

Curves bottom line -- shaping up

By OLIVIA TAYLOR-YOUNG
IVN Correspondent

For many women, spotting a “Curves” sign means, “There’s my home

that’s sprinkled with irony. Light-years away from cheerleading days, I carelessly pull my hair into a pony tail and hear, “Wake Up Little Susie,” remem-

and wish each other well. Hammersmith joined Curves in February 2005 and found that the CJ branch was for sale the following May. A three-



The Curves Crew (rear, from left) Tricia Fultz, Christina Hammersmith and Gabriella Salas-Groth; (front, from left) Crystal Schroeter and Lea Hammersmith. (‘IVN’ photo)

away from home!”

For whether she’s in California, Colorado, Massachusetts or right here in Cave Junction, a Curves member knows that she’ll always be welcomed with open arms.

In Cave Junction, Curves’ new owner, Lea Hammersmith, also wants women to know that they are truly cared about.

being when its lyrics were banned as “immoral” by the Catholic Church.

I check heart rate to background strains of, “That’ll be the day ... that I die!” I sing along to “Breaking Up is Hard to Do,” as I try to build muscle and burn fat, and I remember my high school choir director’s solemn declaration, “The only saving grace about rock-and-roll is that it will never last.”

year resident of Illinois Valley, she decided that it was a local business she’d like to own. Eight months of uncertainty followed.

“It was like a pregnancy,” she said of the time and patience it took to get financing. “That’s because you are essentially buying ‘blue sky.’ There is no capital for the bank to invest in. Dollar-wise, the value is in the members, and since members can quit or move away any time, memberships are not considered to be collateral or an asset.”

Besides the expanded hours, Hammersmith has other great plans for her franchise. She has added the stylish, retail “Curvacious Line” clothing to the services available, and plans are afoot to offer a wide range of health and wellness information classes that will be open to the public at no charge.

In this aspect, she hopes to partner with the medical community to make Curves an information center on everything from nutrition to acupuncture.

The sale finally went through, however, and Lea’s daughter, Christine, who managed a Curves franchise in Missouri, now works with her mom.

The first thing Hammersmith did, aside from expanding the hours, was to purchase a new piece of equipment.

This fits in perfectly with Hammersmith’s view of the Curves mission.

“We decided it would be wise to give to the members before we could expect anything back,” she said.

“Care is the Curves’ commodity,” she stated. “But Curves is not a spa. It’s not about make-overs, It is a place for women to get healthy.”

She also decided that giving to the community is an essential part of her business plan. During March, for example, the CJ Curves joined a nationwide franchise food drive.

Plans are also in the negotiating stage for a relocation. If all goes well, perhaps by June, Curves will have a new, more centrally located home.

“All CJ contributions will remain right here in Illinois Valley,” Hammersmith noted, adding that all community members can participate.

An original motto was, “No men, no make-up, no mirrors,” but Hammersmith notes that, legally, they cannot turn men away, “although I can’t imagine the need to,” she added, and it has never been a problem anywhere.

“You don’t have to be a Curves member to help,” she said. “Everyone is invited to drop off contributions at Curves on Caves Hwy.” Hammersmith’s goal is to collect 3,000 pounds of nonperishable food.

As far as mirrors, you’ll find them in the dressing rooms, but not on the exercise floor. The atmosphere definitely encourages exercisers not to be self-conscious. Curves is also non-competitive. It’s a place where members urge one another on

Hammersmith’s other goal is the put the Cave Junction Curves on the map “where it deserves to be.” With all her plans for community service, there is no doubt this goal will be realized.

Meanwhile, women of all ages can give Curves a try. For more information, phone 592-4599.

Rep. Anderson steps aside to support Ron Maurer for his Third District seat

State Rep. Gordon Anderson (R-District 3) is withdrawing from seeking a third term, and backing Ron Maurer for the job.

Maurer, headed for retirement from one career as a U.S. Army officer, said that he desires to be Oregon’s next state representative of District 3, encompassing much of Josephine County.

He is a graduate of Grants Pass High School, and a fourth-generation Josephine County Oregonian.

“I have much, much more to give in the arena of public service,” he said. “I am pleased to have strong values reflected in the Josephine County work ethic, which include a strong belief that a thorough community education is the strongest foundation to success in life.

