

Here, There, & Everywhere

CJ CARES MENU - A free Thanksgiving meal for all comers will be served Thursday, Nov. 22 from noon to 2 p.m. Meanwhile, CJ Cares leader Lynn Boucher-Johnson said that donations of turkeys, hams and pies are anxiously awaited. She can be contacted at 592-6855. The annual dinner, for anyone needing a warm place to share Thanksgiving, will be held at the Jubilee Park pavilion on Junction Avenue in Cave Junction. Boucher-Johnson said that she has some 20 volunteers signed up, and that any donations of food or money will be greatly appreciated.

I-5 TURKEY LURKEY - Bridge work near Grants Pass likely will delay holiday travelers on Interstate 5 during peak travel times Wednesday afternoon and evening, Nov. 21; and Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25, said ODOT. I-5 is narrowed to a single lane in each direction over Beacon Drive at milepost 57, near the north end of GP. Drivers able to adjust their plans are encouraged to travel through this area during nonpeak times to avoid delays of up to 30 minutes. Updates are available by phoning 511 or by visiting Tripcheck.com. Those who cannot access 511 can obtain road and weather information toll-free within Oregon by dialing (800) 977-ODOT (6368). From outside Oregon, the long-distance number, (503) 588-2941, is available. For information on California highway conditions, visit dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo or phone (916) 445-7623.

GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS - A kick-off meeting of a support group for grandparents who serve as parents for their grandchildren will be held Thursday, Nov. 29 from 6:30 to 6:30 p.m. The free gathering, with a talk on "Guardianship vs. Adoptions" by attorney Jason Broesder, will be held at the Boys & Girls Club, 203 S.E. Ninth St. in Grants Pass. Food and child-care will be provided at no cost. The group is co-sponsored by Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Life Span Respite, and Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley.

YOUNG GRAPPLERS - Illinois Valley Youth Wrestling Club will host the Tournament of Champions Saturday, Dec. 1 at Ken Mann Memorial Gym at Illinois Valley High School on E. River Street in Cave Junction. Weigh-ins will be conducted from 7 to 9 a.m. Wrestling will begin at 10 a.m. "Come support our youth wrestlers," said the club.

'LIGHT UP A LIFE' - Lovejoy Hospice is sponsoring two celebrations to honor those who have passed on. One be held Monday, Dec. 3 in Grants Pass; the other Wednesday, Dec. 5 at Immanuel United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. in Cave Junction. The GP celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the hospice facility, 939 S.W. Eighth St. This year's events again will include a tribute in photos to those being remembered, and will continue with the traditional lighting ceremony and reading of names. There also will be music and refreshments. Check the ad in this issue.

HIGH-CALIBER HAPPENING - One of those odd happenings occurred recently when the son-in-law of a CJ resident came home on leave from Iraq. Actually, the situation came about as he was returning to duty via Rogue Valley International Medford Airport. It seems that as his luggage went through the X-ray machine, all sorts of consternation, plus flashing lights and alarms, resulted. Apparently, his bag contained a single bullet that somehow had gotten into the lining of his bag when he originally packed to go on leave. He was unaware of its presence. What's weird is that he had flown from Iraq to the States and gone through several airports; and the single round was not detected. Not until Medford.

YULE JEWELS - The annual Christmas Decorating Contest again is sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. Indoor and outdoor decorations must be ready for judging Friday, Dec. 14. Phone 592-3326 for more information.

AIRPORT QUERY - Josephine County officials said that a public hearing will be called early during December regarding "the future use and designation of Illinois Valley Airport." Watch the *Noose* for the news.

NOTEPAD - Christmas cards can be sent to: A Recovering U.S. Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20307 ... **Jolly St. Nick** will visit Saturday, Dec. 1 during the annual I.V. Chamber-sponsored Community Christmas Tree Lighting & Sing-Along beginning at 5 p.m. on the Junction Inn vacant lot ... **"The Christmas Offering"** is the title of a free "Night of Beautiful Song" Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. at Community Bible Church. The all-congregations *One Body-One Voice Choir* will perform ... **Glenn & Gayla Sparks**, of O'Brien, have been honored by XanGo Juice Co. for reaching the 200K level ... **T-shirts:** *I did the math, and I'm still confused. *Good Morning is an oxymoron. *No need to yell. I still won't listen. *Pay no attention to the device around my ankle.

