

Here, There, & Everywhere

BREAST DECISIONS - "Updated Breast Cancer Education: Making Informed Decisions," is the title of a free workshop, including dinner, set for Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. The workshop will be held at Siskiyou Community Health Center in Cave Junction. (Check the ad in this issue).

BURNING ISSUES - A fireside vigil will be held by Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA) on Friday, Oct. 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The gathering, open to anyone, will be adjacent to Illinois Valley Resource Center, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. There will be music, refreshments and a time of sharing. The intent of the vigil is for participants, if they wish, to write a brief note regarding past abuse they've endured; then place the note in the fire to symbolically burn it away.

PEACE PROGRAM - A 32-hour basic mediation course at Rogue Community College in GP is offered by Common Ground Community Mediation Center. The Workforce education program will be held on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 9 and 10, and Nov. 16 and 17. Phone 476-2422 for more information.

HOSPICE HELP APPEAL - Volunteers are needed as respite aides for Asante Hospice because of continuing growth, especially in Josephine County, said Karin Guy, volunteer coordinator for Asante Hospice. "With patients in Cave Junction and beyond, we are in desperate need of volunteers to sit with our patients while their care-giver takes a break or just to provide companionship," she said. "We also would like to recruit some therapy dog teams. I would like to start a new training class of volunteers in January." Contact Guy at kguy@asanate.org or phone 789-6859.

NOTEPAD - Daylight-saving time will end Sunday, Nov. 4. We'll remind you in our Oct. 31 issue ... **For those who** like to plan ahead, the Three Rivers School District calendar notes that there will be no classes Friday, Nov. 2 ... **Mail delivery?** *Illinois Valley News* mailed a check to Baltimore, Md. (2,887 miles from CJ), which arrived some four days later. On the same day, *IVN* mailed a check to Crescent City, Calif. (60 miles), and it took 12 days ... **A PTSD group**, for any woman who has been through emotional or physical trauma, meets Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the Cedar Room at I.V. Family Resource Center on E. River Street. Phone Grace Auzenne at 592-2515 to register or for more info ... **Amara Thelen**, of Grants Pass, a founder of I.V. Safe House Alliance, is among 18 persons who have worked tirelessly to improve mental health services to Oregonians, and are the 2007 recipients of the Mental Health Awards for Excellence, sponsored annually by the Oregon Dept. of Human Services Addictions & Mental Health Division ... **Turkey bingo**, courtesy of Cave Junction Lions Club, will be held Saturday, Nov. 10 in the county building in CJ ... **Actual headlines:** *Dead man was fed secretary. *All-Stars turn on sparse crowd. *Chinese ape-man dated. *Man held over giant L.A. brush fire. *Traffic dead rise slowly.

LAST WORDS - Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday. (John Wayne)

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Traveler touting route of JCT finding bus a plus

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

Since I began my association with *Illinois Valley News* a little more than a month ago, I have had several new life experiences.

Notice that I used "association" and not "employment." Strictly speaking I am a stringer for the valley paper covering some of the political meetings in the area. Editor Bob never actually hired me.

I am sure this is so that he can disavow any knowledge or responsibility for my actions should I do something embarrassing. Even the best of my friends will have to admit the distinct possibility of such a development.

Back to my original statement, I have had several new life experiences, one being the opportunity to use the Josephine Community Transit System (JCT). It mainly serves the Grants Pass area, but three times a day, Mondays through Fridays, the little buses make their way to our Illinois Valley community and provide a convenient and comfortable means to make that oft-dreaded trip to the commercial center of our county.

No, this is not a promotion for Grants Pass businesses. I think that most of us in this community will give our patronage locally if for no other reason than to be able to say, "I shop locally." But if I need socks or underwear I don't think it would be on my agenda to check the selection at Goodwill or the Senior Thrift Shop. Therefore a trip to GP becomes necessary.

Thus, I would find myself driving or being driven north for a day of adventure. The first part of the trip would always be so pleasant -- a country, curving highway that glides through forested areas. Then I'd reach that corner, you know, where Redwood Market used to be, and suddenly the temperament of the trip changed.

