

Here, There & Everywhere

MEDICAL INSIGHTS - Medicare and prescription drug programs will be explained Friday, Feb. 10 during a free presentation. RSVP/Asante Senior Resources will present its SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) program to explain Medicare Part D beginning at 10 a.m. at Selma Community Center. To register or for more information about the program, sponsored by Three Rivers Community Hospital, phone 415-1000.

LITTLE LEAGUE PLEA - Volunteer coaches for the girls softball and boys baseball 2006 season are sought by Illinois Valley Little League (IVLL). Those who can help are asked to attend a mandatory meeting Friday, Feb. 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Lorna Byrne Middle School gym. More information is available from Janet Ewing, IVLL information officer, at 592-4389.

‘VIRGINIA’ REAL DEAL - A benefit for Virginia Rivera, of Speedy Mart, to help with her cancer treatments, will be held Saturday, Feb. 11 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Junction Inn lounge. The community fundraiser is sponsored by “Southern Oregon Blues” (S.O.B.). There will be a \$5 per person admission fee. Donations of items for raffles, door prizes and an auction are requested. To donate items, phone “Virginia” at 592-3988. To donate or for more information, phone “Sandra” at 592-2318, or “Claire” at 592-8579.

PRUNING/PROPAGATION - A free seminar on grape pruning and propagation will be held Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Auditorium in Grants Pass at 215 Ringuette St. There will be a lecture and hands-on instruction by Jeff Birdsong, an OSU urban horticulture agent.

USAF CONCERT - The U.S. Air Force “Band of the Golden West” will perform a free concert Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center. The 40-piece group will present a variety of music for all ages, said the sponsor, GP Chamber of Commerce. Free tickets are available at the chamber office, 198 N.W. Vine St., and at Blind George’s.

TLC FOR CHILDREN - Wednesday, Feb. 15 is the deadline to register for a free 16-week class, “Helping Children Who Have Been Exposed to Batterers.” The program for parents and community partners is sponsored by Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance. Classes will begin March 7 and continue through June 20. They’ll be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the I.V. Family Resource Center on E. River Street in Cave Junction. To register, or for additional information, phone 592-2515.

NOTEPAD - A Woolly Winter Gala, the fourth annual event, will be held Sunday, Feb. 12 at Lorna Byrne Middle School from 1 to 5 p.m. See the ad and story elsewhere in this issue ... **Blood donations** will be taken during an American Red Cross drive on Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by Illinois Valley High School at the school. Phone 592-2116 for more info ... **Family Night** with catering by Taylor’s Country Store will be held at Lorna Byrne Middle School on Thursday, Feb. 16 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. An important aspect will be for parents to fill our surveys for a Gear-Up grant ... **A chamber mixer** will be held Friday, Feb. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Federal Paralegal Inc. behind Caves Pharmacy. Federal Paralegal is sponsoring the I.V. Chamber of Commerce event to “meet and greet” ... **An all-congregations** service will be held Sunday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at Bridgeview Community Church ... **The 50/50 bingo** pot a week ago today at the I.V. Senior Center was \$50.50 ... **Patrick Creek Resort** has a sign reading, “Food, Booze and Snooze” ... **Odd Oregon laws:** One may not test their physical endurance while driving a car on a highway ... Babies may not be carried on the running boards of a car ... A door on a car may not be left open longer than is necessary ... Canned corn is not to be used as bait for fishing.

LAST WORDS - Everything happens *for* me, not *to* me. (Byron Katie in her book, “Loving What Is.”)

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 2)

al control which eliminates a long-standing licensing agreement known as the “Fanciers License.” Exhibitors of dogs, registered with the American Kennel Club, often own and compete with numerous dogs, and for this reason the “Fanciers License” was created.

The “Fancier/Exhibitors” program provided licensing for up to seven dogs at a reduced fee, and in doing so increased compliance and revenue for animal control.

The Fanciers License was also exclusively limited to “Exhibitors,” who by definition are those whose dogs participate in one or more of a variety of AKC-sanctioned competitions. Proof of entry into such competitions was also a requirement by animal control as a means of governing the license program.

Animal control justified the elimination of the Fancier program simply by saying, “The program only served to provide additional workload on their already overworked staff and that the program was in reality biased and unfair to the general public.”

Rather than eliminating a working “Biased” program, it was suggested that the program be expanded to include all owners of multiple dogs. This approach would potentially improve licensing compliance throughout the county, as well as achieving the desired result of increased revenues. There was neither comment

nor discussion on this suggestion by the commissioners or animal control.

As additional justification, the commissioners and animal control presented statistics from other counties as a basis for their increase in fees. It seems that whenever a bureaucrat is at a loss for substantive reasoning, they resort to the use of comparisons as justification for their actions.

The reality of the situation is that Josephine County is not statistically compatible with the counties mentioned; the statistics offered were incorrect; and the bovine excrement extremely thick. The presentation, however, was a “masterful” example of “Legislative License” or “Creative Writing” at work.

Besides the blatant suggestion that animal control’s present dilemma was the direct result of the sheriff’s office effect on the general fund, it became abundantly clear that animal control had failed in its sufficiency directive. The elimination of the Fanciers License was merely an attempt to show that an effort had been made at solvency, with the loser being the compliant Fancier/Exhibitors.

In the past, as a means of raising revenue, animal control attempted to conduct a door-by-door search for unlicensed canines. This activity, prior to the resulting outburst of public comment, did produce a few unlicensed dogs. However, the expense politically and monetarily, brought quick

end to that program.

This new attempt at solvency involves the elimination of an approximate 15-year-old working program and will produce dual results, economically and in the reduced number of allowed dogs. To this end, the improbable financial windfall for animal control needs little comment.

There was however, a very predictable outcry from those in attendance, when animal control suggested “euthanization” as a means of achieving numerical compliance.

The meeting concluded

with a request on the behalf of those in attendance to extend the issuance of the Fancier License through 2006. This additional time would provide opportunity not only to evaluate the benefits of the existing program, but perhaps time to develop a more readily accepted licensing program.

Fancier/exhibitor Paul Bodeving, former RVKC president, was appointed spokesman and was to be informed of the commission’s decision regarding the licensing program. As of the date of this writing there has been no change.

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