

Here, There, & Everywhere

COOL IN POOL - Free swimming for Family Pool Night on Wednesday, Aug. 23 will run from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Cave Junction Swimming Pool on E. River Street. The no-admission-fee event is sponsored by The Shining Stars in cooperation with the Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley. Besides games in the pool, there will be hot dogs, chips and soda, but not in the water. Although it's a free swim night, donations will be accepted on a free-will basis.

DOME SCHOOL OPENINGS - The Dome School, featuring "Parent Cooperative Alternative Education," has openings in four categories. They are for toddlers and preschoolers, and kindergarten and elementary-age school children. Phone 592-3911 for more information.

SOCCER CALL - Soccer practice for boys and girls at Illinois Valley High School is under way each weekday through Friday, Sept. 1 at Evergreen Elementary School. Practices currently run from 6 to 8:45 p.m.; after classes begin on Sept. 5 they'll go from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Regarding practices, players must have current sports physicals and paperwork completed in order to participate. For more information phone coach Gary Enoch at 597-4817 or IVHS.

*Additionally, IVHS is looking for girls from all four classes interested in playing soccer this fall. Any girls, experienced or not, but who are interested, should phone IVHS at 592-2116.

CRATER LAKE FREE 25th - In celebration of the 90th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS), Superintendent Chuck Lundy has announced that all visitors will have free admission to Crater Lake National Park on Friday, Aug. 25. "We hope that this celebration will promote a better appreciation of Crater Lake and why the National Park Service is here," said Lundy. "National parks belong to the people, and this is one way that we can thank visitors for their continued support." NPS was established by an Act of Congress, signed by President Woodrow Wilson on Aug. 25, 1916. From an original 40 sites, the national park system has grown to include nearly 400 units across the nation.

SOMEBODY CARE? - The "Noose" received a telephone call Sunday, Aug. 20 from a Holland Loop resident about an upside-down car in a ditch near Robinson Corner. The caller related that the vehicle had been there some three weeks, and that telephone calls to the sheriff's office had netted no results. It was reported by the caller that oil has been leaking from the car engine into the ditch because of the length of time it's been there, and that the ditch drains directly into Sucker Creek. We suggested that he contact Oregon Dept. of Transportation or the Dept. of Environmental Quality. When the owner reported the vehicle stolen on Aug. 9, the sheriff's office told him where he could retrieve it. Let's see what happens next.

TRSD IN SELMA - Directors of Three Rivers School District (TRSD) met in executive (closed to the public) session Friday, Aug. 18 at the Deer Creek Nature Center operated by Siskiyou Field Institute. The topics were the superintendent's evaluation and team building. The same day at the same location, the directors conducted a workshop session to review a number of items in the policy manual. A regular board meeting was held Monday night, Aug. 21 at TRSD headquarters in Grants Pass.

NOTEPAD - Got talent? Wednesday, Aug. 30 is the deadline to sign up for the amateur talent show during the Illinois Valley Lions Club annual Labor Day Festival Sept. 2-4. There'll be cash prizes for winners in each age group. To sign up, phone 592-2252 or 596-2719 ... **Parade and booth** entry forms for the I.V. Lions annual Labor Day Festival are available in Downtown CJ at Century 21 Harris & Taylor. The deadline is Thursday, Aug. 31 ... **"Something To Sing About"** is the title of the free movie that will be shown around 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at Abiding in The Vine next to Carlos' Restaurante. And there will be door prizes and a raffle ... **Get in "The Noose Calendar"** for September by 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24. The colorful, kicky calendar is good for ads, various announcements, greetings and the like. Phone 592-2541 ... **Bumper stickers:** *There's no government like no government. *Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat. *Too much blood in my caffeine system. *If not for plumbers, you'd have no place to go.

LAST WORDS - *My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness. (The Dalai Lama)



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Letters

(Continued from page 2)

member of the national champion football team at Linfield College, graduating Oregon State University with a bachelor of arts degree in business.

One has no civilian job experience. The other has worked in his local family business and currently teaches at a local college.

One was an NCO in the Air Force Reserve for four years while going to school, and was discharged upon graduation. The other was a naval flight officer for 12 years, and is currently a commander in the Naval Reserve.

One never headed a committee in Congress, voted strict Democrat party line 91 percent of the time, and "earmarked" \$1.6 billion in pork for Oregon highways. The other flew 30 combat missions in the first Iraq war and was awarded two Air Medals and a Navy Commendation Medal.

One will soon have to retire, the other is just swinging into stride, and is ready to represent Congressional District 4 for a number of years.

It's a no-brainer for me. I'll vote for the "other" (better) man: Jim Feldkamp.

Regarding off-roaders and Biscuit Fire rights From Larry Warnicke Kerby

As many of you may know, just west of O'Brien, Cave Junction, Kerby, and Selma, are some of the most beautiful places in Southwestern Oregon.

Between Kerby and Selma, just north of Sauer's Flat, off Hwy. 199 going west, you'll find Eight Dollar Mountain Road. There is access to many dirt roads, rivers, hiking and backpacking trails, old mines from the 1850s and just some of the most pristine land in S.W. Oregon.

A large amount of gold has been removed from Josephine Creek during the years, and amateur prospectors come from miles around just to find that big nugget. Anglers love to fish the catch-and-release Illinois River that runs around Eight Dollar Mountain, and eventually into the Rogue River.

As early as last year the state installed several rest rooms where Josephine Creek meets Illinois River. This is a peaceful place to bring family and friends, to camp, or just spend the day in the woods or along the many streams and rivers. Many people come from miles around just to enjoy this pristine area and all it has to offer.

This in turn, brings much-needed revenue to the valley merchants who survive on tourism. Also, for the people in Illinois Valley, and with gas prices as high as they are, we need to use our back-yards even more.

Now the problem is, last summer this area was closed

to public use, as well as this summer due to Biscuit Fire salvage logging. We have lost access to our public land due to commercial logging of our forest. How can they do this, you may ask?

Well, it seems that the logging going on is drawing many protesters against logging, causing problems in the roadways that have been deemed unsafe.

So they just closed the road.

The people who paid for the timber have the right to harvest it. The protesters have the right to protest the harvest. However, what about the rights we have as anglers, prospectors, hikers, camper — not to mention us off-roaders who spend thousands of dollars on our rigs just to use them on our public land.

I feel that we are being discriminated against, and this can't be right. There may be a law on the books that allows our government to close public land for private use. But is it right?

Now there is talk among the off-roaders of Illinois Valley about forming some kind of radical protest of their own, and you know this can't be good. It's the "McCoys and Hatfields" all over again. So we have a bunch of otherwise, peaceful people breaking the law, and it's all about violation of our rights.

Many people who complain, however, never have a solution to the problem. It's simple: "The Law." We all have the same rights, and if you abide by the laws that protect those rights we won't have a problem. The timber companies have laws on how, when and where they can log.

The people have laws on how we can use our public land, and anytime we don't agree with the laws, we have the right to protest

them. However, that has laws within its own. When conducting our protest peacefully, and by the law, there should be no problem.

If not, you go to jail, and everyone involved loses their right to protest and made to leave the area. With this, everyone can exercise his or her rights to use public land.

I don't know who made the decision to close the

road or who even has the power to do so. However, I do know it's not right. So someone needs to step up and tell us what's going on. Is it big money or a power game pushing us little people around again?

I'm sure that "Illinois Valley News" will allow space to help us to understand the thinking.

Why can't we all get along?

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