

## Here, There, & Everywhere

**GIANT FLEA (MARKET)** - Saturday, April 28 is set for a giant spring flea market and pancake breakfast at Selma Community Center, 18255 Redwood Hwy., just past Ray's Food Place. There will be buying, selling and trading from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the pole building; phone 415-1000 to reserve space. The breakfast will be served in the dining room from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the center by helping pay for items including insurance, utilities, maintenance and repair.

**LBMS 'AFRICA TASTE'** - Kate Dwyer will cater Family Night at Lorna Byrne Middle School on Tuesday, May 1 with a "Taste of Africa" menu. The event, with live music, a book fair, plus fun and games, will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Illinois River Valley Arts Council is the sponsor. It will be the final Family Night at LBMS. See the ad in this issue for details.

**DOUBLE O-7 EVENT** - A benefit dinner, fashion show and silent auction will be held Saturday, May 5 for the Illinois Valley High School Class of 2007 All-Night Grad Party. Donated items are sought for the silent auction. The event will be held at the IVHS cafeteria. Dinner (vegetarian or meat lasagna) will be catered by Phil Aria. Fashion show attire will be provided by Sassy's Time Capsule. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for children and adults are available at IVHS, Bi-Rite Auto Parts and Sassy's Time Capsule, and will be available at the door. For more information or to donate items, phone or email Susan Kendall 592-2839 or contact kendall@cavenet.com.

**RIVER CLEAN-UP** - Volunteers are sought for Saturday, May 19, when Down By the Riverside clean-up projects will be held in Illinois Valley. Locations are the Caves Creek, Chinquapin and Grayback campgrounds. Phone Jack & Janet Walker at 597-2410 to sign up to help.

**VIRGINIA TECH MEMORIAL** - All flags at public institutions were flown at half-staff from Tuesday, April 17, through sundown Sunday, April 22, by order of Gov. Kulongoski, in memory of the 33 persons killed by gunfire at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg on the 16th. "The events at Virginia Tech were not just a tragedy for Virginia, but for our entire nation," said Kulongoski. "On behalf of Oregonians, our thoughts and prayers are with the families, students and community of Virginia Tech as we mourn all those affected by this tragedy," he said. Thirty-two students and teachers were killed by student Cho Seung-Hui, 23, who also shot himself. It is the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

**NOTEPAD - Gems and minerals** will be rampant during a Rogue Gem & Geology Club show at the county fairgrounds Friday through Sunday, April 27 to 29. See the ad in this issue ... **Safe driving** for senior citizens is the topic for an AARP class set for May 21 and 22 and Illinois Valley Senior Center. Sign up at the center ... **The 2007 Grad Night Party** Committee will meet Wednesday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the IVHS Library. Final plans will be discussed. Phone 592-3691 for more information ... **Clean clothing** will be given away at Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Road, on Saturday, May 5 from 9 to 5 ... **Siskiyou Community Health Center** is planning an open house for Friday, May 18. Watch for details ... **Early Head Start** for Illinois Valley families will have openings. To check on eligibility for the free program phone Debbie Bartlett at 592-3259. An ad with more details is elsewhere in this issue ... **Arch bearers** for IVHS commencement June 5 have been chosen: Breanna Allan, Kathryn Bell, Jaime Farr, Sabrina Miller, Kelcie Yeoman, Raesha Yeoman, William Crowl, Nathan Green, Doug Hoskins, Jerrad Miller, Larry Ragsdale and Chad Tardie ... **Actual headline:** Supreme Court rules that murderers shall not be electrocuted twice for the same crime.

**LAST WORDS** - On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does. (Will Rogers) Disinterested curiosity is the lifeblood of civilization. (G.M. Trevelyan)

## JoCo leaders pose fixes to legislators for funding

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Several members of the Oregon Legislature appeared at Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass on Thursday, April 19 to discuss the county's pending financial crisis in light of possibly discontinued federal funds.

Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass), Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point), George Gilman (R-Medford) and Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point) were joined by Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and Speaker of the House Jeff Merkley (D-Portland) for the event. It was the first stop in a five-county tour. Lawmakers spent the rest of the weekend visiting towns in Curry, Coos, Douglas and Lane counties, all of which are facing potentially devastating cuts in services.

Rep. Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene), Rep. Tom Butler (R-Ontario), Rep. Terry Beyer (D-Springfield), Sen. Rick Metsger (D-Welches) and Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) also attended.

**Curry Plight Avoided**  
Approximately 30 residents attended the legislative workshop. It began with an historical overview by Josephine County Commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg.

Raffenburg explained how the O&C lands, exclusive to Oregon, were originally exempted from federal environmental legislation until a series of court rulings in the 1990s dictated otherwise. As such, Raffenburg said, judicial relief is needed for those lands.

The county has spent the last two years preparing for the funding loss by consolidating its top-heavy management and eliminating positions by attrition, Raffenburg said. Those changes have enabled Josephine County to be better prepared than some neighboring counties.

"Had we not done this, we would be side-by-side with Curry County right now," Raffenburg said.

