

Here, There, & Everywhere

SELMA SPOTLIGHT - Selma Center is the site for "Echoes of the Siskiyou," a coffee house-type gathering that will begin Thursday, Aug. 6. The plan is for eclectic artists to come together at 6 p.m. each Thursday for open mic sessions, hosted by songwriter Patrick Dodd, who is joining with "Dessert First." The scene is open to songwriters, poets, singers, actors, storytellers, dancers, comedians -- all performance artists. Coffee, soft drinks, dinner and pastries will be served. Vegan selections will be available. Shows will be recorded, with selections to be played on Radio KSKQ and Hope Mt. Radio. Phone 956-1513 or visit patrickdodd.com for more information.

TALENT SCOUT - The Illinois Valley Lions Club annual Labor Day Festival is coming up fast, and a talent show again will be held. Amateurs of all ages can participate for cash prizes. The schedule: Juniors on Sept. 1 at noon, Intermediates on Sept. 2 at noon, and Adults on Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. The deadline to enter is Aug. 29. Late entries will not be accepted. For information and to sign up, phone "Donna" at 596-2719, or "Sue" at 592-2252.

BINGO LINGO - Although winner-take-all bingo was planned at Illinois Valley Senior Center on Saturday, Aug. 11, it's been canceled. The reason is that there would be a conflict with bingo games in the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown CJ the same day during the Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival.

NOTEPAD - **Wordsower International's** Jason Nightingale will present a Scripture Festival on Sunday, Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at Takilma Bible Church at 10343 Takilma Road during an all-congregations service ... **A free barbecue** picnic for youth 12 and older will be held by Illinois Valley Boys & Girls Club on Friday, Aug. 3 and Thursday, Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... **A free concert** featuring "King Cotton Jazz Band" will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7 at Riverside Park in Grants Pass as part of the GP Chamber series ... **Blackberries** are the number-one anti-oxidant food per serving of 1,130 grocery store products tested, said Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Plus, based on animal testing, an extract from fresh blackberries reduces cancerous tumors and prevents cancer cell spreading ... **Actual headlines:** *Student suspended over hot sauce. *Minorities in short supply. *Reach out to abuse victims, counselors told. *Smoking organ causes stir at nursing home.

LAST WORDS - I have found it advisable not to give too much heed to what people say when I am trying to accomplish something of consequence. Invariably they claim it can't be done. I deem that the very best time to make the effort. (Calvin Coolidge)

Tribe disputes land sale

By MICHELLE BINKER
Staff Writer

The buyers of two parcels of Illinois Valley real estate have found their recent purchases contested by a Native American group that insists the properties are tribal land which should never have been offered for sale.

The Quiet Title action was filed in Josephine County Circuit Court Tuesday, July 24 by Chief John Gray Eagle Newkirk, of Central Point, on behalf of the Latgawa Native American Indian Tribe. The suit alleges that the defendants wrongfully appropriated the real property for their own benefit, identity theft, and elder abuse. Newkirk is 84 years old.

Among those named in the action, along with the buyers, are the sellers, Chief Hidden Wolf and his wife Mary Jane Wolf; First American Title Co.; James Dole, attorney; real estate agents Kendon Leet and John Jones; and a notary public.

The land in question -- totaling 65 acres straddling the East Fork of the Illinois River in Takilma -- for decades was home to the New Age Mission Church (NAM).

NAM is reported by the Oregon state attorney general as having merged with one organization, Wolf Spirit Society, which then was merged with Newkirk's Confederated

Tribes - Rogue-Table Rock, the surviving not for profit organization, which assumed the assets. Much legal wrangling has ensued between interested parties. However, a title search made since the beginning of this year showed Latgawa, which is not a federally recognized Indian tribe, still holding the title.

On Thursday, July 26, Newkirk, using a badge identifying himself as a tribal official, served papers to one of the buyers residing on the Takilma Road property. The action brought the attention of Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson.

"I heard there was someone down here flashing a badge and playing police," Gilbertson said later that afternoon.

"Mr. Newkirk has agreed that if he has anymore papers to serve," the sheriff said, "he will contact us and we'll uphold the law."

"I find the whole situation fairly comical and repetitive," said Leet. He stated that Newkirk has tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to secure rights to the property through the legal system.

First American Title in Grants Pass referred all inquiries to its Portland office. Dole did not return a phone call from this reporter last week and was then said to be unavailable until Aug. 6.

Fire danger notification 'doomed'

(Continued from page 1)

ture was comfortable with that," said Ballou. "If people had that liability coverage with the average home owner policy, it would not really come out of the home owner's pocket. It's something that's handled in normal coverage.

"It was never anybody's intention to put the average property owner in the likely situation of not being able to pay for the cost of the recovery bill and losing their home."

Ballou said that the potential \$100,000 assessments have not only upset home owners, but also have caused a more trying situation for ODF officials.

"That made it a bit difficult to get some people to get beyond that and just focus on really trying to accomplish the core task, which is working toward making their homes less at risk from fire damage," Ballou said.

Oregon Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) was scheduled to meet with Ballou on Monday, July 30. Maurer, who represents most of Josephine County, said that the legislative intent of SB 360 was quite different than what the law actually produced.

