

Here, There, & Everywhere

HOLIDAY TIMES - Positive deadlines of 5 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 20 and 27, are set for *Illinois Valley News* because Christmas Day and New Year's Day will fall on Tuesdays, our normal printing day. Because of the holidays, the *News* will be published on Mondays, Dec. 24 and 31. Those who want an announcement or advertisement in either issue must get them to the *News* office in time.

TOY LAND LACK - Because there was no I.V. Bikers Toy Run this year, although the group made a donation, the CJ Cares annual Christmas breakfast and visit by Santa will be short of playthings. Those who can donate new toys can take them to A+ Mini-Storage or Bi-Rite Auto Parts. And volunteers and cash always are welcome, said Lynn Boucher-Johnson, CJ Cares coordinator. On Christmas Day, the free meal for all comers will be held in the pavilion (heated and "tarpd off") at Jubilee Park, 10 a.m. to noon.

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS' - A celebration of the birth of a Savior will be held Saturday, Dec. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The family event, open to the public, will be held at the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. For information, or to arrange for a ride, phone Lyn Berry at 592-3818. The theme of the gathering is, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." (2nd Corinthians 9:15)

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Community Bible Church will conduct its traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24. Anyone can attend the approximately one-hour service at the church, 113 S. Caves Ave. Phone 592-3896 for additional information.

CARE-GIVER SUPPORT - The holidays can be particularly difficult for spouses, friends and family of adults disabled by physical aging, illness, accident and/or dementia. Starting In June 2007, a group of care-givers began meeting for an hour or so on fourth Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at I.V. Senior Center on E. River Street in Cave Junction. Leaders noted, "All too often it is not a group, but one to three persons hoping for information, compassion and support from others in situations similar to their own. The ideal group size would include six to 10 participants. If you are a care-giver, your insights and experience could lighten the burden for others as theirs could for you. Consider visiting the next support group meeting on Friday, Dec. 28."

TEETH SAVER - Dr. Jon Robinson, an orthodontist in Grants Pass, is offering free, custom mouth-pieces for any I.V. High School or Lorna Byrne Middle School athlete. He will come to the schools for imprinting, to save students a trip to GP. Permission slips for students will be needed. Parents or guardians who want more information can phone IVHS at 592-2116 or LBMS at 592-2163. Robinson is offering the free service because he has witnessed too many young people with damaged teeth as a result of sports injuries. The mouth-pieces can be in school colors.

LIBRARY IDEA - "Instead of ties and fruitcake and bath salts for holiday gifts this year, consider giving or receiving a donation to reopen and operate the libraries in Josephine County, which closed last May due to lack of county funding," said Josephine Community Libraries Inc. It's the private nonprofit corporation dedicated to operating the region's libraries. It needs to raise \$600,000 to \$1 million to reopen the four branches of the library. Checks in any amount can be made payable to "RCC Foundation/Josephine Community Libraries" and sent to P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass OR 97528. Those interested in getting involved with the library effort can send e-mail to info@josephinelibrary.org or visit josephinelibrary.org.

HOCUS BOGUS? - Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson is alerting the community about what sounds like a bogus deal. Someone is phoning some residents and claiming to be the "County Records Dept." with the possibility of a low-interest 30-year loan. The Canada-based organization also calls itself "Consumer Association Corp.," the sheriff said. "Use caution in providing any information," he said. "This may be a fraud." He noted that when contacted, the organization "dodged absolutely every question and would not provide a contact for authentication."

NOTEPAD - Don Wylie and Chris Farnham are thanked by I.V. Chamber of Commerce for helping Marty's Tree Service decorate the Community Christmas Tree on the Junction Inn lot ... **"Pizza Bob"** on Saturday, Dec. 15 was removing items from his CJ business, wrecked July 1 by a motorhome. He plans to raze the rest of the place and rebuild a new Pizza Pit ... **The "winter break"** for Christmas and New Year will be observed by Three Rivers School District. It'll run from Friday, Dec. 21 (after classes are dismissed) until classes resume Monday, Jan. 7 ... **The I.V. Visitor** Center count for October 2006 was 894, and during October 2007 it was 777, a decrease of 117, reports Dulcie Moore, I.V. Chamber office manager ... **Two seats** are open on the JoCo Rural Area Planning Commission. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 28 or until the seats are filled. Phone 474-5221 ... **KOBI and KOTI** TV (NBC 5 and 2) will receive the Outstanding Media Award for 2007 from Oregon's Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse for its documentary, "Southern Oregon Meth Project and the Roadblock for Crystal Darkness" ... **T-shirts:** *He who doesn't cook better not complain. *Here I am! And what are your other two wishes? *Forget World Peace. Visualize using your left-turn signal. *If idiots grew on trees, this place would be an orchard.

LAST WORDS - *Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display, just so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree nor the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again. (Anonymous)

*Don't expect too much of Christmas Day. You can't crowd into it any arrears of unselfishness and kindness that may have accrued during the past 12 months. (Oren Arnold)

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

Old runway; new crossroad From Roger Brandt Cave Junction

Illinois Valley Airport is at an interesting crossroad of debate, and the decisions made today will shape the role it will play in the future of Illinois Valley residents.

The debate is centered on two camps of thinking. One group recently has pushed to upgrade the designation so that it can be developed to provide freight and passenger services. The other group wants to downgrade the airport back to its original designation and focus on developing it into a tourism and recreation destination.

The airport was originally designated as a general utility airport and held this designation for approximately 60 years. In 2006, the airport designation was upgraded to the next level. This was done without community comment or the involvement of the airport board.

