

## Here, There & Everywhere

**BERRY GOOD NEWS** - Suggestions and offers of help will be accepted during informal meetings of the Blackberry Festival Committee on Wednesdays, May 3 and 17 (not the 24th as listed last week). Both get-togethers will begin at 7 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. With emphasis on music, arts and crafts, backers are planning for the 25th annual Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival on Aug. 12-13 to be the best in its history.

**PRAY DAY** - Two gatherings as part of the National Day of Prayer will be held Thursday, May 4 at noon and 5 p.m. at Valley Evangelical Free Church at Laurel and Old Stage roads. "The need is great," note sponsors, "for praying together for the community and nation."

**EVERGREEN EVENT** - Designed as a parent, family and community involvement night, a Cinco de Mayo observance will be held at Evergreen Elementary School on Friday, May 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. There will be a free dinner, plus arts-and-crafts activities.

**'HOPE AND A FUTURE'** - Monday, May 8 is the deadline to register for a fund-raiser to benefit Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley by phoning 597-4340. There will be a complimentary dinner, with an opportunity to make a financial gift. Guest speakers will be Candy Gibbs and Jerry Little.

**'FESTUS' HAPPENING** - A campaign open house for all candidates seeking one seat on the Josephine County Board of Commissioners will be held Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bruin Nature Conservancy Preserve. The 33-acre site is at 498 Pine Cone Drive off Rockydale Road. The host is commission candidate Craig "Festus" Heiller.

**MOTHER MEET** - "Butterflies Are Free" is the theme for a hosted event honoring mothers on Saturday, May 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Horizon Village in Grants Pass, near RCC. There will be tea, scones and jam; plus entertainment.

**CLIMATE CLASS** - Tuesday, May 16 is set for a free and public summer "Weather Spotter" training class in Cave Junction at Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. It'll be taught by Ryan Sandler from the National Weather Service in Medford. No-host dinner will start at 5 p.m., and the class at 6. For more information phone Cheryl & Harry Johnson, 596-2104, or use cherhar@frontiernet.net; or Sandler at ryan.sandler@noaa.gov.

**NOTEPAD** - A swap meet will be held Fridays through Sundays this summer (that's now) at Anna's Attic, 28060 Redwood Hwy. Dealers, who can arrive at 7 a.m., will pay a fee and bring their own tables. Buyers can enter from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... A bazaar with free refreshments will be held at Community Bible Church on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to benefit La Casa Ministry's Building Fund for the needy in Baja California, Mexico ...

**Bagel Junction** plans to open in the former location of Blue Moon Café next to the state liquor store on or near Memorial Day ... **One CJ** resident found that being cited in the Hwy. 199 Safety Corridor near Grants Pass cost him \$182 after he was said to be speeding in a 55 zone that dropped to 50 in a short distance ... **"Amazing Auction"** for Curves members in CJ will be held May 15. They'll use special "bucks" earned for attaining goals and the like for bidding on items donated by valley merchants ... **Free, clean clothing** will be available at Takilma Bible Church on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... A rummage sale by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church women will be held Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church behind CJ Swimming Pool ... **IVHS Grad Night** festivities will benefit from a fund-raiser at the school Saturday, May 13 beginning at 6 p.m. There will be a dinner catered by Phil Aria, silent auction and fashion show by The Time Capsule. Tickets will be available at the door, and can be obtained prior from IVHS, Bi-Rite Auto Parts, and Time Capsule ... **Child's T:** If you think I'm cute, you should see my Daddy ... **Keychain** for graduates: The tassel is worth the hassle ... **Commode mat:** You are being filmed before a live studio audience ... **T-shirt** for barbecuers: If you can't stand the heat, go get me a beer ... **Hat** for barbecuers: Grill Sergeant.

**LAST WORDS** - Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain. (Lily Tomlin)

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## Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

Fasching, I know the sheriff candidates personally. I feel there are only two candidates speaking honestly, with authority and appropriate experience, and with a realistic understanding of what can and can't be done with and without a budget: Brian Anderson and Don Fasching.

Do not be misled by political promises that can't be kept. No one can totally eliminate bad morale from any business.

No one can eliminate the filing of lawsuits. No one can prevent the commissioners from settling frivolous lawsuits because it's "cheaper" than fighting them.

No one can snap their fingers and bring money into Josephine County.

I will be voting for Brian Anderson for sheriff. He has formal education in finance, executive training in Oregon law enforcement; the experience of working with local

Criminal Justice community; and he is honest beyond reproach. Let's not reinvent the wheel just for the sake of reinventing the wheel. Let's capitalize on money already well spent.

**County clerk lauded for following rules**  
From Cheryl DeBrett  
Cave Junction

I appreciate Josephine County Clerk Georgette Brown for following the rules and not

allowing an extension for one of the candidates for the office of commissioner for Josephine County.

Deadlines are indeed deadlines, and there should be no exceptions.

If a person believes he or she is qualified to lead an entire county, a good pace to start would be meeting a deadline to have information included in the Voters Pamphlet.

Dave Toler missed the deadline, period.

