. River St.

Saturday, September 3

8 to 11 a.m.

* Biscuits & Gravy * Pancakes

* Eggs * Bacon * Sausage

* Coffee, Milk, Juice

Adults - \$4

Children 12

& under - \$2.50

My body is like breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I don't think about it, I just have it.

- Arnold Schwarzenegger -

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Umatilla on chopping block

Votes to close a chemical depot and keep a fighter base open are applauded by U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.). The voting was by the Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission. Including the Umatilla

site in Eastern Oregon, the U.S. Army has eight installations storing chemical weapons in the United States. In a letter to BRAC earlier this year, Wyden and Smith supported continued funding and staffing for completion of the depot’s mission prior to closure.

“The BRAC vote means that the Defense Dept. can focus on safeguarding and permanently cleaning up the chemicals stored in Eastern Oregon, with the end of the depot’s mission in sight,” said Wyden and Smith. They also praised the BRAC vote to reject a Pentagon proposal to gut the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard in Portland. Better security for the Pacific Northwest was among reasons cited by the two senators.

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