



Andrea Steelman (Photo by Jennifer Newsted, *Illinois Valley News*)

Baskets by Occasion Flowers & Gifts open in CJ

By **ZINA BOOTH**
IVN Staff Writer

When Andrea Steelman was a teen-ager, her grandmother taught her how to make gift baskets, which they would sell at flea markets.

Four years ago, Steelman began setting up a table at the Junction Inn vacant lot around the holidays, selling flowers and gifts.

“My favorite times,” claims Steelman, “were when children would come up with a pocket full of pennies, looking for gifts for Mother’s Day. I didn’t have overhead expenses then, so I was able to give them more than their money’s worth; it was worth it to see the look of joy on the children’s

faces.”

She dreamed of one day owning a business in Downtown Cave Junction. Just before Valentine’s Day this year, Steelman had her opportunity, and she “walked in with faith” to her new shop, Baskets By Occasion Flowers & Gifts.

“Gifts” is an understatement -- a quick browse found balloons, teddy bears, dolls, picture frames, hair accessories, candles, candy, soap, and magnets. There is also a collection of postcards, and Leaning Tree and Day Spring Christian greeting cards.

Garden decor, crocheted items and jewelry from local artists round out the inventory. If you still cannot find

the perfect gift, check out their “World of Products” gift catalog. The new shop is located in Western Plaza at the north end of Cave Junction.

Hours are currently Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and may soon change to winter hours of 8:30 to 5. Steelman reassures that, “I am always on call if someone has a celebration, or is in need of a gift or flowers. I will come in on Sunday, as long as it’s not during my church hours.”

Her flower delivery area is from O’Brien to Grants Pass, with eventual wire-service in her goals. Recently, Baskets By Occasion provided blue roses, shipped

from Holland, for a special wedding request.

Weekly craft classes will be offered before the holidays, featuring Christmas ornaments, and gifts that children can make and give. Expansion plans include party rentals, providing items such as fountains, archways and chafing dishes for events.

Disc jockey service also is available through Lightin’ Up DJ Services, providing a fog machine, lighting, announcements and any music desired for an hourly rate.

For flowers, customized gift baskets, balloons or DJ service, phone Baskets By Occasion at 592-0320 or 287-0195 or email baskets-byoccasion@frontiernet.net.

Safety tips for children traveling to and from school

Every day, millions of children take to the streets and roadways to get to and from school.

They walk, ride their bicycles, take buses and arrive in vehicles with one purpose -- getting to and from school safely. However children get there, it’s important that families take time to talk about safety and supervise their children’s journey.

“While the vast majority of children get to and from school safely, some children can run into unexpected dangers,” said Nancy A. McBride, national safety director at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

“If a child has been told how to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations, chances are better that he or she will deal with trouble in a smarter and safer way,” she said.

Here are some quick

and easy tips from “Know the Rules...For Going to and From School More Safely” by NCMEC:

Teach Your Children

*Instruct children to always take a friend when walking or riding his or her bike to and from school. They should walk and ride in well-lit areas and never take shortcuts.

When walking and biking, it’s also important that they stay aware of their surroundings and observe all traffic rules.

*Even though there is safety in numbers, it’s still not safe for young children to walk to and from school, especially if they must take isolated routes. Always provide supervision for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival.

*Your child should stay with a group while waiting at bus stops. Teach him or her to get away from anyone who bothers them while

going to or from school, and to tell you or another trusted adult.

If an adult approaches your child for help or directions, he or she should remember that grown-ups needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults.

*Tell your children that if anyone they don’t know -- or a person who confuses, scares or makes them feel uncomfortable -- offers them a ride, say, “No.” Children should never accept a ride from anyone unless you have told them it is OK to do so in each instance.

*Children should be taught to never leave school with anyone they don’t know and to always check first with you or another trusted adult. If anyone says there’s an emergency and wants your child to go with him or her, your children should always check first before doing anything.

*Teach them to make a

scene and every effort to get away by yelling loudly, kicking, screaming and resisting if anyone tries to grab them.

