

Here, There & Everywhere

IVHS ‘MOUSETRAP’ - Agatha Christi’s “Mousetrap” will be presented by the Illinois Valley High School drama class at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25 at the school. Tickets for adults, senior citizens and students can be purchased at the door.

UNCLE SAM MOOLA - Insights about loan-and-grant programs available to faith-based and community-based organizations will be provided during a free Federal Government Programs Forum Tuesday, Feb. 28. It’ll be held at Medford City Hall from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Preregistration is needed. Phone Eric Herst, of USDA Rural Development, toll-free at (866) 923-5626, Ext. 3302; or contact him at eric.herst@or.usda.gov

HELPING CHILDREN - Preregistration is required for a free 16-week class for the community, “Helping Children Who Have Been Exposed to Batters.” It’s designed for parents, grandparents, foster parents or anyone interested in helping children who’ve been exposed to domestic violence. To sign up or for more information, phone the sponsor, Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance, at 592-2515. Classes will be held at the I.V. Family Resource Center from 1 to 3 p.m.

‘COMMON GROUND’ ROUND - The Takilma-based publication, “Common Ground,” is reviving and has a deadline of Wednesday, March 1 for submissions, including poetry and art. The issue theme is, “Mentors, Muses, Families and Friends,” although submissions do not have to pertain to the theme. “T.A.” Allen will be chief editor, and “Rachel” will help with layout and basic production. Others volunteering their talents in various ways include Alan Laurie, Bill Gray, Melissa Guion and “Wildwood.”

TROOP SCOOP - Valley Boy Scout Troop 79 is seeking donations of camping equipment now that a trailer has been donated to haul equipment. Donations of uniforms also are sought. The troop has extended appreciation to True Value for its generous support. In addition, to donate items, or for young men with a desire for adventure this year, phone Jared Farmer at 415-1900 for information about the many outings planned.

GOLDEN EMISSIONS? - Oregon’s Dept. of Environmental Quality is proposing permanent rules requiring that new motor vehicles sold in Oregon must meet California’s tighter emission standards beginning with the 2009 model year. The deadline for public comment is Friday, March 3 at 5 p.m. Written comments can be sent to Oregon DEQ, Air Quality Division, Dave Nordberg, 811 S.W. Sixth Ave., Portland OR 97204. They can be faxed to (503) 229-5675, or emailed to Oregon.LEV@deq.state.or.us

‘SCREAMING’ EAGLES - Evergreen Elementary School students, whose mascot is the eagle, are having a penny drive until March 17. Half the amount raised will go for new playground equipment; the rest for student programs. The fund-raiser is sponsored by the Evergreen PTA. Banana-split parties will be held for the winners of the kindergarten through second-grade, and third through fifth-grades competition. In addition, the one class that raises the most will be able to vote on Principal Nancy Brown’s new hair color.

NOTEPAD - The I.V. Poets and a sushi dinner will be featured at Blue Moon Café in CJ Thursday, Feb. 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by open mike time ... **“Say No to Fractures”** is the title of a free workshop, the first of four, that will be presented first on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. by orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Van Horne at Asante’s Washington Outpatient Center in Grants Pass at 1505 N.W. Washington Blvd. ... **Kelsey Arnett** from the IVHS equestrian team placed second in driving and saddle seat events during recent competition in Central Point. The team placed 12th out of 14 schools, many with four times the number of riders ... **Oregon State Police** will be patrolling the Hwy. 199 safety corridor near Grants Pass more than usual during March because of an estimated \$17,000 grant from ODOT’s Transportation Safety Division ... **A sheriff candidates** forum, sponsored by I.V. Chamber of Commerce, is coming. Watch for details ... **IVHS Alumni & Friends** has been granted a July 2 reservation by the CJ City Council for Jubilee Park for its yearly picnic ... **Girl Scout cookies** will be available through March 5. Watch for sale booths. There are eight varieties. Winema Girl Scout Council uses the proceeds for a variety of programs ... **Mangosteen Fruit Juice** by Xango, said to be a natural beverage with powerful health benefits, is available through Roan McClure. A one-hour meeting about the product will be held at the Junction Inn beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 ...

LAST WORDS - Half of knowing what you want is knowing what you must give up before you get it.

I.V. Chamber meeting, awards presentation set

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce will conduct its annual meeting and award program Saturday, Feb. 25, at Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. in Cave Junction.

Attendees will hear a review of chamber activities by President Terri Hill, and the ‘Citizen of the Year’ and ‘Business of the Year’ awards will be announced.

All three county commissioners are expected to attend the meeting, which is open to the public.

Refreshments, courtesy of Wild River and the Chamber, will be provided.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

forest to create jobs and stimulate our local economy, we have provided a modicum of security in this fiscal crises.

Now he is working hard to ensure that Oregonians can take control of the forests after catastrophic events and harvest dead and dying timber, which would provide a new revenue stream and create new jobs and wealth in our state.

It’s a bill that the Communities for a Healthy Forest (of which I am a member) understand would help reduce not only potential fuel for additional fires, but also provide a new revenue stream that could balance our state budget.

Yet through all these changes, through all these laws, our local Congressman Peter DeFazio has been silent. He was reluctant to get on board with Walden’s HFRA, and he is still not a co-sponsor or even a participant in the post-fire recovery bill with laws that can provide a modicum of support to our communities.

It has always been a

fool’s errand to rely on the government to provide indefinite welfare at the expense of good jobs. In today’s political environment with polarizing agendas it is a shame that a political agenda conceived and implemented far from the state of Oregon has put our state into such a bind.

It is important that we fight to ensure that the Safety Net gets reinstated, but then what? I believe we should be looking into the future and planning to ensure that opportunities lay within the grasp for local businesses and Oregonians to have sustainable jobs and a vibrant economy.

Because without such assurances even our Safety Net will be inadequate to provide the funding for what are essential services.

It is time to look forward and see opportunities vs. problems, action vs. rhetoric; and work to ensure that our counties, districts and state are not placed on welfare because of policies contrived in Washington that hobbles our state’s ability to generate family wage jobs here at the local level.

Lovejoy program helps pet owners with grieving

Lovejoy Hospice will present a special program on, “Grieving the Loss of a Pet,” on Monday, March 13, from noon until 1 p.m. at its site, 939 S.E. Eighth St., Grants Pass.

The program is free, and anyone can attend.

The Rev. Marcia M. Griffin will facilitate a program on the topic of understanding and coping with the roller-coaster ride of grief at the loss of a beloved pet.

“When a person you love dies, it’s natural to feel sorrow, express grief and anticipate that family and friends will provide love and comfort,” said Griffin. “Unfortunately, the same doesn’t always hold true if the one who’s gone was your animal companion, playmate, trusted confidante

and faithful pal.

“When people fail to recognize the importance of our bereavement this can make the death of a pet one of our hardest losses to face,” she said.

Griffin’s presentation is designed to help participants learn skills to deal with feelings and emotions. It will be educational and experiential. The presentation will include suggestions for handling the stress, depression, anger, guilt, sorrow, and loneliness that comes with the loss of your special friend.

Guests are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Beverages and a dessert will be provided. Phone 474-1193 or (888) 758-8569 to register and for further information.

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.
- Roger Caras -

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