

Rotarian ducks aid IVHS rec project

By MICHELLE BINKER
IVN Staff Writer

A “perfect storm” of community endeavors swept a \$28,500 check into coffers of the new Illinois Valley Booster Club, courtesy of the 2007 Rotary Duck Derby.

The Derby, held in September in Grants Pass, netted some \$120,000. Proceeds were used to match funds raised by the four high schools in Three Rivers School District and Grants Pass District 7 to improve recreational facilities.

“We’ve had a very successful Duck Derby,” said Bill Thorp, a Grants Pass Rotarian. Also known as “Papa Duck,” Thorp was on hand to deliver the duck bucks Tuesday, Oct. 16 during the regular noon meeting of Illinois Valley Rotary Club at Junction Inn.

“The project we’re working on is a press box for the athletic field,” said Mark Higgins, IVHS athletic director. “This will be of benefit to all sports and the visiting teams.

“This is a great start to getting this project off the ground.”

Damien Crowson, the school’s former athletic director and current principal at Lorna Byrne Middle School, was unable to attend. But his efforts toward making the derby work for I.V. were recognized.

JoAnn Bethany, IVHS principal, recalled that because the school no longer had a functional booster club, it was unable to take advantage of the funding last year.

“When we realized the opportunity we were missing by not having a concerted fund-raising effort under the umbrella of a booster club, it really pulled the community together,” Bethany said.

Thorp described the outcome as a “perfect storm,” which brought the community into focus. In addition to the new booster club, a new Rotary Club has been established in Illinois Valley.

“Besides this money, we now have a great, functioning booster club at the high school that will benefit the schools and the community for years to come,” Bethany said.

A challenge by the principal at North Valley High School, to see which school could get the most ducks adopted was won by IVHS. It received an additional \$400 check for that effort.

Said Bethany, “As I have been a part of this through the last year, I have seen how those in Rotary have given of themselves to help the kids in this valley. It humbles me to know that there are people who will do things like this for children who aren’t theirs.”



Rain-slick pavement was said to have contributed to a roll-over accident at approximately 6:20 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 18 in the 200 block of Illinois River Road. Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and Ameri-

can Medical Response went to the scene. No injuries were reported. All occupants, a father and his two children, were wearing safety belts. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept.)

Gov. Kulongoski dishes up program to lessen hunger; boost nutrition, health

A new initiative to improve the health of Oregonians through improved nutrition was announced by Gov. Kulongoski last week.

The Governor’s Hunger, Health & Nutrition Initiative will be funded by \$1.7 million in bonus funds awarded by the federal Food and Nutrition Service in recognition of Oregon’s outstanding work in providing food stamps to needy Oregonians.

“My experience in April, living on an average food stamp budget of \$3 a day, gave me a greater appreciation for the challenge thousands of Oregonians face every day when trying to make ends meet,” said Kulongoski.

“This targeted initiative will increase the ability of hungry Oregonians to improve their health and, consequently, their ability to be productive members of our communities.”

In September, Oregon received a \$1.7 million “bonus” award from the federal Food and Nutrition Service of the Dept. of Agriculture for being one of the nation’s top five states in providing food stamps to the highest percentage of people who are eligible for food aid.

The governor said that

Sundays OK to sell liquor

At least half the state’s 240 liquor stores are open on Sundays and holidays, including 30 in the Portland metropolitan area, according to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC).

No liquor stores in Josephine County are open on Sundays.

Customers can find the closest stores open Sundays on OLCC’s Website at www.oregon.gov/OLCC/liquor_stores.shtml. “Click on liquor store locations for a listing of the stores, including hours of operation and a link to a map to each one,” OLCC said.

The agency requires its stores to be open Mondays through Saturdays. Sundays and holidays are optional.

his initiative will use those bonus funds to further improve Oregon’s food stamp program. The effort will focus on access to nutritious foods and on helping to enroll more seniors and rural Oregonians who are eligible for, but not receiving, food assistance.

The initiative also will take advantage of matching federal funds, creating a potential \$2.94 million total investment.

“We have made great strides, but our fight against hunger is not won,” said the governor. “Now we must take the battle to the next step and make sure that all Oregonians have access to adequate and nutritious food.”

Highlights of the initiative include:

*Development of a pilot project targeted to improving food stamp client access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

*Expanded nutrition education efforts for low-income families focused on purchasing and preparing low-cost, nutritious meals.

*Investments in equipment to improve the Oregon Food Bank’s ability to store and distribute donated produce and other perishable foods.

*Development of educational tools for Oregon medical professionals to strengthen their focus on the health consequences of hunger and food insecurity.

*Support for Oregon farmers markets, including the purchase of debit/credit card equipment to enable food stamp recipients to buy fresh produce at farmers markets; and a pilot project

Elementary Schools Lunch Menu Sponsored by 'Illinois Valley News'
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THURSDAY, OCT. 25
Sweet & sour chicken, cheeseburger, pepperoni & veggie pizza, ham & cheese sand., chicken salad wrap, fruit & yogurt parfait or garden salad.
FRIDAY, OCT. 26
Salisbury steak, grilled ham & cheese, BBQ chicken burger, totally turkey sand., PB & nanner wrap. Cobb or garden salad, *cookie of the month*
MONDAY, OCT. 29
Popcorn chicken, corn dog, chicken quesadilla, PB&J sandwich, cleaver club wrap, chef or garden salad.
TUESDAY, OCT. 30
Very teriyaki dippers, hamburger, BBQ or cheese pizza, super-duper sub, crispy chicken wrap, fruit & yogurt parfait or garden salad.
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31
Witch on a broom stick, howling chicken burger, screaming mac and cheese, tuna torpedo terror, trick or treat turkey wrap

GP cops arrest ‘Frankenstein’

Grants Pass Police have arrested “Frankenstein” in connection with criminal mischief/graffiti to buildings, and damages likely will be substantial, said GP Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS).

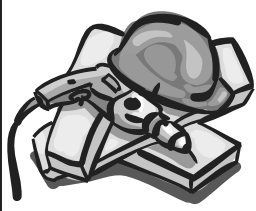
The suspect, said to be a member of the ISH tagging team, is identified as Lance Johnson, 22, of Grants Pass. “Frankenstein” is his adopted graffiti tag, according to GPDPS police officers.

Johnson is charged with second- and third-degree criminal mischief, the number of counts to be determined, said GPDPS. Numerous buildings during the past few months are believed to be involved; charges are being referred to the District Attorney’s office.

Johnson was arrested Saturday, Oct. 20. He was found in possession of paint cans, rubber gloves and stencils, said GPDPS. At his residence, officers found “numerous articles of graffiti, as well as several marijuana smoking devices.”

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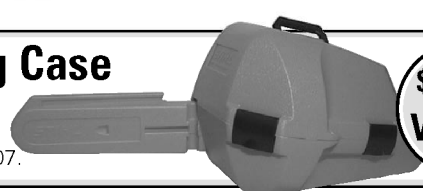
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