

Here, There & Everywhere

***GOING TO THE MAT** - Thursday, Dec. 1 is set for an Illinois Valley Youth Wrestling Tournament at I.V. High School, during which I.V. will compete vs. Brookings-Harbor beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Tournament of Champions will be held at IVHS Saturday, Dec. 3 beginning at 10 a.m.

***TOY RUN ELVES** - From noon to midnight, based at the Junction Inn, the annual Illinois Valley Toy Run will be held Saturday, Dec. 3. (See the ad elsewhere in this issue). Everyone is welcome, with or without a motorcycle. Sponsors are seeking donations of toys and gifts, for which they'll be grateful, said organizers. For information contact Steve Lyons at Century 21 Harris & Taylor, 592-3181.

***ACTIVE SANTA** - Jolly St. Nick is going to be at Darn Near Everything, next to Treehouse Florist & Gifts in Downtown Cave Junction Saturday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. He'll also be at the Community Christmas Tree official lighting, sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, at 5 p.m. on the Junction Inn vacant lot. The event will include caroling. And with his magic, Santa also will be at Rose of Sharon in Western Plaza from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., according to North Pole reports.

***"MYTH-O-MANIAC" MANIA** - Featuring masks, live music and movement, a "Myth-O-Maniac" program will be staged Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School by Dell'Arte Company, a professional theater troupe. It'll be the group's 25th annual show in Illinois Valley. The performance is based on the acclaimed, classic work, "Peer Gynt," by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Flying reindeer, treacherous trolls and an epic quest will be featured in the family program. The show is free for youth; adults will pay a \$3 admission fee. Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted and given to a valley food bank.

***IN THE SWIM** - The newly established Illinois Valley High School swim team, coached by Cave Junction Pool manager Cynthia Hobbins, will be bagging groceries at Shop Smart Food Warehouse Friday, Dec. 2 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday Dec. 3 from noon to 5 p.m. Proceeds raised will pay for "everything" an upstart club needs: equipment, entry fees, and so on.

***ENERGY BILL THRILL** - "Cutting Your Energy Bill" is the subject for a community meeting Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the I.V. Family Resource Center on E. River Street. The program is co-sponsored by I.V. Family Coalition and Josephine County Community Services. Topics will include what really works to reduce energy usage, how to apply for energy assistance, and what other services are provided by Community Action. Free energy-saving items will be available, including low-voltage light bulbs and low-volume shower heads.

***"HARLEY" TIME** - First come-first served tickets are available for the 2006 Harley Davidson FXDW DynaWide Glide motorcycle offered by Illinois Valley Lions Club. Tickets at \$100 each can be obtained from Steve Lyons at Century 21 Harris & Taylor, and Carlos' Restaurante, both in Downtown Cave Junction. The red bike, valued at \$18,000, is displayed at Carlos'. The winning ticket will be drawn on Labor Day, Sept. 4 at the conclusion of the I.V. Lions' annual three-day Labor Day Festival in Jubilee Park. Only 300 tickets are available, and the club would like to sell as many as possible to valley residents.

***NOTEPAD - Christmas trees** are being sold as a fund-raiser by Illinois Valley Wrestling Club at CJ Video Mart/Radio Shack through Saturday, Dec. 10. Trees also can be ordered at 592-2233 ... **The Holiday Basketball Tournament**, hosted by I.V. High School, will be held Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10. Watch the "Noose" next week for details ... **A certain big business** in GP needs to get its restrooms in order, according to some shoppers, several of whom said they will stop patronizing the store because of the inconvenience and "who cares" attitude of employees ... **"Santa's Bargains"** in the form of a book sale will be held at the main library in GP Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by GP Friends of the Library ... **IVHS International Club** is conducting a refundable container fund-raiser. Containers can be left at IVHS; or Saturday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fred Meyer in GP ... **The Shining Stars** Holiday Bazaar will be held during Second Friday Art Walk Dec. 9 in the county building in CJ. Among offerings will be the somewhat world-famous holiday cookie platters, for which orders can be placed at 592-2236. Watch the "Noose" next week for more information ... **Grants Pass Longspurs**, a chapter of the National Turkey Federation, donated 30 birds to the state Dept. of Human Resources, with 15 each to the I.V. and GP offices ... **Median prices** for home sales in Josephine County dropped during October to \$277,450, according to the Multiple Listing Service. The price during September was \$285,000 ... **To avoid telemarketers**, phone (888) 382-1222 or use donotcall.gov as soon as possible ... **Notice** in the I.V. Senior Center newsletter: "A member asked that the following be printed: 'Potluck-A meal to which each guest brings a dish to share.'" ... **T-shirt:** Instant human. Just add coffee. **Another T:** It IS as bad as you think, and they ARE out to get you. **One more T:** I never get lost. People always tell me where to go. **Yet another T:** It matters not whether you win or lose. It matters whether I win or lose. **Last T:** Keep staring at me. I might do a trick.