LAST WORDS - *Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies. (Charles E. Jefferson)

*Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude. (E.P. Powell)

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LID legal challenge ...

(Continued from page 2)

"The city has continually ignored such notice requirements," the letter said. It also claims that the city has failed to even properly designate the boundaries of the LID, a necessary first step in the process.

The engineer's report, that has yet to be approved by the council and was submitted by Marquess & Associates Inc., also is called into question. It is stated that the report contains no independent evaluation as to actual economic benefits to the properties in question. The report is stated to only reflect the views of the LID proponents.

It is claimed that the land owned by Versteeg Family Trust, being a tree lot, does not economically benefit from the improvements on Redwood Hwy. The letter states that surrounding properties would benefit only if they "are bulldozed and turned into a housing development and a gas station."

Statements made by ODOT seem to bear out this opinion. Several comments included in the letter attributed to ODOT say that the beneficiaries of the LID are the "community (the city of Cave Junction) developers, and ODOT."

The final argument put forth is that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners has jurisdiction over the area in question and cannot delegate responsibility to another agency as it has tried to do. The commission told *Illinois Valley News* two weeks ago that since the properties in question are within the Urban Growth

Boundary for Cave Junction, the city should have the authority and the commissioners voted to do just that. However, the legal opinion states that the city cannot assess a property that lies outside the city limits.

If the legal arguments are found to be valid, it means that the entire cost of the project will be borne by the petitioners for the LID. That would include several developers and Siskiyou Community Health Center.

Steve Zabriskie, owner of Z Coffee, stated that the letter allows him "to breathe a small sigh of relief." His business is facing an assessment that could exceed \$50,000.

He also noted that all these questions had been raised with the city council prior to any legal action, but that the council chose to ignore the suggestions for legal opinions on the matter.

During the public comment period of Tuesday night's meeting, the council was questioned by Andrea Thomas, a CJ restaurateur, concerning the questions raised in the letter. Thomas stated she felt that the city rushed into a decision before looking into all the concerns brought by citizens.

"The legal arguments (raised in the letter) have all been brought to the council's attention by private citizens," Thomas said. "Why weren't they looked at before the city had to address it in a lawsuit?"

Mayor Tony Paulson replied, "We aren't lawyers." He went on to assert that the city has done what is required by Oregon Revised Statutes.

LID off for CJ's projects

(Continued from page 1)

petition would include only those who supported the LID.

Some say that the legal challenges raised by the law firm appear to be unaddressed by this action. According to a letter sent to City Recorder Jim Polk, Hornecker et al. states that the city can only be involved in an LID if the city itself is conducting the improvements.

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation is the agency directing the improvements on Redwood Hwy. and therefore, according to the letter, the city has no jurisdiction in the matter. To further complicate the issue the land is county property and is not in

the city limits. The contention is that the county needs to be involved in the process, which has not happened thus far.

Some questions also have been raised concerning agreements among the petitioners that would put a cap on the amount of liability attached to certain development companies. These agreements were not made known to the city council by the petitioners until the legal challenge from Versteeg Family Trust lawyers.

No further action has been scheduled by the city council on the LID until an amended petition is received.

Rec location improvements Nov. 29 topic

A series of seven public open houses, including one in Cave Junction, will be held by the U.S. Forest Service to review steps it is taking to create a sustainable recreation program at developed recreation locations.

The Cave Junction meeting is set for Thursday, Nov. 29 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Illinois Valley Visitor Center.



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THURSDAY, NOV. 22
Thanksgiving Break
No classes

FRIDAY NOV. 23
Thanksgiving Break
No classes

TUESDAY, NOV. 27
* Boys Basketball at S. Umpqua JV 5:30 p.m./Varsity 7 p.m.
* Girls Basketball vs. S. Umpqua JV 5:30 p.m./Varsity 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 28
Parent Financial Aid Information Night, 6:30 p.m. Cafeteria

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