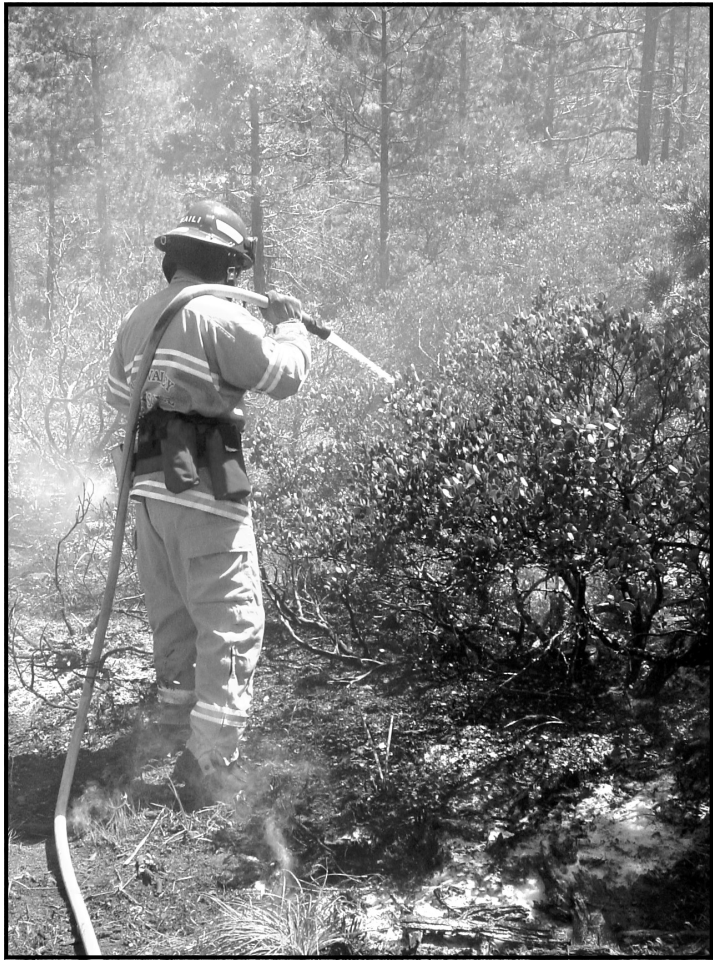




SMOKE AND SIRENS were seen and heard (plus smelled in the case of the smoke) in Illinois Valley last week. A controlled burn (top photo) by the Bureau of Land Management in the Selma area resulted in smoke throughout much of the valley. On Thursday, May 10 Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) responded to two separate alarms (right photo) in O'Brien. The alarms were logged as 'rekindles' of earlier slash and debris burns. One was on Lone Mountain Road; the other was on Mahin Road. No injuries were reported, and no structures were endangered. IVFD urges those burning slash to keep piles small, and to have charged water lines on hand. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.



‘E-blessing’ group aims to help everybody

Free items sought to give to those who lose everything for a variety of reasons

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Longtime Illinois Valley residents David and Katherine Hall have started an online Yahoo group to help people in need.

The “e-blessing” group originated at Illinois Valley Praise Center. David said that he was inspired by the struggles of recovering methamphetamine addicts who have turned to the church in their recovery.

“They all had great needs, because most of them had nothing -- no furniture or anything to sustain themselves in life,” he said. “So we started putting out the call to our membership to donate furniture and other utilitarian

items they could use.”

Once the idea began taking shape, the Halls opted to make the service available to the general public.

“We decided to expand it to not only within the church, but to everyone in the valley and all those who would have a need,” Hall said.

All items listed on the group’s Website, groups.yahoo.com/group/eblessing/, are free. Hall said that the overall purpose is to connect the needy with persons who may be able to help.

“We don’t allow anybody to put Spam or solicitations of items for sale or anything like that,” Hall said. “There’s no room for profiteering.”

He said that the site isn’t an attempt to recruit new

church members, but is a genuine exercise in the true Christian principles of love, kindness and compassion.

“We don’t want to indoctrinate anyone into participating in our theological positions or do anything to convert them to our way of thinking,” he said. “That isn’t what we’re doing. We just want to love them with the love of Jesus and let the Holy Spirit do whatever he will do.”

Hall said that the group already has 17 members, but, “We’re looking forward to many more.”

A link to the site will be featured on the *Illinois Valley News* homepage: illinois-valley-news.com

For more information on the help project, contact eblessing@yahooogroups.com

Spiral Living Center

June Workshops

Thursday June 7 10am-2pm
Beginning Beekeeping \$20

Come learn about the world of bees. You'll get to don a bee suit and explore an active hive. **Joy McEwen** is a beekeeper and an agricultural enthusiast. She operates Diggin' Livin' Farm and Apiary with her husband Eric.

Saturday June 9 10am-1pm
Planting Tomatoes & Basil for Sauce & Salsa \$15

Learn to grow lots of delicious tomatoes and basil in small spaces. This is a hands-on class so bring your gloves! **Christine Perala Gardiner** has more than 30 years experience in horticulture & now raises alpacas. **Debbie Lukas** has nearly 20 years experience as an herbal medicine maker, founding Siskiyou Mountain Herbs.



Spiral Living Center
592-3642

spiral@frontiernet.net
Please pre-register!

I.V. Airport revised rental pact passed

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A revised agreement for McSquared Design Corp. to lease space at Illinois Valley Airport was approved by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners during its Wednesday, May 9 business session in Grants Pass.

McSquared, which specializes in ultralight aircraft, currently leases the airport’s restaurant space. The existing agreement expired, necessitating a newer agreement.

As part of the deal, McSquared will pay less rent in exchange for making repairs to the facility, said Alex Grossi, county airports manager. The company must advise the commissioners as to what repairs have been made, and provide receipts and other documentation for verification, Grossi said.

Commission Vice Chairman Dave Toler said that if the board is dissatisfied with the facility improvements, the rent can be increased.

Grossi said that specific terms of the repair work were not included in the agreement, as other needed improvements may arise during the five-year lease period. Under the previous lease, McSquared paid \$285 per month. The new agreement lowers that to \$235 monthly.

Grossi said that the facilities rented to McSquared contain 1,950 usable square feet of space, and that the lease will provide \$2,820 in annual revenue to the county.

During the May 9 meeting, the commissioners also approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the county and Rogue Community College for administration of a \$300,000 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Economic Grant.

The grant will go toward

establishing the Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center at RCC’s Learning Center in Kerby. It will aid in establishing start-up businesses based in the valley.

The grant was issued to the county in 2004, but two extensions have been granted since then, said Rosemary Padgett, county chief financial officer. Original plans were to have the business center at I.V. Airport, but complications forced the delays and eventual relocation to Kerby.

The MOU was required as part of the grant, Padgett said, and an intergovernmental agreement between the county and RCC still needs to be finalized.

Toler, an I.V. resident, said he that he is pleased at the development.

“The grant has been in jeopardy, so I’m glad we’re moving forward,” Toler said. “There will be lots of opportunity for businesses out there.”

Padgett said that Medford-based Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SORED) and several I.V. businesses have expressed interest in participating in the program.

Commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg said that the county is taking the right action by approving the MOU.

“This is nothing but good for the Illinois Valley,” Raffenburg said.

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Whipped potatoes w/ gravy
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Whole wheat bread
Oatmeal raisin cookie
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23
CHICKEN CHOP SUEY
w/RICE
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