

Here, There & Everywhere

TIME FOR TALENT - “American Idol” coming to Cave Junction? No, but a talent show, only for amateurs, again will be part of the Illinois Valley Lions Club Labor Day Festival. The festival will run from Sept. 2 through 4. Larger cash awards than last year are offered for the talent show. For more information and to sign up, phone Donna Whitfield at 596-2719 or Sue at 592-2252. The deadline to enter is Aug. 30.

POOL PRICES PUNCHED - A one-day sale of half-season passes (good through Sept. 3) to Cave Junction Swimming Pool will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1 at the pool. Mayor Tony Paulson has agreed to a 25 percent discount for the community. Phone 592-3990 for prices; or splash down at the pool on E. River Street next to I.V. Senior Center.

MAKING A SPLASH - With a “Pirates” theme, an adults-only fund-raiser for Cave Junction Swimming Pool is planned for Saturday, Aug. 12. “Large donations” will allow the donor to select persons including the mayor or a certain newspaper editor to walk the plank. There also will be a silent auction, music, food, and door prizes. Plus swimming. Advance tickets are available at the pool, open daily except Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SOLEFUL ART EVENT - A unique “fun-raiser” will be held Sunday, Aug. 13: The Illinois River Valley Arts Council-sponsored “Walk a Mile in My Shoe” -- a shoe-decorating activity to raise money for Learning Through Art and other arts council programs. Anyone can participate by finding their own shoe or shoes to decorate, or selecting one or more from the collection at Gabriella “Gabi” Salas-Groth’s studio above Bagel Junction. There will be three categories of decorated shoes: “Displayable Art,” decorative only; “Wearable Art,” the shoe or shoes can still be worn; and “Youth” for artists younger than 21. “We invite everyone to let their creative spirit walk, run or skip to join the fun,” said Salas-Groth. “Use any medium to alter, embellish or decorate your entry.” Friday, Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for completed shoes to be left at Bebe’s Art for Everyone, where entries will be displayed for a silent auction during the Friday Art Walk Aug. 11, and throughout Blackberry Festival that same weekend. Bidding will close at 4 p.m. the 13th. Phone “Gabi” at 415-0451 to arrange a shoe pick-up or for further information.

SOCCER TO ME - Head soccer coach Gary Enoch has two announcements. (1). There will be an important meeting Thursday, July 27 at 6 p.m. at IVHS for players and parents involved in the Illinois Valley High School boys soccer team. All who plan to play this coming fall should attend. Agenda items include a tournament Aug. 4-6; fall practice starting Aug. 21; and volunteers for the IVHS food booth at the county fair. (2). Boys, girls, men and women 12 and older can play soccer on the IVHS practice field Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Those who want to play during the coming season especially are invited, but everyone will be welcome. For more information phone Enoch at 597-4817.

SCOOTER HOOTER - Following a scooter accident in Downtown CJ, from which he suffered a broken leg, Earl Douglas “Duke” Gordon has a message: Wear full protective gear or face the consequences. He’s urging parents to “take away their kids scooters and save their lives” unless they have protective attire. Also known as “It’s A Burl Earl,” he adds that his leg is “gnarlier than burl” because of the accident. He also wants his teeth back, he said, because they were removed while he was being transported for medical care.

