

Here, There, & Everywhere

COUNTY GAS TAX? - The possibility of a gasoline tax in Josephine and Jackson counties was to be discussed Tuesday, Sept. 11 in Grants Pass. ODOT reported that the topic would be examined during a meeting of the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation. We would have told you about it sooner, but the news release did not arrive until Sunday, Sept. 9.

PARTY SMARTLY - Bridgeview Vineyards Winery is the site for wine-and-cheese tasting and an art auction on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program at Evergreen Elementary School. There will be live classical music. See the ad on this page, and story and photo on page 1B.

PREGNANCY CENTER 20TH - A "See the Future" banquet to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley will be held Friday, Sept. 21 at I.V. Senior Center. The keynote speaker will be Cindy Nobile, a registered nurse. She will "share the miracles of prenatal development and ultrasound technology," said Mary Lefner, executive director of the pregnancy center. Larry Nobile, of Focus On the Family, will be master of ceremonies and share information. Tickets are available by phoning 592-6058; and they can be obtained via cash, check or credit card.

'PARENTING PLEASURE' - Southern Oregon Goodwill is offering free "Make Parenting A Pleasure" classes in Cave Junction. The program "is geared toward parents of children 8 and younger who want to learn new parenting skills by building on family strengths and connecting with other parents of young children in the area." Free dinner and child-care will be provided. Classes will be held Thursdays at the I.V. Family Resource Center beginning Sept. 20 and continuing weekly from 6:30 to 8 p.m. through Dec. 20. Phone Joyce Wyatt at 955-5253 to sign up. The program is funded by the Ford Family Foundation and the Ben B. Cheney Foundation.

CAVE CLEANERS - On Saturday, Sept. 29, Oregon Caves National Monument will celebrate the 14th annual National Public Lands Day with a volunteer cleanup at the caves, 20 miles east of Cave Junction. The National Park Service said that volunteers can join park staff for a day including cleanup and restoration including lint removal, litter pickup and algae control. Participants must sign up in advance. Volunteers will receive a pass good for free entry any day during the next 12 months at public land sites managed by many public agencies. To sign up phone Elizabeth Hale at 592-2100, Ext. 254; or by using Elizabeth_Hale@nps.gov.

HELPING CHILDREN - "Helping Children Who Have Been Exposed to Batterers" is the title of a free 16-week program that will be presented by Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance. It is designed for parents, grandparents, foster parents or anyone interested in helping children who have been exposed to domestic violence. The program will begin Monday, Oct. 22 and be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon on successive Mondays at I.V. Family Resource Center. To RSVP or for more information phone "Susie" at 592-2515.

HOME VALLEY RALLY - Home Valley Bank's new Illinois Valley Branch office in Cave Junction is scheduled to open in November. And to celebrate the grand opening of Home Valley's North Valley Branch, its newest office, the bank is sponsoring a benefit for student booster clubs. Deposits of at least \$5,000 made at any of the bank's five branches will result in a \$25 donation to the booster club of the depositor's choice. The offer is good until Monday, Sept. 17. The North Valley grand opening will be held Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the corner of Merlin Galice Road and Monument Drive.

STRING FLING - T. Lund, former music director for IVHS and Lorna Byrne Middle School, wants a few good string players to join the Rogue Community College Orchestra this school year. "We're looking for violin, viola, cello, and bass violin players," he said. Rehearsals will be held Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the RCC Redwood Campus Rogue Bldg. beginning Sept. 26. Lund will be orchestra director. For more information contact him at 592-6451.

NOTEPAD - Caveman Vintage Car Club will hold its 32nd annual swap meet, plus a display of members' vehicles, on Sunday, Sept. 16. The event will be held at the Josephine County Fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the ad on this page ... **Grape-stompin'** will be among the features Saturday, Sept. 22 at Bridgeview Vineyards Winery for an I.V. Chamber fund-raiser. See the ad on page 8B ... **A golf tournament** to benefit the I.V. Chamber is set in Cave Junction for Saturday, Sept. 29. See the ad elsewhere in this issue ... **Southern Oregon Antiques & Collectible Club** will hold its 25th anniversary Fall Show the weekend of Sept. 29 and 30 at the Medford National Guard Armory. Hours will be 10 to 8 and 10 to 4 respectively ... **A toy run** to benefit Siskiyou Community Health Center's programs for children will be held Oct. 7 at Fruitdale Grange Hall by ABATE Motorcycle Club. Phone 471-6049 for more info ... **'All About Hospice,'** to train potential volunteers, will be held by Lovejoy Hospice beginning Friday, Sept. 14. Phone 474-1193 ... **Bumper sticker:** Your kid may be an honor student, but you're still an idiot.

LAST WORDS - We make war that we may live in peace. (Aristotle)

Sheriff says shooting complaint has inconsistencies

Assertions by two women, who said that they were the target of gunfire last month, were largely refuted in the findings of an investigation by Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

The complainant, Kerby resident Victoria Sumner, phoned 911 on Thursday, Aug. 30 at 4:05 p.m. She reported that she and her mother, Debbie Culbertson, were fired upon more than 20 times by Crickett Lane resident Michael Perez in Cave Junction, when they arrived to retrieve some belongings from him.