"The implementation of the law isn't necessarily a direct correlation with the true intent," Maurer said. "I'm not quite sure everybody did their homework. It's unfortunate that this letter was sent out to 19,000 people without having a full-fledged plan in place.

Ballou also met last week with Oregon Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point). Atkinson characterized the 1997 legislation as "a solution searching for a problem."

"I'm failing to see what

they're trying to fix by putting this liability back on the property owners," Atkinson said. "If anything, Southern Oregon property owners have proven themselves to be not only good partners, but wonderful stewards of the land. When we've passed laws regarding fire protection, fire cleanup, brush removal or slash removal, property owners were the first to step up to the plate and help the fire load be reduced."

Atkinson said that it is unfair for the state to punish citizens while the federal government owns most of the land in Josephine County and fails to properly manage it.

"You can't say that if fire breaks out on government land and it goes to a private piece of property that the owner is liable," Atkinson said. "People have every reason to be outraged."

Atzet said that he learned much from the July 18 meeting, which turned into a debacle, and that public input will be solicited and considered before any further action is taken.

"What we saw was the way democracy should work," Atzet said. "Overall, I feel good about it. What happened was a lot of people with a lot of concerns came to voice their concerns. We have pages of input that people had given us."

Atzet said that he and Josephine County Forest Land-Urban Interface Classification Committee chairman Tom Link are already in the process of going through the feedback given them by residents. Once they have finished, Atzet said, they will meet again with ODF officials, and another work meeting will be scheduled.

"Of course, it will be

open to the public, as they all were," Atzet said.

Ballou said that ODF will send a letter to the same home owners who received the initial notice, with answers to frequently asked questions. Meetings will be scheduled throughout the county in the fall, as ODF officials will be busy with fire season until then.

Another public hearing will be scheduled after the town hall meetings, Ballou said.

"I think we'll be able to take a calmer, more reasoned approach to it once fire season is over," Ballou said. "If folks can bear with us until then, we'll be able to answer their questions to the best of our abilities."

Nifty Gifty Thrift

Saturday, August 4, 10-2

BAKE SALE

across from Shop Smart on Watkins

SCHOOL SPORTS PHYSICALS
August 20 to September 14
at LBMS Student Health Center

Reduced price - \$15


Physicals required every two years
for participation in sports.
Appointments necessary
592-4111

Country Breakfast

I.V. Senior Center

520 E. River St.
Saturday, Aug. 4
8 to 11 a.m.

* Biscuits & Gravy * Pancakes
* Eggs * Bacon * Sausage
* Coffee, Milk, Juice



Adults - \$5
Children 12 & under - \$2.50

Support the I.V. Lions -- Buy a Harley raffle ticket!
Available at Taylor's Sausage and Century 21.
Phone 592-2252 or 287-0290

Recalled Curry sheriff found guilty in sexual abuse trial

Mark Metcalf, immediate past Curry County sheriff, has been found guilty of 11 counts in his sex abuse trial in Coos County Circuit Court in Coquille.

Metcalf was recalled by Curry voters in June after accusations by three women employees of Curry County Sheriff's Office. He was convicted on July 19 of four counts of third-degree sex abuse, four counts of harassment, and three counts of official misconduct.

Each of the 11 misdemeanors carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. The verdicts came from a six-person jury in a four-day trial held in Coos County because of the situation surrounding the former sheriff's recall in Curry.

Metcalf was the subject of an investigation by Oregon Dept. of Justice after the three

women complained of inappropriate behavior. The investigation led to a grand jury indictment in January.

Sentencing was set for Aug. 14 in Curry County. After the verdict, the defendant was not remanded into custody although the state had sought that.


(From Curry Coastal Pilot, Brookings)

IVCDO Meeting Schedule

Making Things Happen!
August, 2007

Day	Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Mon	8/6	Community Relations	5:30-6:30 p.m.	IVCDO Office
Wed	8/8	Operational Oversight & Projects & Programs Executive Comm.	5:30-6:30 p.m. 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Visitor Center
Thurs	8/16	Board/Workshop Meeting	6 - 9 p.m.	Visitor Center

Immunizations Matter



School is starting soon...

Your child's medical check-ups and immunizations are important. Three Rivers Community Hospital reminds you to put them on your schedule today.

Local Children's Health Resources

Immunizations, Public Health.....Lari Peterson.....474-5325
Siskiyou Community Health Center.....Jacque Doney.....471-3455
Oregon Health Management Services.....Patty Beeler.....471-4208
Eye Care Group.....Sonnie Stone.....476-4545
GP Lions Club Vision Screen.....Linda Freebus.....660-0862
Siskiyou Dental Clinic.....Aubra Johnson.....479-6393
Head Start.....Jan Hawkins.....472-4851



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EXCELLENCE CLOSE TO HOME

Weeping Spruce Herb Farm
27893 Redwood Hwy.

Benefit Dinner
for the **Susan G. Komen** FOR THE CURE breast cancer foundation
In memory of Janna Carter

Friday, August 3rd
Please join us for **great food, music, & wine!**
For information & reservations: **592-2009**