

Here, There, & Everywhere

DANCE 4TH (& 5TH) - Music Night, with dancing at Lorna Byrne Middle School for fourth- and fifth-graders, will be held Friday, Feb. 23. The free event will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the sponsor, the Illinois Valley Section of Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley.

COOKIE (MUNCHIN') TIME - Girl Scout Cookies will be available at locations valleywide beginning Friday, Feb. 23. Sales will run through March 11 to support the programs of the Girl Scouts of Winema Council Inc. serving Josephine, Jackson, Curry and Klamath counties in Oregon and Siskiyou County in California. The varieties: Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos (peanut butter sandwiches), Trefoils (shortbread), Tagalongs (peanut butter patties), Samoas (caramel delights), and All Abouts (shortbread with a bottom layer of chocolate).

Winema Council uses proceeds to provide resident camps, special skills and educational programming, girl assistance, leader training and support, troop program material and related items. The stated, primary purpose of cookie sales is to help girls learn how to set goals, develop budgets, work with money, and market creative concepts and entrepreneurial skills.

GRAD PLAN - A meeting of the Grad Night Party Committee for the Class of 2007 at Illinois Valley High School will be held Monday, Feb. 26. The gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the IVHS Library. For more information, phone Sara Ball at Bi-Rite Auto Parts, 592-3691.

'NEWS' MIXER 70 - "Illinois Valley News" will host a mixer for Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce on Friday, March 2, as part of the celebration of the community newspaper's 70th anniversary. The get-together at the "News" office will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., and feature goodies from Kate Dwyer Catering. The mixer, for chamber members and prospective members, also will include information about special opportunities for businesses and spread the word about what they offer.

STAMP ACT - The price of a first-class U.S. postage stamp could rise by 3-cents to 42-cents in May, under a rate increase requested by U.S. Postal Service (USPS) governors. With the proposal, they also devised making a "forever stamp," which would be good for all future first-class mailings, no matter how high the price of postage goes. A price for a "forever stamp" was not suggested. Among factors justifying the proposed postage rate increase, USPS cited increasing costs for fuel and employee health care.

NOTEPAD - Jack Brown, a Canadian native who's a naturalized U.S. citizen, points out that DBR Media erred in info last week ("You Don't Say," page 11) about diamond mines. A major one has been discovered in Canada, notes Brown, a resident of rural CJ ... **Suicide prevention** for senior citizens is the topic for a workshop set Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Asante Health System. It'll be held at the Washington Outpatient Center in Grants Pass ... **Dinner and activities** are on the schedule for Family Night at Lorna Byrne Middle School on Thursday, March 1, with food catered by Taylor's Country Store ... **Some \$180,000** worth of penalties were levied during January by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality for various violations. None were in Josephine County ... **T-shirts:** *Beer is technically a vegetarian meal. *Would you like some cheese with that whine? *Will work for shoes. *Save the ales.

LAST WORDS - *If you had to identify in one word the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential; that word would be "meetings." (Dave Barry)

*Live long enough and you'll eventually be wrong about everything. (Russell Baker)

*Age may wrinkle the face, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. (a proverb)

Tree Planting Day planned for valley Saturday, Feb. 24

Community effort seeking volunteers, donations

By SUZANNE VAUTIER
FAC Tree Planting Project Coordinator

The IBIG Forestry Action Committee (FAC) will hold its 15th annual Volunteer Tree Planting Day on Saturday, Feb. 24.

It is a big family event; children are welcome. Children can earn money for their youth group for the trees they have planted while they do community service activities, thanks to the Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District Board donation of 25-cents a tree to participating children.

Come dressed for the weather. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. Meet at the forest service lower compound in Cave Junction at 9 a.m. to join the fun.

On Volunteer Day all participants are provided a lunch by community mem-

bers and local businesses.

It is a big event, so we need lots of food to feed all those hungry tree planters," said Vautier. "If you would like to donate food such as casseroles, salads, your favorite desserts, juice, etc., drop off the food in the Butler Bldg. at the lower compound on Saturday between 7:30 and 11 a.m.

The tree planters will return to the compound when they are finished planting trees for the morning. And there in the Butler Bldg. they can eat a great meal and share their stories of the day with the camaraderie that comes from doing good things together as a community.

The event generally winds down around 1:30 to 2 p.m.

For more information phone 592-4098

Locked-up federal land tied to tax base

(Continued from page 1)

guarantee that several Oregon counties, in the very near future, will no longer be financially able to function as governing bodies."

Committee member and House District 3 Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) said that despite passing out of committee, House Joint Memorial 5 was more of a symbolic gesture than an actual solution to the problem.

"It's just a piece of paper. It means nothing," Maurer said. "It was really an opportunity for people directly impacted by the loss of safety net funds to bring it to the state's attention."

Maurer said that if all else fails, the burden of providing basic services to rural residents may end up falling on the state.

Further complicating

matters were rumors that Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) was pulling his support for federal O&C legislation. Craig had co-authored the original O&C legislation with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon).

"That was a bombshell to us," Raffenburg said. "If the Secure Rural Schools act needed a death knell, that was it."

However, in a telephone interview Friday, Feb. 16, Craig's communication director, Dan Whiting, denied any such action by Craig.

"Sen. Craig never said he'd pull his support from it," Whiting said.

Whiting said that Craig is working to make the legislation "more palatable to a wider range of senators."

He added that, "The most immediate reality is

we're trying to get something in the supplemental appropriations, which will be working its way through Congress in March."

"Hopefully, we'll have a firm proposal by March 1 when the Energy Committee is set to look at that."

