

Here, There, & Everywhere

HOLIDAY HAPPENING - Illinois Valley Merchants Association (IVMA) will present “Santa’s Village” Saturday, Dec. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. Old St. Nick will be present with gifts and games, said IVMA. It has tickets for two drawings, with a portion of proceeds to be donated to the Illinois Valley Christmas Basket/Toy Program at I.V. Family Resource Center. The tickets are for a raffle of a totally decorated Yule tree, and a basket containing a complete Christmas dinner.

GOT TOYS? - With a distribution date of Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., there is “a desperate need for toys,” said Celia Siemer. “We are down 50 percent from last year, and the need is greater, as well as the price of toys. We’ll be grateful for donations,” said Siemer, who is Oregon Dept. of Human Services (ODHS) case manager with an office at Illinois Valley Family Resource Center on E. River Street. She can be contacted at 592-4149, Ext. 225. All donations of toys or cash stay in Illinois Valley, she noted. Last year, the program helped 720 I.V. families. They receive a food basket from the Josephine County Christmas Basket Program, and the ODHS program provides the toys. To prepare for and implement the valley program last year, there were 26 I.V. High School volunteers and more than 30 adults from throughout the community.

In a related matter, the I.V. Bikers Toy Run was not held this year. However, the organization donated money to CJ Cares to purchase toys for its annual Christmas morning breakfast and visit by Santa at Jubilee Park. “We hope to see you next year,” stated the Bikers spokesman, “Stinky.”

HOLIDAY DEADLINES - Firm deadlines of 5 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 20 and 27, will be observed for *Illinois Valley News* because Christmas Day and New Year’s Day will fall on Tuesdays. Due to printing and delivery schedules, the Dec. 26 and Jan. 3 issues must be assembled earlier than usual. So, if you want an announcement or advertisement in either of those issues, they must be in the *News* office by the deadlines.

RAY’S WINNERS - A number of lucky Ray’s Food Place shoppers will get their holiday presents a bit early this year due to a new holiday game that rewards customers who shop in-store and play online. In Illinois Valley, Ray’s is located in Selma. A woman identified as Helen R., of Rogue River, has won the grand prize: \$20,000 toward the purchase of a new car midway through the promotion that began Oct. 31 and will continue through Dec. 25. Many other prizes remain available.

MUCHO MEXICO - Club Internacional at Illinois Valley High School appreciates the I.V. community for enabling eight students and three chaperones to enjoy eight days on Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula this year. The group was comprised of BreAnna, Shaneice, and Lalani Allen; Alyssa and Cathy Burdick, Hannah Gogulski, Melissa Harland, Robert Parsons, David and Carlie Paulsen. and IVHS teacher and club adviser, Jaime Szijarto. “We climbed Mayan ruins, including Chichén Itzá, now one of the Seven Wonders of the World; swam in the turquoise Caribbean and ancient underground *cenotes* (springs); sun-bathed on white sandy beaches; spoke Spanish; bartered with the locals; and tried traditional cuisine,” said Szijarto. “From fire dancers to flamingos, to swimming with dolphins, we did it all,” she said. She added, “Once in Cancún, we hooked up with other U.S. tour groups, and became known as the ‘Oregon Nature Group.’ We were the ones who hiked into caves and saw bats; found octopi in the shells and let them crawl on our hands; spotted the baby birds in the nests above our heads; and explored everywhere we went. Everyone brought back great memories, and a better understanding of the Mayan and Mexican cultures. We are ever grateful to the generous, supportive I.V. community for giving us this spectacular opportunity. With its help, we raised close to \$16,000 during 1½ years. We especially appreciate Shop Smart Food Warehouse in CJ for allowing us to use its facilities, as we recycled some 150,000 cans and bottles.”

NOTEPAD - **Sports awards** for Illinois Valley High school fall teams will be presented during a program Wednesday night, Dec. 12 beginning at 6 in the IVHS cafeteria ... **A blood drive** will be held Friday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Illinois Valley Senior Center. Phone (800) 448-3543 for donor information ... **A grad night party** for the I.V. High School Class of 2008 will be discussed during a meeting Monday, Dec. 17 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the IVHS cafeteria. Parents of senior students and other concerned adults can attend. For more information phone Sara Ball at Bi-Rite Auto Parts, 592-3691; or Mary Paul at IVHS, 592-2116 ... **A Winter Concert** for the community will be presented by Lorna Byrne Middle School students Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria ... **T-shirts:** *Caution: You are in the ‘Whatever’ Zone. *Life is a Circus, and I’m Stuck in the Freak Tent. *I Am the Dog Whisperer. *I cannot comment during an on-going investigation.

LAST WORDS - *I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. (Charles Dickens)

*Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won’t make it white. (Bing Crosby)

Tax plan ideas by sheriff

(Continued from page 1)

tourism, but the remaining 30 percent could go to the county general fund. Tourism obviously benefits the local economy, but brings with it higher traffic and crime that consume sheriff’s office resources.

“Ideally, this tourism-created need could be self-funded through this tax.”

The sheriff also noted a recent suggestion by Selma resident Fred Krauss that the county sell 30,000 acres of its timberland. The sale could yield approximately \$30 million and put the land on the tax rolls, Gilbertson noted.