## \$1.4 million proposed budget OK'd by IVFD group

A proposed budget of \$1,476,041 for fiscal 2006-2007 was approved 7-0 by the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) Budget Committee following a two-hour meeting Thursday night, April 27.

Absent from the meeting at administrative HQ on Caves Hwy. were IVFD Director Dusty Bouchard, and citizen members of the committee, Dennis Knight and Fred Ball.

Present were citizen members Sally Palmer, Jackie Farless and Chris Ismail, and Directors Larrick Jones, Joe Malcolm, Joel Downing and Sam Michel.

The budget, which must be adopted before June 30 subsequent to a public hearing, consists of a general fund of \$1,229,814 and a bonded indebtedness of \$246,227. The general fund shows a decrease from the current fiscal year that will end June 30.

Chief Harry Rich said that "at this time the financial future of the district is stable. The citizens have shown a willingness to fund services when needed and financial management remains practical.

"The district is the largest of Josephine County's

various municipal fire districts with a permanent tax rate of \$1.87 per \$1,000 assessed valuation." An annual rise of 3 percent is allowed by law. The current rate is \$2.37, which includes bond commitment.

The chief told the committee that IVFD services are at this time funded at satisfactory levels.

"The district," he said, "provides a range of services that include, but are not limited to, fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services and rescue, plus other specialty services including swift water rescue, special vehicle accident extractions and hazardous materials responses.

"And now," said Rich, "with the inclusion of the Homeland Security measures, all fire district personnel are required to be trained according to (requirements

of) the National Fire Protection Association and the National Security Council.

"The level of service provided by the proposed budget marginally maintains those levels of service."

Rich explained the budget at length to the committee during the meeting. He said that the approved budget "is the result of sound financial management."

It is his intent, he added, "to submit and manage the budget in the most open and straightforward manner possible, which will allow consistent and careful management of all resources."

The chief noted that beginning fund balances for fiscal '06-'07 are estimated at \$348,920, and that "a healthy general fund balance will enable the district to maintain a sound financial condition, complete projects that have been started, and

avoid short-term financing."

The approved budget can be viewed at administrative HQ. Comments will be accepted during the public hearing that will be held prior to adoption.

Prior to the proposed '06-'07 budget presentation and approval, the IVFD board, with Bouchard absent, voted 4-0 after a one-hour public hearing to OK supplemental funding for the current fiscal year budget, with such funds going to the next fiscal year.

Revisions are enabled because of factors including the sale of the former Selma Fire Station property by Illinois Valley Real Estate for \$130,000. Additionally, the IVFD reserve fund contained sufficient monies for certain expenditures, and the capital outlay line item benefited from a revised flex lease arrangement with a lender.

### PLEASE HELP!

If you witnessed an underaged boy attack a senior citizen behind Joe's Market on the river on Friday 4-28-06 at or around 6 or 6:30 p.m., please contact cellphone (707) 272-4837! David or Kim.

### MASSAGE THERAPY

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## Teen work plan taking applications

Applications for teenage work crews, and from elderly, disabled, private individual, and business customers are being accepted at Illinois Valley Family Coalition by Maureen Goodrich, the Teen Work Project Program supervisor.

Full-time students in middle school, high school or Rogue Community College, who meet requirements, are eligible to sign up for paid work. The tasks will be outdoors, and transportation to work sites will be provided by a work crew supervisor.

Training in work ethics, tool safety, calculating pay and managing a bank account will be provided. Teen-agers also will be required to work one hour of community service for each three hours of paid work.

The project's Steering Committee will select the community improvement projects.

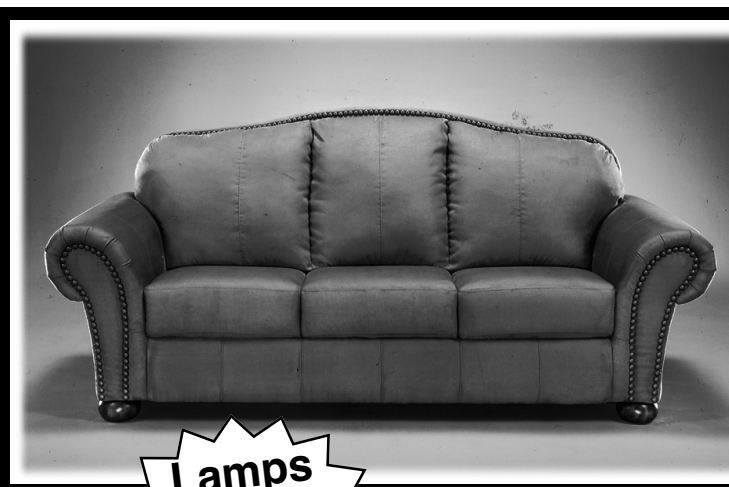
These tasks include clean-up and beautification of public places along Hwy. 199 and parks. The Steering Committee includes representatives from several local agencies and I.V. High School.

Funding for the project has been received from the Carpenter Foundation, Collins Foundation, and the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation.

Projects for homes, businesses or public areas also can be submitted. For information or to sign up for service or a work crew, phone Illinois Valley Family Coalition at 592-6139.

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