

Inside:

JoCo chief

Commissioners
split on new post
Page 3

Libraries open?

Group appoints
board of directors
Page 4

Art & Wine

Kerby event set
Saturday, Dec. 8
Page 7

Holiday photos

Your shots
can win!
Page 11

Higher charges

County raises
license costs
Page 13

Forest fees?

Rec charges
seem likely
Page 14

Bright and shiny

Fire district gets
'big red rig'
Page 16

Valley airport future queried

Josephine County commissioners want to hear from Illinois Valley residents about the use of Illinois Valley Airport and its future.

To gather input, the county board will conduct a town hall get-together Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. at Hwy. 199 and Lister Street in Cave Junction.

Oxygen tank in fatal fire likely cause

Use of an oxygen tank and smoking seem linked to an explosion and fire that resulted in the death of a 64-year-old Williams man, said Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson.

The victim was identified as David J. Megla, of 310 Pine Tree Drive.

A neighbor on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 1:02 p.m. reported an explosion and smoke from Megla's residence, a travel trailer, said Gilbertson. Williams Fire District volunteers found the man deceased in his burning home, the sheriff said.

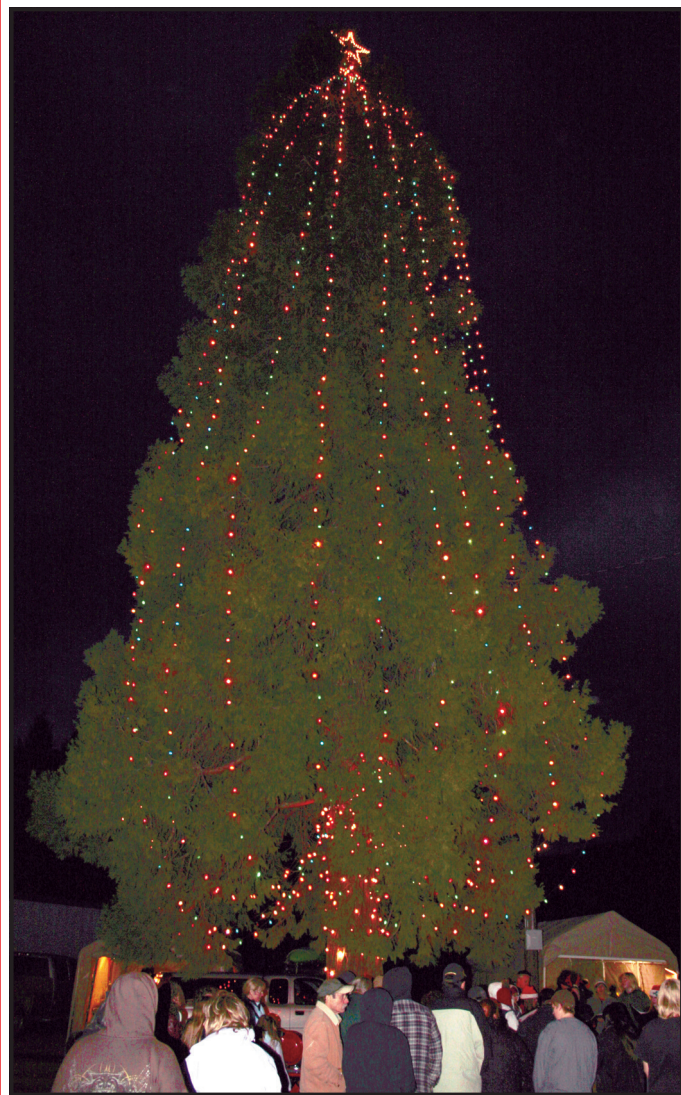
He noted that Megla, who was disabled with limited mobility, suffered from emphysema. He added that the man "still continued to smoke heavily and would do so while using his oxygen machine.

"Oxygen is very flammable," Gilbertson said, "and will ignite quickly under the circumstances."

Foul play is not suspected, although Oregon State Police fire investigators are preparing a report. An autopsy will be conducted, the sheriff added.

Holiday Photo Contest

Co-sponsored by
Siskiyou Community
Health Center and
I. V. News
See page 11



A holiday kick-off celebration featuring lighting of the Community Christmas Tree (decorated by Marty's Tree Service) was held Saturday, Dec. 1 on the Junction Inn vacant lot. The I.V. Chamber of Commerce event also included a visit by Santa, who is a good friend of Sonny Moore; Illinois Valley High School choral music, and refreshments. (Photos by *Illinois Valley News*)

21st Century learning adds to after-school curriculum

The 21st Century After School Program at Illinois Valley High School is adding two new classes, which, like all the program classes, run from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m.