NOTEPAD - Labor Day Parade entry forms are available from Steve Lyons at Century 21 Harris & Taylor in CJ. They’ll be in the “Noose” next week. The parade theme is “Southern Oregon Paradise,” and the grand marshal for I.V. Lions Club, which sponsors the parade and festival, is Jerry Buell ... **A Cory Bockstiegel** relief fund has been established at SOFCU to aid his physical rehab and therapy following recent injuries that necessitated surgery to repair his skull ... **Bear news:** A small black bear was seen running across Hwy. 199 at Sis’s Gap Saturday night, July 22. And Jack & Valerie Brown recently returned home in the Mesa Verde Drive area to find that their trash cans had been mauled by a bruin ... **“Power Play”** is the title of a free movie that will be shown at Abiding in The Vine in Downtown CJ around 9:30 p.m. Gates open an hour earlier ... **Linda Bagot-Parker**, of Selma, won a seven-day, all-expenses-paid trip to the Caribbean through a Direct TV sweepstakes contest in connection with Black Entertainment. She’s looking forward to the trip, and will take her brother, Tim, from Boulder, Colo. with her ... **Bend High School’s** Class of 1956 needs alumni to make contact because of records being wiped out. Phone (541) 318-0266 ... **T-shirts:** *You can’t get arrested for being awesome. *Change is good. You go first! *In the United States anyone can be president. That’s the problem. *Irritating the whole planet, one person at a time. *Stop repeat offenders. Don’t re-elect them.

LAST WORDS - *Thrift is not an affair of the pocket, but an affair of character. (S.W. Straus) *The thrift that does not make a man charitable sours into avarice. (M.W. Harrison)

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

thinning sales.

Though the sales connect and extend from the far reaches of Takilma to Selma, BLM has pulled a fast one by refusing to include the sales together under an Environmental Impact Statement or to involve local communities in management decisions.

Using Orwellian double-speak, Medford BLM has branded the ancient and incredibly rare old-growth forests “in dire need of logging” in order to “save the forest” from killing itself and imposing fire danger on the community, when in fact overwhelming scientific evidence disproves this “Dark Ages theory.”

In short, Medford BLM has become a rogue agency and blight on the public lands system. It has essentially relinquished its ultimate responsibility under the O&C act to: protect watersheds in timberland, regulate the flow of streams, contribute to the economic stability of communities and the economic stability of local industries, and provide outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

Tennessee-Lime Sale; Anderson-West area From Dorothea Hover-Kramer Cave Junction

As a new resident of Illinois Valley, I was appalled to learn about the large, fast-tracked commercial logging project that threatens to increase fire danger and harm the scenic, ecological, and economic value of BLM land in our area.

We need to ask for real fire safety and restoration for BLM land in Illinois Valley instead of the extraction of big timber to benefit out-of-town logging companies. The Tennessee-Lime Logging Sale would extend from Eight Dollar Mt. to “Forks” State Park, visibly altering all of Kerby, Cave Junction, and surrounding hills.

The Anderson-West extension that recently has been attached to the Tennessee-Lime sale involves Squaw Mt. and land surrounding Selma. The current plan would log the largest fire-resistant trees while leaving behind much of the leftover slash, thereby increasing fire danger and harming wildlife habitat.

The forests in these areas are important for the quality of life for all of us. Environmental Assessment has just come out, so responses must be made by Monday, Aug. 7.

I believe that people should consider actively opposing this Tennessee-Lime logging sale by writing Abbie Jossie, BLM’s Medford field manager, at 2164 N.E. Spalding Ave. Grants Pass, OR 97526; or by telephoning 471-6652.

Those concerned also can attend a meeting of

BLM and citizens Wednesday, Aug. 2 at the county building in Cave Junction from 7-9 p.m.

Citizens also can join in supporting our area’s growing economy, tourism, and recreational opportunities by demanding that BLM reconsider its plan and actively help us preserve the unique and scenic beauty of our surroundings.

What happened to ‘civil service’? From Lori Lindewall Cave Junction

As tax-paying residents of Illinois Valley we, unfortunately, have also become frustrated angry home and business owners with the unfortunate luck of residing in a county that refuses to acknowledge our worth and their duties to us as our “civil servants.”

We also have, through experience and circumstance, unwittingly learned that it is a curse, not a blessing, to not only be a home owner, but a landlord and business owner as well.

We did not come up with the title “Civil Servant.” It is a job title that has been in existence for more years that we can account for, and has been proudly proclaimed by these employees of the people for just as many years. The title is simple and straightforward -- easy to understand.

What is not so easy to understand is when the servant continues to return a lackluster job performance; indicates through performance of job duties a disregard for the well being and financial security of the employer; and through action and deed, shows a complete lack of respect, and is still employed.

