



Firefighters at Addison Lane. (Photo by I.V. News)

Laundry fire causes alarm

A laundry room fire, apparently caused by a clothes dryer and which got into the flooring, was reported at 443 Addison Lane off S. Old Stage Road on Sunday, July 8 at 6:10 p.m.

Neighbors phoned 911 when they saw smoke coming from a chimney and the rear of the home. The owners were not present. Illinois

Valley Fire District firefighters responded with five units including three engines. American Medical Response and Oregon Dept. of Forestry also answered the alarm.

Firefighters were on the scene until nearly 8 p.m. Other information about the cause and damage was unavailable for this issue.

Main reasons identified for motor vehicle crashes

Aggressive driving, speeding, alcohol, and sleepiness remain the primary causes behind automobile fatalities, according to newly released information by the Oregon Sheriffs Association (OSA).

The findings stem from research conducted by an array of federal agencies and consumer groups.

Statistics gathered by the National Highway Transportation and Safety Association, (NHTSA) for example, show that 43,443 people died as a result of automobile accidents during 2005, the most recent survey year. Despite a 3 percent decrease, the number nationally remains unacceptably high and reveals the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, said NHTSA.

"During the summer when there are more cars on the road, drivers forget the basic rule, which is to always drive defensively," it said. "This remains the single most important principle

of safe driving."

Meanwhile, NHTSA found that more than 15,000 passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Other disturbing findings reveal that an estimated 1,000 drivers die each month in high speed-related crashes -- 66 percent of those incidents involving a single automobile.

And then there's the ever-present problem of drinking and driving. During 2004 some 16,694 people lost their lives due to alcohol-impaired vehicle operators.

With that in mind, "OSA has some practical advice to help keep you and your family safe on the roads this summer:"

1. Drinking and driving don't mix. According to NHTSA, three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point. It is best to have a designated driver or refrain from drinking than to



THREE BRUSH FIRES Monday, July 9 and Tuesday, July 10 under somewhat suspicious circumstances caused emergency responses by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and Oregon Dept. of Forestry. One fire (above) was on Westside Road Monday around 8 p.m. almost at the same time as one on Finch Road. An-

other alarm was near 2:30 a.m. Tuesday on Crooks Creek Road. All three blazes were limited to grass and brush. Firefighters are concerned that possible arsonists are involved, and warn against such action. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)

Wildfire properties in hearing

Josephine County residents identified as having properties in danger of wildfires can view maps and obtain information Wednesday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee, the gathering will be held in the Floral Bldg, at the county fairgrounds in Grants Pass.

The committee will conduct a hearing about its findings. Affected property owners were to have received information about the hearing in the mail from the county.

lose your life, or cause death or injury to others.

2. Always travel with a first-aid kit. It can offer a quick bandage, tweezers, or alcohol rubs.

3. Do not drive impaired, which means being drowsy or under the influence of a substance.

4. Children 12 years or younger should ride in the back seat of vehicles in age-appropriate restraints. During 2004, there were 495 passenger vehicle occupant fatalities among children younger than 5. An estimated 173, or 35 percent, were totally unrestrained.

5. A cell phone can save a life, but it also can cause a collision. It is best to get off the road when you need to dial any number, even 911.

6. Use the three-second rule -- the suggested time interval that keeps you from tailgating another vehicle too closely and causing an accident.

7. A safety kit should be in the trunk. It should in-

clude jumper cables, reflective triangles, a blanket, nonperishable food, flashlight, and other various goodies. Even if you do not use many of the items, it will provide peace of mind.

8. Don't fall asleep at the wheel. According to NHTSA, most crashes occur when people are alone. Some 56,000 crashes in which a drowsy driver is to blame occur annually.

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Club & Organization Notes

Rotary Club Of Illinois Valley

Rotary, one of the largest and oldest service organizations in the world, has come to Illinois Valley, as a new club is being chartered and is meeting Tuesdays at noon at Junction Inn.

The next meeting, July 17, will feature a program to introduce new members to the annual Rotary-sponsored Duck Derby.

For more information, phone 476-8060.

Spiral Living Center

A "Wild Foods & Fermentation Workshop" with Sandor Ellix Katz and Frank Cook will be held Thursday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preregistration is requested via 592-3642 or

spiral@frontiernet.net.

Marine Corps League

The Rogue Valley Detachment will gather for a picnic at Tom Pearce Park in Grants Pass on Satur-

day, July 14 at noon. The event is open to all current and former members of the U.S. Marine Corps and all Fleet Marine Force corpsmen and their guests.

Love is a Beautiful Thing!



Avoiding unintended pregnancy is possible. For more information, call the Pregnancy Center -- 592-6058 www.pregnancycenteriv.org



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