“Folks I grew up with shaped my future, whether close family, lumber workers, teachers, small business owners or the family doctor -- they all contributed a vast amount of wisdom,” he said.

Said Anderson, “I had to make a very difficult decision. After the distinct privilege and honor of serving the people of Josephine County for two terms, I have decided to withdraw as a candidate for a third term for several important reasons.

“When I first sought this office, I told the voters that I would serve for two terms. Ours is a citizen Legislature that seeks people from all walks of life to bring a broad wealth of experience and a balance to the decisions of our state without developing a corps of career politicians who often lose sight of service to their constituents.

“I have served my two terms and have sought diligently to follow the wishes of the conservative majority in our county.

“When I first sought election,” Anderson continued, “I had recently retired and could give all my time to this job. Though my duties are very time-consuming and demanding, I have loved every minute since it is very gratifying to me to be able to work out problems that my constituents have with a very large, often insensitive state government.

“I have recently been asked to assume some demanding business responsibilities for my family, and those demands would limit my ability to meet my constituent’s requests and still run the vigorous campaign my district deserves.

“In November, no candidates who would vote the wishes of the conservative majority in our district had emerged, so I filed to serve until one appeared. But now a candidate has surfaced who I feel will serve our district with distinction.

“Ronald Maurer, a native of Grants Pass, who has served as president of our District 7 School Board and is the president of the Three Rivers Hospital Board, filed

for my seat March 7.

“Because of his wealth of experience and leadership talents, I have decided to withdraw from the campaign and support Ron with my fullest enthusiasm,” Anderson said.

He added that Maurer’s core values “parallel mine almost exactly, and I am convinced that he will serve our district with distinction.”

During his career, Maurer earned his education doctorate from Northern Illinois University, served in

Army Health Care Administration, University Athletics Administration and as an Army medical evacuation helicopter pilot. During all that time “he never forgot those hometown values.”

Since returning to live in Grants Pass in 1999, Maurer has been sought after as a key board member at the Three Rivers Community Hospital Foundation, as well as in the town where he grew up, and he co-owns a medical clinic in Rogue River with his wife, Sheila.

Owens seeking District 3

Grants Pass resident Howard Owens is running for the District 3 Oregon State House seat.

Owens, a Democrat, announced his candidacy at a press conference at the Grants Pass Museum of Art on Thursday, March 16.

His campaign kick-off will be held Friday, April 7 in Grants Pass. Phone 955-4434 to arrange for tickets.

Owens stated that, once elected, he will donate his salary from this government position to an educational foundation. This foundation, which Owens said that he will set up, will award 17 \$1,000 college scholarships each year to deserving students “selected by a panel of three, well-qualified educa-

tors.”

Five of Owens’ supporters, including Selma resident Mort Mondale, brother of former Vice President Walter Mondale, spoke briefly on why Owens is best qualified to represent District 3. The various topics they covered included the environment, Medicare Part D, economic fairness, methamphetamine use and education.

Dixie Owens, Howard’s wife of nearly a quarter century, spoke about his background.

As head of his union 40 years ago, she noted, Owens defied it when he stood up for women’s rights and sued to allow women on the

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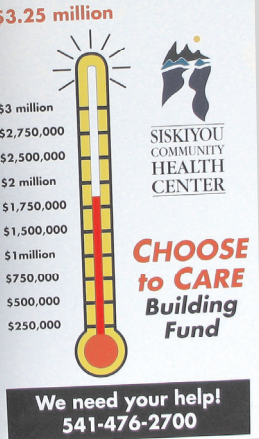
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Manslaughter, DUII charged following fatal GP car crash

Following the death of one of his passengers, Grants Pass resident Wade Leon Hardaway, 30, has been charged with second-degree manslaughter, driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUII), and driving while suspended.

Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS) also identified the victim, who was pinned beneath Hardaway’s Isuzu Trooper, as Isaias Frank Camacho, 28. Another passenger was Jason M. Montgomery, 22. He and Hardaway were treated and released at a hospital.

The crash on Hwy. 199 at Williams Hwy. near the Bi Mart store was reported on Saturday, March 25 at 3:11 a.m., according to GPDPS.