As a former employee in the private and government sectors, I have never seen where the “employee” has made a high salary with better benefits than his employer. And particularly, if this high-salaried employee doesn’t perform in like ratio to his salary. I am not aware of any employee maintaining his position where a blatant show of disrespect, disregard and elitism is evident in their work ethic.

Oh, wait a sec, I forgot about our current administration. In short, the Lord of

the Manner would kick the Servant to the curb in a heartbeat (sigh -- in a perfect world).

We know that this may be construed as “whining” by the Cave Junction City Council and the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office. We feel just the opposite. It is our responsibility to maintain the checks-and-balances of democratic rule and do believe these statements are the crux of the many problems and challenges we face in the valley.

Bottom line: The residents of Illinois Valley are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to getting our share of the “pot.”

Law enforcement is next to nil, as well as representation of Cave Junction and the valley’s interests by the city council and county commissioners. We are tired of hearing how understaffed and under-funded county services are.

We are frustrated with being treated as if we are a “necessary nuisance” -- the “bum on the street,” so to speak: tolerate, perform necessary lip service, and turn a blind eye. Come to think of it, the bum on the street does receive better treatment than we do.

This bum happens to be a viable source of income to this county, and the county knows it come every November. We’ve worked hard at developing our business and home, even harder at maintaining them.

It is downright frustrating when our civil servants build brick walls and higher hurdles for us to encounter during our efforts with our money. Demanding accountability and action is not “whining,” it is a duty of every citizen, consumer, parent and spouse.

My husband and I have found out the hard way, more times than not, that the only ones concerned about

our well-being in the valley are God and ourselves.

BLM plans to raze valley, she believes From Shannon Wilson Eugene (formerly of Selma)

Medford BLM and its timber baron commanders have plans to log and commit under-story clear-cuts upon every acre of BLM land in Illinois Valley; in effect, increasing undergrowth in the years following its mismanagement and turning the whole valley into a tinderbox for wildfire.

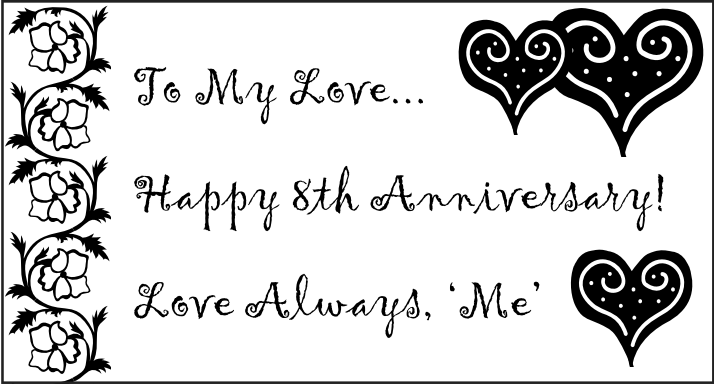
Thus far, the South Deer, Anderson West, Deer Mom, Tennessee Lime, and East Fork timber sales, encompassing tens of thousands of acres of healthy uncut forest, have been officially announced.

My parents nearly lost their home in Selma last year when fire quickly moved through cut-over industrial forest land. The only thing between my parent’s home and the fire was a 100-acre old-growth stand still remaining on BLM land.

The only management needed on BLM land is to remove a percentage of dense brush along roads; seek ways to reduce fuels near late-native and old-growth forests in cut-over areas without increasing vegetation growth; close roads to motorized traffic during high fire risk; and reduce fire fuels near structures and residences.

Surely, other BLM districts and even national forests personnel will follow suit if Medford BLM can get away with this.

We should tell BLM via letters to newspapers and Congressman DeFazio that its plans to enrich timber barons in Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties while risking the safety of every one of your neighbors in the valley is unacceptable.



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Photo by Haley Sorter

Vision Quest says, “Lots of shade and a good haircut and I’m STILL hot!”



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