In "Beading," students will learn how to make simple necklaces or earrings. Classes will be held Tuesdays with Bev Winchester.

"Scrap Booking & Holiday Cards," which can be a holiday aid, will be taught by Diane Steverson. The class will be held Thursdays.

Continuing classes include "Guitar" on Mondays, "Yoga" on Mondays and Wednesdays, "Salsa Dancing" Tuesdays, "Figure Sculpture" Wednesdays, and "Video Production" Thursdays.

Homework Help, provided by teachers, is available Mondays through Thursdays. All classes are free to IVHS students and their parents or guardians. All supplies are provided. Students are allowed rides home on an Activity Bus after classes.



Illinois Valley Youth Wrestling Club hosted its annual Tournament of Champions Saturday, Dec. 1 in Ken Mann Memorial Gym at

I.V. High School. Hundreds of grapplers from throughout Southwestern Oregon participated. (Photos by *Illinois Valley News*)

I.V. Boys & Girls Club seeks aid

Funding lack could end program at end of June 2008

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

If sufficient funds are not raised by the community, the Boys & Girls Club of Rogue Valley will end its Illinois Valley program in June 2008, according to Scott Thornhill, executive director of the Illinois Valley Section.

Thornhill told *Illinois Valley News* last week that the shortfall is a result of a lack of financial support from the community. The program currently costs more than \$160,000 a year to operate, and brings in slightly more than \$50,000 through membership dues and grants. Agencywide developmental funds provide another \$50,000 resulting in a shortage of \$60,000.

In the past, this has been covered by the parent organization, which oversees the operation of five programs in Josephine and Jackson coun-

ties. However, in this period of fiscal restraint it is no longer able to make up the deficit. The community will be required to raise the necessary money or the Illinois Valley operation will be forced to close on June 30 at the end of the 2007/08 school year. Current donations from the area average \$11,682.

The club, which uses facilities at Evergreen Elementary School on River Street in Cave Junction, is open from 2 to 6:30 p.m. and serves an average of 82 youths daily. The five stated goals are to provide direction in the areas of education and career, health-and-life skills, the arts, sports and recreation, and character and leadership.

Thornhill said that most importantly, the club provides a safe, positive environment for young people after school. With so many working parents, he said he feels this to be

an essential service for Illinois Valley. He added that an evening meal is also made available free of charge through a grant from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Thornhill has been meeting with representatives of Boys & Girls Club of Rogue Valley, as well as Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson, to explore possible fund-raising options.

Nothing definite has been scheduled as yet.

Thornhill said that the program in Talent is facing the same closure situation, but that other chapters, such as the one in Grants Pass, are in good financial shape by way of business and individual donations. He is hopeful that a similar situation can be accomplished for I.V.

Those interested in helping with the effort, or who have questions, can contact Thornhill at 592-4771.

X-rays, lab work available at SCHC in CJ

Illinois Valley residents can now stay close to home for X-rays or lab work, as the Three Rivers Imaging & Lab Outpatient Center, located in the same building as Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC), is open to anyone, said Asante Health System.

"You don't have to be seeing one of the doctors at SCHC," said Ed Agricola, laboratory site manager for Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH). "If your doctor requests that you get an X-ray or lab work, you can come here."

Walk-in patients "always are welcome, and it is unnecessary to schedule appointments for either X-rays or lab

draws," said Asante.

Added Rod Graham, manager of imaging at TRCH, "It's our goal to benefit people in Illinois Valley by bringing these services from the hospital to Cave Junction. "This will save a lot of people a 50-mile or more round-trip." With the price of gasoline these days, it's not only a convenience, but a real savings," Graham noted.

He said that the X-ray machines are of the same quality with a staff that works to the same high standards as TRCH. Additionally, the X-ray machines are all "digital capture," meaning that there is no film to develop, and the images are transferred auto-

matically to the hospital's picture archiving system.

"If you hurt your hand and your doctor says to go get an X-ray, you don't have to go to the hospital," said Graham. "You can go right to the Three Rivers Outpatient Center and get the same level of service without going to Grants Pass."

The same is true for lab work at the outpatient center, noted Agricola. "Our staff in Cave Junction consists of certified phlebotomists, and all lab work is delivered twice a day to the hospital, so your doctor will get results quickly."

Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.