Talking with your children, supervising their activities and making safety a priority for everyone in the family are the best ways to help protect them from abduction, violence and exploitation.

Child safety resources such as StreetSenz: Common Sentz Tips for Safer Kidz can help families to have these conversations and make smart decisions.

Created by RadioShack and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, StreetSenz provides families with tools to educate and empower their children with ways to stay safer.

Parents and guardians can visit streetsenz.com to find tips, news, and community resources about child safety.

(NAPSA)

City awards two bids for work

Two Illinois Valley businesses have been awarded contracts to perform work for the city of Cave Junction.

The city council, sitting as a Contract Review Board Monday night, Sept. 10 in city hall, OK’d pacts with Meidinger Concrete Construction, and Walt Juergens Painting.

Meidinger will repair a building at city hall that was damaged by a truck. The trucker’s insurance company has given the city \$2,850 after receiving the lone bid from Mike Meidinger. The check arrived Monday, Sept. 10, said City Recorder Jim Polk.

Juergens will paint city hall for his bid of \$5,000. The city will provide the paint. Besides painting, Jer-

gens’ labor will include sanding, caulking and retiling the structure as needed. He’ll also mask windows and plants.

The color scheme still is being chosen by city staff.

3 Rivers district schools meeting state progress

State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo released preliminary federal ratings under No Child Left Behind for Oregon’s public elementary, middle and high schools.

Lincoln Savage Middle School and North Valley High School in Three Rivers School District missed top ratings, but not by much.

The report lists Oregon public schools that are making adequate yearly progress (AYP) and those that have been identified for improvement under state and federal requirements.

Schools may appeal their preliminary rating, and final AYP designations will be released in October on the school and district report cards.

There were several changes to AYP calculation this year including a last minute switch to paper-and-pencil testing and new achievement standards in reading and math.

Oregon’s preliminary 2006-07 AYP report shows:

*74 percent (923 of 1,236 Oregon schools) met AYP standards compared to 70 percent last year.

*21 percent (258 of 1,236 Oregon schools) did not meet compared to 30 percent last year (Of the 258 schools not meeting preliminary AYP: 176 did not meet in English language arts; 217 did not meet in mathematics; 40 did not meet in the other academic indicator of graduation or attendance).

*85 percent (793 of 936)

of elementary and middle schools met AYP compared to 82 percent in 2005-06.

*43 percent (130 of 300) of high schools met AYP compared to 31 percent during 2006.

*Thirty-seven Title I schools did not meet AYP in the same content area for two or more years and are subject to program improvement. Of these schools, 16 are identified for program improvement for the first time. Eight Title I schools are in program improvement for not meeting AYP for two years in a row, but met AYP this year.

A total of 13 Title I schools identified for improvement last year met AYP for the second consecutive year, and are no longer identified for improvement.

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5th Annual Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Golf Tourney

4-person Scramble - Open to the Public

Saturday, September 29
Laurel Pines Golf Course, Cave Junction
Check-in 8 a.m., Start 9 a.m.

Lunch provided by Taylor's Sausage

Beer provided by Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co.

\$50 fee includes: 18 holes of golf, green fees, driving range, lunch, & on-course refreshments

To Register Call: Chamber office at 592-3326 or Laurel Pines at 592-3151
Deadline: September, 22

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

LIVING WELL (chronic disease self-management)

Are you or a loved one living with **arthritis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, asthma**, or other **chronic diseases**?

Stanford University designed the *Living Well With Chronic Health Problems* work shops to help those who have significant health problems learn how to take control of their care in order to live happier and healthier lives.

Sign up today (6 classes in each series)
No charge - Registration required - Enrollment limited
Contact: Bernadette, 864-9611 www.sohealthyoregon.org

Class begins: **Oct. 2, Tuesdays, 2 to 4:30 p.m.**

All workshops will be held at The Washington Outpatient Center, 1505 N.W. Washington Blvd., Grants Pass.

Brought to you through a partnership of local health and human service providers in collaboration with the Rogue Valley Council of Government Senior and Disability Services.

Joyce & Isabel with “Velvet”

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