The reason for the upgrade has been sketchy, but the advocates generally feel the upgrade is necessary for freight planes to begin services for the valley, something they feel is necessary to attract development of industries. There also has been some talk about constructing a terminal and offering regular scheduled passenger flights, possibly as an attractive reason for people to move to this area.

Discussions with supporters of the upgrade often stir visions of thundering passenger jets and large commercial cargo planes taking off against a backdrop of industrial smokestacks and big-box warehouses. There are not many in the valley who agree with this goal. But the people who have these ideas are the ones who apparently pushed hardest for the upgrade.

When the airport was upgraded, a new set of rules went into effect, and this has caused a series of issues that remain to be implemented. By Federal Aviation Administration rules, they need to be implemented soon.

Two issues that concern many people are the requirement to widen the clear zone around the runway, and the requirement to change the location of the building restriction line (BRL). It's an imaginary line that parallels the runway and identifies the closest point that buildings can be to the runway.

The widening of the clear zone under the new upgrade guidelines has caused a peculiar problem. The main parking area for visiting aircraft is now inside the new clear zone and will need to be closed. This means that there will be no legal parking area for visiting aircraft at the airport, and there is no place in the developed part of the airport where parking can be relocated.

Under these circumstances, we may have the only airport in the world with no place for airplanes to park.

Additionally, the clear

zone also needs to be extended at the end of the runway into the Rough and Ready Botanical Area. By FAA requirements, the trees inside the imaginary line must be cut down.

The new location of the BRL creates a threat for the historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, which is now within the zone that needs to be cleared of obstructions. This is the last of the original smokejumper bases in American history and includes the oldest smokejumper parachute loft in the nation. The relocation of the BLR technically requires removal of these building along with the trees that make up the park-like setting of the base.

Even if the buildings can be saved, the road going into the base, Smokejumper Way, will be closed as part of meeting compliance standards. A gate will be put up where the road meets Hwy. 199, preventing vehicles from entering the only place at the airport open to the visiting public. We are about to become the only public airport in the world with no public access.

Most of the pilots and recreational aviators who use the airport have not been in favor of the upgrade, and several attempts have been made by some of these people to tell the county commissioners about problems the upgrade has created. This group generally agrees that the best future for the airport is to return it to the original, general aviation category and focus on using it as a catalyst for attracting tourism and recreation users to the valley.

They give support to this by pointing out the recent emergence of a new class of sport aircraft that are relatively inexpensive, fly at speeds in excess of 135 mph, are very fuel-efficient and require only 20 hours of training and a driver license to fly. If properly promoted and preserved, the airport may take on a new significance as a destination for weekend vacationers from Portland or San Francisco who can fly to Illinois Valley in two to three hours.

Most people in favor of returning the airport to its original designation point out that there are many features in the valley that could be attractive to weekend flyers. They include the historic smokejumper base, Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, wineries, tree house resorts, Oregon Caves, and other attractions.

More important is the rare category given to the airspace over the runway. It represents a level of freedom that has been lost from almost every other airport in the United States, and some advocates for Illinois Valley airport think that retaining this designation will be a key marketing tool for the future.

Many of the people who support returning the airport to its original designation are confused as to why the up-

grade is necessary for freight flights. For example, Corvallis has regular flights of FedEx and UPS planes, each a small, twin-engine plane able to land at that general aviation airport and provide services to a community with a population several times larger than Illinois Valley.

Passenger flights could also come and go from a general aviation airport, but they would need to be unscheduled and would generally be restricted to smaller, twin-

engine aircraft. It is notable that small corporate jets have always used the airport, and there is no advantage to them to have the airport upgraded.

The future of the airport is still undetermined, and public meetings will be scheduled to ask for public input about what will be the best use of this airport. Those with an opinion about the airport and the role they think it should play for the community can attend meetings and get their thoughts on the table.

Darn Near Everything

Collectibles - Antiques - Gifts

Kathy Blakeley **592-5255** 24553 Redwood Hwy. Kerby OR

Crystal Kaleidoscope

An extensive selection of:

Stones & Fossils	Reasonable Prices
Beads	Open 7 days, 9 - 6
Crystals	18435 Redwood Hwy. Selma
Jewelry	
Kaleidoscopes	597-4300
Books & Music	
Dragons & Fairies	
Unique Gifts	'Way more than just a rock shop'
Toys for All Ages	

ART'S RED CARTER STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

FINE DINING

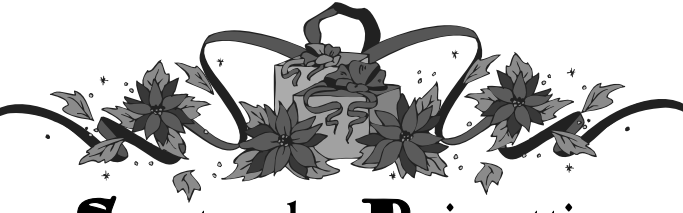
Steaks - Chicken - Fish - Large Hamburgers

Restaurant separate from lounge

Now Available Every Day!
Prime Rib & Prime Rib Sandwiches

Bring in this ad for a 10% discount

Open 4 to 9 p.m. (winter hours) 7 days
592-2892 or 592-4222



Spectacular Poinsettias

Wreaths

Living Christmas Trees

Gifts for all the gardeners on your list

Gift Certificates



Corner of Redwood Hwy. & Rockydale Road
592-5386 Monday - Saturday, 9-5 Sunday, 10-3





OPEN FARM DAYS

SEE Baby Alpacas growing up
SEE the Whole Herd nearby

Fun Products for sale,
including Socks & Alpaca Figures

Hot Apple Cider for ALL!

Saturday & Sunday, December 22 & 23, noon to 5

West end of River Street on the north side, Cave Junction
592-6696

