



NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED, said Oregon State Police, in connection with a vehicle that went out of control on a curve in the 4900 block of Lakeshore Drive and knocked down a Pacific Power utility pole at approximately 12:14 a.m. Sunday, June 4. The driver was identified as Sunny Valley resident Leaf Eric Hayes, 22. He underwent an Intoxilyzer test at the Illi-

nois Valley Sheriff's substation in Cave Junction and was cited and released on charges of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (.12% blood alcohol content) and second-degree criminal mischief. He had three passengers, one of whom was identified as Sunny Valley resident Jamanaki Hayes, 19, owner of the vehicle. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/I.V. Fire District)

Four Way Foundation aids many; some valley groups

The Four Way Community Foundation is distributing \$225,000 this year to help nonprofit community organizations serving Josephine County and the western portion of Jackson County.

The foundation's 12-person board reviewed 60 applications before deciding to fund 36. These discretionary grants totaled more than \$137,000. The foundation also disbursed \$88,000 in donor-designated awards and scholarships.

Jim Dole, foundation president, said, "The needs among nonprofits serving our community continue to grow as the community does. We know that Four Way grants will have a significant impact."

The largest grant this year is a \$12,500 award to the Gospel Rescue Mission in Grants Pass for its new men's facility.

"The mission is a mainstay in helping homeless individuals and families," Dole said. "Four Way is limited in what we can give to any particular organization. However, projects we help with are often viewed more favorably by larger foundations and grant makers outside the area. They see that our support is indicative of the community's commitment."

Both the number of grants and the amount disbursed are the largest in the foundation's history, he added.

Requests for support totaled more than \$405,000. The average grant this year is \$3,800.

The foundation annually provides funds to projects by nonprofit groups that enhance the educational, economic, cultural, and social conditions in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Rogue River and the many smaller communities in the area. Grant funds come from \$3 million in investments held by the foundation.

The invested funds are bequests and gifts from community-minded individuals and families. The foundation was established as a Rotary Club project in 1975 and is now independent.

Among awards --

Rogue Community College, Early Childhood Center furnishings: \$5,000.

Three Rivers Community Hospital Family House: \$5,000.

Crater Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America, Camp McCaleb barn: \$4,457.

Illinois Valley Family Coalition, replace exterior doors: \$4,160.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley, computer equipment: \$3,500.

Dome School, upgrade restrooms and add water purification: \$3,500.

Siskiyou Field Institute Education Center phase 1: \$2,500.

Social Security, Medicare trust funds lack optimistic futures, according to trustees

By ED FEULNER

The Heritage Foundation

Sometimes the biggest stories don't make the major newspapers.

Earlier this month, trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds issued their annual report on the future of the programs -- to little fanfare. Yet the report merits large headlines. It's important.

And it's grim.

The trustees report that the two programs have promised \$37 trillion more in benefits than they can deliver. In years to come, these entitlements are set to eat shocking amounts of tax income.

One of the trustees estimates that, unless we fix these programs now, more than a quarter of all federal income taxes in 2020 will be spent on Social Security and Medicare benefits. That's up from approximately 7 percent today, besides the more than \$764 billion in payroll taxes in 2005, to fund the two programs.

By 2030, roughly half of all income taxes would be needed to keep the two programs afloat.

The trustees also report that the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust will run out of money by 2018, two years earlier than they projected just last year.

Since we allowed 2005 to pass without doing a thing, this means we've lost three years that could have been used to fix the program. That fact alone should spur lawmakers to act, before the threat becomes a crisis.

Unfortunately, the most recent attempt at reform made the problem worse. During 2003 lawmakers tacked an open-ended prescription-drug entitlement on to Medicare, an expansion the trustees say will cost \$8 trillion during the next 75 years.

It's time for Congress and the administration to change Medicare from today's open-ended entitlement to a defined-contribution program, one that adjusts contributions for age, health costs and income.

None of that will be easy politically, of course. But if lawmakers won't do something now, they'll have to do something in five years, or in 2018 when Medicare goes into the red.

And the sooner they act, the more choices they'll have.

Social Security presents a similar problem.

The trustees report that program will continue to collect more in taxes each year than it will spend on benefits until 2017.

But at that point, it will become a major drain on the Treasury because it will start redeeming the special government bonds in the Social Security trust fund.

Because there's no actual cash in that trust fund, the government will have to use general revenues -- such as income taxes -- to pay those benefits.

A free family fishing day at Lake Selmac on Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will include loaner rods and instruction by members of Northwest Steelheaders Association, and a food booth sponsored by Selma Community Center. ODF&W and the forest service also will participate in the free event.

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220 N. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction Plaza

Bear Camp, Galice roads update provided by BLM

The section of pavement along Forest Road #23 (Bear Camp Road) at milepost 34 that was closed due to a slide has been temporarily repaired and opened to the public Friday, May 26.

During June, the public will encounter slight delays, as maintenance work is being completed and hazard trees are being removed for safety purposes along Bear Camp Road.

Bureau of Land Management managers had hoped to open the Galice Access road to the public by Memorial Day weekend, but due to rain delays, the chip-sealing project is not completed and has delayed the road opening. The Galice Access Road will have closed-to-the-public signs until the chip sealing work is completed.

The public is asked to continue to use the 6.5 mile Peavine-Serpentine Springs route to access Bear Camp road. This is a two-way route, narrow and steep in places and with a 10-ton load limit.

When the Galice Access road opens, the Peavine road will close for approximately 45 days to complete final road improvements to include chip-sealing, culvert replacement and roadside clearing for improved sight distance on the remainder of the Peavine Road.

U.S. Hwy. 199 and 101 are the recommended routes for trailers, motor homes and oversized vehicles. All drivers are reminded to drive cautiously and with their lights on.

Illinois Valley Lions Club

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Lions Den at the airport.

Bring your favorite crab cracker and a good appetite.
And of course, no carry-outs or doggy bags.

Tickets available at the door.

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11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

A COMMUNITY EVENT TO BENEFIT THE ILLINOIS VALLEY SAFE HOUSE ALLIANCE.

BINGO

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CASH PRIZES

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