Raffenburg said that he plans to meet with representatives of the Association of Oregon Counties about alternate funding proposals, and may make a trip to Washington, D.C. in early March to push the issue.

Club & Organization Notes

Community Media & Education Center

Mark S. McNutt, of Deadwood, Ore., will present a workshop, "The Astrologer Perspective," on Sunday, Feb. 25 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at 140-C S. Redwood Hwy. in Downtown Cave Junction. Admission will be on a sliding scale.

'Desperate times' looming, sheriff tells state body, for law enforcement, services

State legislators from Josephine County joined with county commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg and Sheriff Gil Gilbertson in conveying concern regarding the loss of federal O&C funding.

Raffenburg and Gilbertson testified at the Capitol in Salem to the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources regarding the devastating effect the loss of funding will have on Josephine County.

The committee also on Thursday, Feb. 15 heard testimony regarding House Joint Memorial 5, which urges Congress to restore O&C funding.

Josephine County's largest revenue source is O&C funding. It accounted for 39 percent of its budget during 2005-2006.

"The loss of O&C funding to Oregon's counties is a devastating blow to public safety and education," said Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point). "I join my colleagues from Josephine County in urging Congress to restore this vital funding for our communities," he said.

Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) who sits on the committee, stated his support for the funding.

"The loss of O&C funding is fundamentally the most important issue that Josephine County has encountered since the Iron Curtain descended around our public timberlands," said Maurer. "Loss of this funding will have a devastating impact on Southern Oregon."

Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, concurred.

Pool group seeks solutions

(Continued from page 1)

money for anything else," Carmody said.

"We're trying to work every possible avenue of funding," Carmody said. Even proceeds from the Culpepper & Merryweather Circus, slated to swing through town in May, will

"Federal mandates have damaged the timber industry and now cutting federal funding on O&C payments will close libraries, cut services to our most vulnerable, and further erode our public safety coverage," he said.

"We must do everything within our power to ensure Oregon remains a state of 36 counties and that our Southern Oregon is still home for our citizens," stated Atkinson.

Said Gilbertson, "I call upon the state legislators for assistance facing this financial disaster, and take an active role in protecting the citizens of Oregon through new legislation.

"Without these federal funds, our county law enforcement will be reduced to one patrol vehicle, serving two 10-hour shifts and only responding to life-threatening calls. Our 262-bed jail will be limited to holding only 20 to 30 of the most dangerous prisoners."

"These are hardly the tools necessary to provide meaningful safety.

"County law enforcement will be relegated to a dangerously insufficient number of deputies to cover the jail, Civil, and Court Security, which are required by law, as well as providing minimal patrol and support services," said the sheriff.

"Not only is this scenario a quality of life issue for citizens, but also elevates the risk factors exponentially upon the deputies sworn to protect them," Gilbertson added. "Officer safety should always be a priority concern, without them, you will be forced to protect yourselves.

"These are desperate times and we desperately need your help," Gilbertson concluded.

go to the pool this year.

Carmody stressed that the chance of receiving grant funding is improved if community financial support can be demonstrated.

Those with questions or an inclination to help are asked to phone Carmody at (541) 415-1962, or email shawn@ivpool.org.



*Vertical Horizons
Tree House
Paradise
is offering winter
rates until May.*

*Check us out,
come by and look
around!*

(541) 592-4751
verticalhorizons@frontiernet.net
treehouseparadise.com

Art Classes

at

BeBe's Art for Everyone

February 23 from 11-1, come join us for a beginning **Pine Needle Basketry** class by

Master Artist Susan Freeman.

Seating is limited, so sign-up today at BeBe's.
Cost is \$25 for instructor and supplies.

148 S. Redwood Hwy., next to Taylor's
541-592-5343

An Invitation to Apply for Appointment to the Three Rivers School District Budget Committee for Zone 2 & Zone 3

The Three Rivers School District Board of Education has vacant Budget Committee positions open in Zone 2 and in Zone 3. The Board invites all interested patrons to apply for either of these Budget Committee positions. The Board will appoint the new Budget Committee members from the list of those who made application.

To be eligible for appointment the candidate must:

- 1) Live in one of the following precincts for:
Zone 2 - Hamilton, Jerome Prairie, New Hope, Robertson, Slate Creek; OR
Zone 3 - Cloverlawn, Applegate, Board Shanty, Riverside South, or Williams
- 2) Must not be an officer or employee of the School District; and
- 3) Must be a qualified voter of the School District. The members of the Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board for a term of three (3) years.

Interested patrons should pick up an application at the District Office or send a letter of interest with a brief description of qualifications. The letter or application must be received at the District Office no later than March 6, 2007. The appointment will be made during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007. Written correspondence may be addressed to:

Three Rivers School District
Business Office
P.O. Box 160
Murphy, OR 97533
(541) 862-3111 Ext. 5217

It takes a long time to become young.

- Pablo Picasso -

I OWE YOU!

That's right, Uncle Sam could owe you money. If you paid federal excise tax on long-distance phone service during the last three years, you may be eligible for a telephone tax refund. The standard refund is \$30 to \$60 and for some people, who had large phone bills, it could be even more. Go to IRS.gov for details. Or dial 1-800-829-4477 and select recorded tax topic #611.

Internal Revenue Service

Honesty	Integrity	Dependability
	Attention Buyers! Take advantage of this "Buyer's Market" now! We live here, work here, know the area well, & support our local community! Call us NOW for all your real estate buying & selling needs!	
Steve Lyons 592-3181	Century 21 Harris & Taylor 592-3181	Becky Newsted 660-2032 Notary Public