“During the next few weeks,” he said, “I hope to discuss these ideas with the county commissioners to determine their level of support for putting them on a ballot. The commissioners have the unique ability to bypass the petition process and place propositions directly on a ballot. Otherwise,” he said, “it requires collecting some 6,000 signatures on petitions, which can be a very time-consuming process.

“If you remember that the county only collects some \$3 million annually from property taxes, with the rest going directly to schools, bonds and the cities, you will recognize how significant the contributions from these alternatives might be.

“Still,” he continued, “it will take the combined contribution of a number of such

ideas to match the loss of some \$12 million to \$14 million of O&C funds that we have benefited from for so long.”

Additionally, said Gilbertson, he is approaching potential volunteers to lead putting a two-tax district public safety proposal on a ballot.

“This proposal calls for one district encompassing every county resident to fund ‘mandated’ services such as the jail, civil division, search-and-rescue, and court security,” the sheriff said. “The second district,” he stated, “would include only residents outside the city of Grants Pass to cover the cost of ancillary services such as 911 response, patrols, investigation and so on.

“This proposal would be supported,” said Gilbertson, “by a 20-year plan anticipating further growth in the county, but with some flexibility to reduce taxes collected if something like O&C funds again become available.

“Stable funding,” he said, “is critical -- and this two-tax district plan fairly and equitably distributes costs in line with services provided.”

The sheriff concluded his remarks in a news release by stating, “With the Christmas season upon us, please join me in doing everything we can to keep our community safe; to share goodwill with our friends and neighbors; and extend a helping hand to our fellowman.”

Ideas about law efforts

(Continued from page 1)

sults will be calculated separately, as they are representative of the whole community.

“But we want to provide everyone an opportunity to help shape our future. We’re setting up the meetings by appointment to keep the size of each group productive.”

Citizens can phone 474-5112 to set up an appointment to attend one of these meetings. Several days already are reserved for the randomly selected citizens, but all citizens can attend the Grants Pass meetings Monday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

In Cave Junction, all citizens can attend the meeting on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. In Merlin, anyone can attend the meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. “If more dates are required, more will be made available,” the sheriff said.

The meeting locations will be provided when appointments are made.

Gilbertson added that surveys will be mailed to selected residents to obtain their views on the performance of the sheriff’s office. He noted that intradepartmental surveys

were conducted “to judge morale and overall direction.”

He said that survey results will be brought to the public through a series of town hall meetings that will be announced. Refining the results will be part of the community session, he said.

4th Annual Good Neighbors Fence Company Christmas Tree Sale

Beautiful, Fresh Trees only \$26

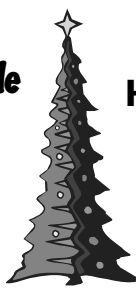


Art Walk Special Event

Libby Goines performing from 7 p.m. Hot Chocolate & Cider. Tree Deck, Gazebo, & Mini-cabin Displays. Friday, December 14 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Christmas Craft Sale

Saturday, December 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booth space available Only \$5, call 592-6014



Holiday Home Improvement

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28267 Redwood Hwy. (2 miles South of CJ) 592-6014 or 415-0765 Insured & Bonded CCB #157224



HORIZON VILLAGE
the most unique retirement village in Southern Oregon
invites you to a

Christmas Dessert Buffet

entertainment by
Mickey Lufkin,
strolling violinist

Join the fun Saturday,
December 15th at 2 pm

3098 University Road,
Grants Pass
Go West on 199,
turn left on Hubbard,
right on University then
follow the balloons.

955-0777 for information

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NEW, FURNISHED
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Kerby Transfer Station Holiday Schedule

Closed December 25 & January 1

12/24	Normal schedule, close Noon
12/25	CLOSED, no pick-ups
12/26-29	All pick-ups one day later
12/31	Normal schedule, close Noon
1/1	CLOSED, no pick-ups
1/2-5	All pick-ups one day later

Happy Holidays!

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IVHS Activities Calendar
Brought to you by the folks at
592-3556 Cave Jct.
469-7545 Brookings
471-7487 Grants Pass
773-7487 Medford

Blame us if your life goes to Pizzas!

FRIDAY, DEC. 14
* Basketball, boys varsity and JV at Myrtle Point, all day
* Wrestling at North Bend Coast Classic, all day
SATURDAY, DEC. 15
* Basketball, boys varsity and JV at Myrtle Point, all day
* Wrestling at North Bend Coast Classic, all day
* Wrestling, JV at Gold Beach Tournament, all day
MONDAY, DEC. 17
* Fish Watch meeting, Barker's room 12:06 p.m.
* Basketball, boys at Douglas, JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7 p.m.
* Basketball, girls vs. Douglas, JV 5:30 p.m., varsity 7 p.m.
* Grad night meeting, cafeteria, 5:30 p.m.
* TSRD Board meeting, district office 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, DEC. 18
* Brain Bowl, Room 2, 3:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC 19
* Basketball, girls at Eagle Point, JV 5:15 p.m., 7 p.m.

Holiday photo contest!

Details online:

illinois-valley-news.com