



Mike & Kathy Blakeley (I.V. News)

Darn Near Everything has cornucopia of offerings

Darn Near Everything has relocated to Kerby.

The many-faceted store, which has moved within Cave Junction several times during the years, now resides in a rustic 60-year-old building packed to the rafters with, well ... darn near *everything*.

The store, at 24553 Redwood Hwy. (former site of Blakeley's Automotive), is open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours could change after the first of the year, and will be announced.

For co-owners Mike (who no longer fixes cars) and Kathy Blakeley, it's a matter of shifting gears.

"It's nothing like working on cars, thank heavens," Mike says of his move from cars to collectables. He recently retired from the automotive repair business.

Moving the business, which they purchased more than a year ago, to the building they own makes sense. But fun is what keeps them

interested in the trade.

"The business seemed interesting, and there's a lot to learn," Kathy says.

Darn Near Everything has a wide assortment of holiday items: decorations, wreaths and ornaments, Nativity scenes and gift ideas to suit most anyone.

"We even have a Santa suit," Kathy points out.

While fun's available, it takes hard work to get there.

Said the couple, "The initial part of moving and setting up the store -- that's a whole other story. We're still unpacking." Stock also comes from estate sales or is taken on consignment.

To make room for more incoming items, through Christmas prices on all appliances and furniture in the store will be 20 percent off the marked price, Kathy says.

The couple's vast collection, from kitchen wares to toys, jewelry to tools, glassware and collectables, is known regionally.

"We have regulars who come through, from Idaho, from Medford or the coast," they say. "There are people in the habit of stopping by."

"Sometimes folks will remember an item from an earlier visit, and they phone to ask if the item is still available," said Kathy.

The Blakeleys have seen a number of collectable and antique items flow through their store. Everything from a pristine Darth Vader talking coin bank (in its original packaging) to a vintage butter churn.

-Michelle Binker

Holiday Photo Contest!

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New construction fees for sheriff's budget broached

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

A revenue-raising proposal was brought to the Josephine County Board of Commissioners Monday morning, Dec. 10 during a regularly scheduled business meeting at the county courthouse.

The proposal was brought by the Sheriff's Advisory Council Chairman Dick Smith and Vice Chairman Roy Lindsey plus Sheriff Gil Gilbertson.

The idea comprises what is termed a "buy-in" fee, the premise being that new construction is benefiting from improvements in infrastructure not funded by the new construction. A fee would be assessed prior to a permit being issued based on current infrastructure costs as adjusted for inflation.

The city of Grants Pass already has a similar fee in place for new construction amounting to \$13,000 per

new dwelling said Smith.

Using the current value of county assets adjusted for inflation, and dividing that total by the 42,777 dwellings currently established in the county, a very preliminary figure of \$18,000 per new dwelling was cited. It was emphasized that the amount was definitely not set in stone and that adjustments would be expected.

It was noted that given an estimated average of 200 new dwellings being built in the county per year, a \$10,000 fee per dwelling would raise \$2 million annually for the general fund. Lindsay stated that this is a way that new construction could "participate in the cost of established improvements."

Lindsey emphasized that the fee would pertain only to new dwellings, not replacement dwelling or improvements on existing structures. He also said that although

they were working with numbers of homes, the plan could be modified to include commercial construction. He also noted that the fee would shift some of the revenue burden from property owners.

Although this proposal would not make up for the loss of "safety net" funds in and of itself, it was noted that it would start the county toward more diverse funding rather than relying on a single source of revenue.

Said Lindsey, "Any new fee will have its opponents, but at some point something

must be done." Gilbertson added that, "The least we can do is propose new ideas and concepts. All this is, is an idea, a proposal."

Commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg said after the meeting that the idea is "very problematic to me." He further stated that "all that we're looking at presumes government is where it should be." Raffenburg said that he believes future timber money is a more appropriate and equitable source of revenue.

The county has an option of "taxes or timber," he said.



Illinois Valley Cougars were bitten by the Sutherlin Bulldogs 63-48 in Ken Mann Memorial Gym Tuesday, Dec. 4. Cougars Will Crowl and Roger Hults each scored 13 points. I.V. girls lost 42-10 in Sutherlin. (Photo by I.V. News)

I.V. boys second at Pacific Rim

Illinois Valley High School's varsity basketball team took second-place overall in the Pacific Rim Tournament in Gold Beach Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7 and 8.

Two Cougars were voted to the All-Tournament Team: senior Steven Paul and freshman Roger Hulty.

I.V. defeated Gold Beach 53-40; St. Mary's 53-47, and Bandon 35-34.

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not the lack of sleep.

- Dale Carnegie -

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