***LAST WORDS** - It is easier to exclude harmful passions than to rule them, and to deny them admittance than to control them after they have been admitted. (Seneca)

Soothing 'Blue Holidays' topic at Lovejoy Dec. 12

A free program, "Blue Holidays - Grief and Loss Survival Strategies for the Winter Holidays," will be presented Monday, Dec. 12 at Lovejoy Hospice.

Presenters will be Joe Momyer, volunteer bereavement counselor for Lovejoy, and other bereavement team members.

The program will be held at the hospice building conference room, 939 S.E. Eighth St. in Grants Pass in from noon until 1 p.m. The meeting is open free of charge to everyone in the community.

Facilitators will offer information and suggestions for coping with holiday activities and expectations for those experiencing grief and the loss of a loved one.

The program is open to all, including survivors, care-givers, counselors, and clergy members.

Family members are especially encouraged to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Beverages and a dessert will be provided. Phone 474-1193 to register and for further information.

"Holidays can be tough times. Everyone around you seems so happy and content," said Momyer, "It's hard enough to cope during routine times -- but during holidays it seems that the outside world and our own memories gang up on us."

Designated drivers help save lives.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

Speaker amplifies fire district comments

From Jim Dougherty
Cave Junction

When I attended the Nov. 7 meeting of Illinois Valley Fire District directors, I didn't know what to expect. I listened to some concerned people who wanted to be in the know about the rules and what they might be changed to concerning outdoor burning.

The "I.V. News" Nov. 23 story, it seems to me, took some sentences out of context and missed the point of what I was trying to say. It happens.

The reporter quoted me as saying, "I believe the ordinance will encourage residents to rat out each other regarding burn piles." No, I implied that if the ordinance is passed, some residents won't purchase permits; thus the fire district might not know when, where or how they are burning, until perhaps a neighbor rats them out.

Mystery burning is not a safe situation, and not a cost-effective scenario for the district, and not in the community's best interest.

For the record, I believe that the fire district should strongly "encourage" everyone to register for a free permit before burning large piles of legal fuels, not "discourage" citizens by charging for what should be a required district courtesy.

It is more important for the district to be aware of potential burning than to reap a few dollars while alienating a community over an insulting fee after the voters gave their blessings and dollars to all the new fire houses around the valley. Someday the district will need a real sum of money. Will the community be so willing again?

The reporter wrote that I said, "The ordinance would encourage people to dump their debris in the woods." Perhaps that could happen, but again, I was trying to describe a parallel of progression of how the Kerby dump and the burning dilemma have similarities.

First the dump was free. People had a convenient place to take their stuff; then it was not free, and a lot of scatter can be found at the end of most lonely roads. A good situation to begin with; then the fees; then a problem.

Last, there is a quote in the article by district official that reads, "Landscapers and tree falling companies should have the resident

obtain the needed \$7.50 permit." This was put forth by fire district officials as a way for some contractors to not have to pay a \$50 commercial burning fee.

When I heard this at the meeting, I knew that all was not well. No resident should assume any potential liabilities of a contracted company doing burning on their property. No burn fee for everyone would serve the community the best.

It's not so settling for me to criticize the fire district. It has aided me personally and so many others.

They are skilled and dedicated, and at times have such a heart-wrenching and dangerous job.

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Saturday, Dec. 3rd

8:00 p.m.

Newman Methodist Church--6th & B St.

Tickets: \$16 reg., \$12 students at the Book Exchange, Cave Junction, Music 4 Kids in Grants Pass, at the door, or call (541) 592-2681

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