

Here, There & Everywhere

LATE LETTER - A letter to Santa, from Illinois Valley Family Coalition, inadvertently was left out of last week's issue. Here it is: "It has been a good year for us. We have a supportive community, and with the help of our partner organizations, we've been able to provide help to many individuals in the valley. What we really, really, really want for Christmas is for every individual to have at least the basic human needs for safety and comfort. Please, Santa, help every family in Illinois Valley to have a warm, secure place to live, and adequate food and clothing." (Editor's Note: Hey, Santa - it's not too late!)

2005's OUTSTANDING? - Nomination forms are available for "Citizen of the Year" and "Business of the Year" from Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. Forms are available at the chamber office in the I.V. Visitor Center. Nominations are to be based on activities during 2005. The top candidate in each category, chosen by chamber directors, will be recognized Feb. 25 at Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. during the chamber's annual general meeting.

A SHOT FOR SHOTS - Grants totaling \$10,000 to fund immunizations during the annual Kids Care Fair have been received by Asante Health System. The fair is sponsored by Three Rivers Community Hospital. The national board of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) voted to award a \$5,000 grant to match a \$5,000 grant from RMHC of Oregon and S.W. Washington. The money will be used in conjunction with Josephine County Health Dept. to cover the cost of administering immunizations to hundreds of children, said Asante.

ANTI-FLU ANTIBIOTICS - "Antibiotics don't work for colds and flu" signs, funded by federal dollars, began appearing on 100 public transit buses last week in Eugene, Salem and Portland. "We want to make the public aware that antibiotic resistance is an emerging public health threat, and that lack of awareness only adds to the problem," said Dr. Mel Kohn, state epidemiologist in the Oregon Dept. of Human Services.

NOTEPAD - **A New Year's Eve** public gala is planned by the HASL Independent Abilities Center of Grants Pass in GP. "Broadway Phil & the Shouters" will perform for the 20th anniversary gala and celebration. Phone 479-4275 ... **American Red Cross/Rogue Valley Chapter** will benefit by recycling toner and inkjet cartridges (\$1 per item). More information is available from Coastal Inkjet & Toner Recycling at (877) 774-0858 ... **Natalie Kaplan, 3**, one of Bob & Jan Rodriguez' granddaughters, coined a new word. It's "muddle," used for "muddy puddle." She also has come up with "wild poop" for diarrhea ... **T-shirt:** What part of Bob don't you understand? **Another T:** I'm not bald. Heavy thinking burned off my hair. **One more T:** A simple, "Your Grace," will suffice. **Yet another T:** Yet, despite the look on my face, you're still talking. **Last T:** Don't take life too seriously. It isn't permanent.

LAST WORDS - *Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning, but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. (Hal Borland)

*The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. (G.K. Chesterton)

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 2)

-astating elk hunting program for Illinois Valley as outlined in the 2005 Hunting Synopsis. To my letter of concern I received a reply via email from Peter Test, ODFW, Deer/Elk Cervid Holding & Propagation Unit, whereupon I was advised that our valley had, in 1994, been designated an "Elk De-emphasis Area."

This method of management was designed to maintain only a low population or to eliminate them altogether, and should I have further question or comment that I should direct them to our local game biologist, Mark Vargas.

On approximately Dec. 7, I contacted Vargas and briefly explained the situation facing Illinois Valley elk. Vargas explained that the valley's EDA status had been brought about due to direct complaints from valley residents, specifically the residents of Selma and O'Brien.

Upon questioning the validity of those claims, Vargas explained that

ODFW had in reality adopted the EDA policy due to the *anticipation of future complaints* based on the projected increase in residential (people) population. At the suggestion of creating a West Applegate, as currently used for Controlled Deer Tags, I was simply encouraged to contact ODFW with my complaint.

On Dec. 9, I contacted Test to perhaps clarify issues from my previous letters. He and I discussed the Illinois Valley elk population and that they were in existence only due to being on private lands closed to hunting. Also, that at present, current hunting regulations subjected them to not only two open hunting seasons, but seasons which also included the proverbial "Hair Tag."

Our discussion also included the division of the Applegate Unit, converting the unit to a Bull Only drawing and the temporary elimination of the PDP due to the limited number of animals.

These changes would potentially meet the needs of

Medford and Ashland, as well as those of Illinois Valley. Test said that my suggestions would not meet the current Management Goals as set forth for the Applegate Unit and that ODFW does not split hunting units.

Contrary to this information however, there exists a division to the Applegate Unit. ODFW long ago created the "West Applegate Unit" for controlled deer hunts, and it seems a simple matter to allow the inclusion of elk into this unit.

To be or not to be. This should be the choice of Illinois Valley residents regarding the re-establishment of elk in the valley.

The ODFW bureaucrats are at present under the veil of legislative license, electing to eliminate elk in the Applegate Unit. Whether this is being done in the interest of the commercial enterprises of Medford or Ashland is unimportant.

What is important is that without representation or comment the results will directly affect Illinois Valley.

People can phone or write ODFW and be heard.



ILLINOIS VALLEY GIRLS, led by Emily Dudley's 16 points and nine rebounds, beat fourth-ranked Douglas 53-48 in a nonleague game Tuesday, Dec. 20 in Ken Mann Memorial Gym. The Cougar girls (8-1) will begin Skyline play in Cave Junction Tuesday, Jan. 3 vs. Mazama. On Tuesday, Dec. 20th the I.V. boys defeated Douglas in Winston 56-49. The boys (4-8) will open conference play Jan. 3 vs. Mazama as well. They play on the road in Klamath Falls. (Photos by Dale Sandberg)

Aid possible for sufferers of chronic bronchitis

Those with chronic bronchitis -- an inflammation or irritation of the airways in the lungs, which produces mucus that blocks airflow -- know that there is no cure for this condition.

The good news is that it can be improved with proper attention to preventing exacerbations.

There are a number of actions that can prevent the short-term aggravations of the condition:

*If you smoke, stop! Smoke irritates and further damages lungs; eliminate it and you eliminate the source of irritation and damage.

*Since chronic bronchitis increases your risk of lung infections, take advantage of annual flu vaccinations and at the first sign of infection (severe coughing accompanied by yellow or green mucus) be sure to see your doctor for antibiotics before more damage is done to your lungs.

*Exercise regularly to strengthen the muscles that help you breathe.

*Try to avoid other lung irritants, such as dust, chemical fumes, and aerosol products.

CareSource lists locations

Residents of Josephine County now can sign up to obtain CareSource coverage from insurance agencies in Grants Pass:

Hart Insurance at 321 S.E. "T" St. and Health Insurance Place at 1826-B Williams Hwy.

Mid Rogue Community Health Plan also will continue to offer the CareSource plans at its office in Grants Pass.

Mid Rogue Community Health Plan is a locally owned and operated company that offers CareSource, a Medicare Advantage Plan with a Medicare contract.

CareSource is available to the people of Josephine County, Azalea/Glendale in Douglas County, and Rogue River/Gold Hill in Jackson County who are eligible for Medicare benefits. Mid Rogue Community Health Plan is owned and operated by Mid Rogue Independent Physicians Association, a group comprised of 72 local physicians.

For more information phone (541) 471-4106, or for TTY (800) 735-2900.

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**For last year's words belong to last year's language.
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.**

- T.S. Eliot -