Verbs became more tense and terse as I battled for the appropriate lane position setting up the transition from Redwood Hwy. to Seventh Street. I would enter the No Man's Land of three- and four-lane, one-way streets controlled by a synchronized traffic signal system that worked great in 1975. But as the volume of traffic rose, so too did the volume of expletives hurled vehicle to vehicle.

The next step in the adventure was parking. But

given my recent history in the area of parking law enforcement I think it best I refrain from elaboration.

Now I would have to reverse the whole process

other bus pulls up to the stop, and I am driven home. Wayne, the afternoon driver, is much more conversation-oriented and he keeps the mood light. He knows many

With the exception of those fortunate enough to own hybrid vehicles, I challenge anyone to make that same trip and spend less on fuel.

Also, JCT uses no county funds, but rather is funded entirely by grant money and the income from fares. My only question is why more people don't take advantage. I mean, it is a completely painless way to be able to say to your friends in that environmentally conscious way, "Oh no, I seldom drive to Grants Pass anymore. I usually take the bus. It's more environmentally friendly."

Full schedule and fare information, including information about monthly passes, can be obtained by phoning 474-5452.



for the trip home. But somehow the Riverbanks Road-to-Kerby segment did not have the same charm due to the hangover from the traffic in the city. Redwood Hwy. becomes something to be endured rather than enjoyed, and I would always find myself drained from the whole experience.

Remember how I started this with some kind of reference to my duties at *I.V. News*? OK, here is where it all ties together. I started taking the bus as transportation to cover the Wednesday morning meetings of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners. If you add to the whole Grants Pass trip experience the privilege of listening to a two-hour political business meeting, you can understand my choice to ride the bus.

I must admit to a bit of trepidation concerning the bus. I have had less-than-pleasant experiences with other mass transit systems, usually late at night and usually associated with alcohol abuse in some form. But after my first experience with JCT, I was hooked.

The buses are always clean and inviting. The drivers are always professional and helpful. Jim, who drives the morning bus, is a quiet man. But let's face it, at 7 a.m. who among us wants to deal with much of anything?

Once on the JCT bus I am able to kick back and relax. I tell Editor Bob that I do story prep during the trip, but mostly I just watch the scenery or doze off. My biggest worry is that I may run out of coffee before we get to the Grants Pass stop at Anne Basker Auditorium on Sixth Street.

Coincidentally it's the exact location where the commissioners meet. I should also add that from this stop you can make connections with other buses to go almost anywhere in the Grants Pass area.

I cover the meeting, maybe grab a sandwich; then promptly at noon an-

of the riders and always inquires about family and such turning the trip into a friendly get-together.

What does all this convenience cost? The total expenditure is \$4 roundtrip.

Breast Cancer Education: Making Informed Decisions

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 6 to 8 p.m.

Learn how you can receive a voucher for a free screening mammogram.

Siskiyou Community Health Center
541-955-5416
25647 Redwood Hwy.

St. Patrick Catholic Church Pre-Holiday Country Store

Friday & Saturday November 2 & 3, 10 to 4.

Quilts, Gift Baskets, Baked Goods, Lunch Special, & Much More!

"We have to do everything possible to stop this vicious cycle of domestic violence. It's simple. Start in your own little community and venture out from there."

Dennis Brown

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Thanks also to all the community volunteers and IVSHA staff that worked so hard.

The campaign to build a safe place for the victims of domestic violence in the Illinois Valley

SAFE PLACE

Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance - More Than a Safe Place

Have a safe and fun Halloween

Evergreen Elementary School PTA presents

Harvest Festival

Tuesday, October 30, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Safe Alternative to Trick or Treating!
Please wear costumes.
No unchaperoned kids or weapons please.

New Carnival Games
Awesome Silent Auction
Hot Dogs * Chili * Cotton Candy
Popcorn * Snow Cones
Haunted House

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Donations for Silent Auction are needed and may be taken to the school office. If you can volunteer, please call Sue Fiske, 660-5899.
Please donate a bag of wrapped candy! Please bring to the school office by Friday, October 26th!
The PTA appreciates your support of this event!

Christmas Bazaar

I.V. Senior Center 520 East River St.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 9 & 10

- 36 Booths
- Bake Sale
- Lunches can be purchased

For info, call Casey Thomas at 592-4487