Sumner reported to the 911 dispatcher that they were present by court order to retrieve some furniture; Culbertson is party to a suit against Perez' company, Infinite Construction. Sumner also told the dispatcher that she and her mother had left the scene and were available for contact at home.

Until warned against misuse of 911, family members and even a friend of the Culbertsons phoned the emergency dispatch number several times to find out when a deputy would arrive to take their report.

A staffer in KDRV-TV's newsroom in Medford confirmed that the station received a call to summon a television news reporter. Later that evening, Sumner appeared on KDVR-TV and she reiterated her allegation that Perez fired a gun at her mother.

It also was noted in that report that due to short staffing in the sheriff's office, and because the situation was not "critical," response

to the call was not a high priority. JCSO deputies arrived some three hours after the initial call. No injuries were reported in the reported shooting.

An investigation and subsequent report was filed with JCSO on Sunday, Sept. 2 by responding officer, Deputy Shawn Shaw. He and his supervisor, Sgt. Edye Deubert, found no physical evidence to support the claim that gunshots had been fired in the manner and direction claimed by the complainants.

Even so, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said it was evident that a shotgun had been fired numerous times -- in a different direction and out of sight from where Sumner claimed she saw Perez shoot at her mother.

"I find a lot of inconsistencies in statements given by the victims and statements given by (witnesses) who were with the victims in another vehicle," the sheriff noted.

"After looking at the report and the photos, I went out to look at the situation," Gilbertson continued. "There clearly was evidence of a 12-gauge shotgun having been fired," he said.

Gilbertson said that he admonished two young men, Perez' nephew and a friend, for choosing that moment to practice with their gun.

"Given the civil situation between the two parties,

Decline ...

(Continued from page 1) during March '06.

However, figures show that 1,126 people checked the center during March '05. That's a decline of 467.

Figures from this year: *January/125, a drop of 146 from '05 and down 83 from last year.

*February/164, a decrease of 218 from '05, and 58 from '06.

*March/659, a drop of 467 from '05, but the same as during '06.

*April/750, a decline of 278 from '05; 181 vs. '06.

*May/1,111, down 142 from '05, and nine from '06.

*June/1,991; a drop of 597 compared to '05, and a reduction of 763 when compared to '06.

*July/3,273; a lessening by 845 compared to '05, and down 1,380 from '06.

No particular reasons were identified for the changes. Chamber directors during their monthly meetings have put forth ideas that include higher fuel prices, uncertainty about the economy, and a general malaise about traveling.

it was pretty poor timing to be shooting at that time," said the sheriff.

Gilbertson said that the report has been forwarded to the Josephine County District Attorney's Office. The D.A.'s office could not comment on what, if any, charges were being considered on the basis of the complaint and subsequent report.

Speaking to the issue of

the timeliness of JCSO's response to the 911 call, Gilbertson believes the situation received the response warranted. He pointed out that OSP also had been advised of the situation.

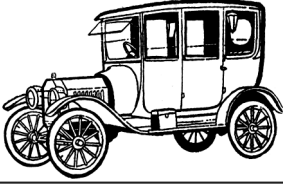
"It took some time to get someone out there, but as far as the protocols go, it was handled correctly," the sheriff said.

Caveman Vintage Car Club

32nd Annual Swap Meet, Flea Market, Car Corral, & Car show
Josephine County Fairgrounds

FREE Admission
Sunday, Sept. 16, 8-5

Information:
Car Corral (541) 479-7580
Flea Market (541) 479-0123
Swap Spaces (541) 956-1474



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SOASTC is looking for people with loving, nurturing homes to work with at-risk youth. These youth need someone to come along side them to help them overcome the challenges life has dealt them.

If you have a heart for youth and are available during the day, please give us a call at **956-4943 #1105**.

Foster parents are responsible for providing care, supervision, basic needs, skills-training, and documentation. SOASTC provides training, daily support, emergency on-call, and monthly respite. Certification and background checks are required.

BIG Y Swap Meet

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Approximately 100 vendors!

★ Across from Bi-Mart
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Sellers call (541) 659-9307
for reservations

199 G. P. Parkway

6th St.
Bi-Mart
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Wine & Cheese Tasting Art Auction & Sale

A FUN event to benefit
Evergreen Elementary School's
SMART Program (Start Making a Reader Today)

Saturday, September 15
3 to 6 p.m.
Bridgeview Winery
4210 Holland Loop, Cave Junction

Bridgeview Wines
Hors D'Oeuvres
Art from the Illinois Valley
Live Music
\$10 per person

Come bid on some SMART ART
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for more information call:
Nancy Brown 592-2250 (artists)
Debra Wallis, 592-6868 (general info)



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I WISH TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE ILLINOIS VALLEY FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE BOOKSTORE AND MYSELF FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS. I WILL MISS ALL OF YOU.

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU INTO THE STORE TO MEET THE NEW OWNER, DIANE McMANUS, WHO WILL CONTINUE WITH THE SAME POLICY THAT HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE OPENING.

THANK YOU AGAIN. SEE YOU AROUND TOWN!

Kathy

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