Josephine County Chief Operating Officer Marie Hill then brought the legislators up to speed on the financial issues facing the county.

**Land Sale Posed**  
Commissioner Dwight Ellis talked about possible long-term solutions. A proposal by the Association of O&C Counties would set aside 1.2 million acres of the O&C lands for conservation and recreation and sell the other 1.2 million to private timber interests.

That sale would raise approximately \$12 billion, which would be put into four trust funds to provide money for the counties and Oregon schools. Such a plan would take between three to five years to implement, Ellis said.

Commissioner Dave Toler reiterated that the county is not looking to the state to solve its problem, but that officials at the local, state and federal levels need to work together on this issue.

**Partnership Needed**  
"We really see this as a partnership," Toler said.

Ellis explained how voter-passed tax limitation measures have had a detrimental effect on the ability of local governments to collect revenue. For instance, property taxes are collected based on assessed value instead of real market value.

More than 170,000 new homes would have to be added to the county's tax rolls to make up for the lost federal revenue, Ellis said.

"We are in a hole that we can't grow ourselves out of," Ellis said.

He asked the legislators to consider lifting the state's double majority rule, which requires a 50 percent voter turnout along with a majority vote in order to pass a tax increase.

"We really need that to happen in Josephine County," Ellis said.

Courtney said he agreed with that sentiment.

**State Reform Needed**  
"This is a monster when it comes to local people and governments," he said.

Raffenburg suggested that the state directly fund county district attorneys, as persons in those positions are state employees and enforce state laws.

Because state ballot measures put those restrictions in place, Raffenburg said, statewide reforms are sorely needed.

"This can't be corrected at the county level," Raffenburg said.

**Legislators React**  
Ferrioli expressed tremendous reluctance at changing the double majority requirement.

"I don't believe the solution lies in that direction," Ferrioli said, adding that Oregon voters would ultimately have to instigate the change. "They're the only ones that can unlock that process."

Raffenburg said that the effects of the funding loss will be visible at a local level in less than a month.

"Things will be different in Josephine County," he said. "None of us are going to like those differences."

After the forum, Merkley said he was impressed at how the county has prepared for the funding loss, and that he will weigh the commissioners' suggestions when he returns to the capitol.

"Some good ideas were put forth that we will be pursuing in Salem," Merkley said.

I saw it in the 'News'



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## CHAD BAUER FUND-RAISER

Saturday & Sunday,  
May 5 & 6

Parking lot at My Brother's Pub

Hot Dogs  
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Live Music

Join our Community Yard Sale!

Tables available for rent.

Call 592-2626 to reserve your space.

Table rent goes to  
**Chad Bauer**

(assault victim undergoing brain surgery)



Lorna Byrne Middle School

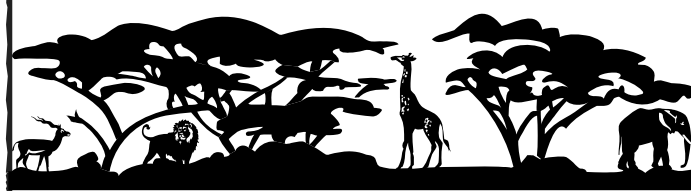
Family Night

'Taste of Africa'

Tuesday, May 1, 5:30-8p.m.

Live Music  
African Dinner catered by Kate Dwyer  
Fun & Games  
Book Fair

Be sure to attend,  
this is the last Family Night at LBMS!  
Sponsored by Illinois Valley Arts Council



## Letters

(Continued from page 2)

the Sunni militia and battle the Shiites. Thus the country sits on the brink of civil war.

"But this war is between them. They largely do not concern themselves with U.S. troops. The insurgents who battle the Coalition Forces are from outside the country. And the biggest problem down here isn't the insurgents: it's the politicians; the local ones.

"Even though the country is controlled by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, downtown Baghdad is controlled by radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The Shiites follow al-Sadr and thus the prime minister does what al-Sadr says. Think of it as if a warlord controlled New York and blackmailed

the president into diplomatic immunity.

"Iraq is literally a terrorist training breeding ground. They have terrorist and sniper schools. Why not? They train by teaching them to attack the military forces here.

Iran and Syria have openly proclaimed that their number-one goal is to destroy the great Western Devil and the little Western Devil: America and Britain. Iran wants to control Iraq to further this purpose.

"How do the Iraqi people feel about everything? Of course they don't want the Americans here. But they would far rather have us than the Iranians.

"The people want peace. If we leave now it

will be a failure for Democracy. Iran will control Iraq, and the end result will be more terrorist attacks on America.

"The American people don't want soldiers dying over here, but it's better than American civilians dying over there. Do not forget 9/11. They will do it again.

"The moment we loosen our grip, they will do it again. And the only way to root out the evil here is to stop beating around the bush; increase troops and destroy the insurgents once and for all. The Iraqi government cannot do this on its own.

"We are the only ones who can stop al-Sadr. This is a real soldier's opinion about the war."



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