

Here, There, & Everywhere

TIME'S A'WASTIN' - A definite deadline of 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, is set for *Illinois Valley News* because of New Year's Day falling Tuesday, our normal printing day. Because of the holiday, the *News* has to be assembled earlier than usual. Those who want an announcement or ad in the issue must get them to the *News* office in time.

FARM DREAM? - Beginning Jan. 10, OSU Small Farms Extension will host a four-week course, "Exploring the Small Farm Dream." The class will meet on four consecutive Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. in Grants Pass. There is a fee, and preregistration is required, as space is limited. Phone 476-6613 for more information.

HELPING THE HELPFUL - The holidays can be especially tough for spouses, friends and family of adults disabled by physical aging, illness, accident or dementia. A group of care-givers meets on fourth Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at I.V. Senior Center on E. River Street in Cave Junction. Said leaders, "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."

FREE CHI - Tai Chi classes at no charge are offered at Horizon Village in Grants Pass for senior citizens. The classes, with instructor Bob Curry and sponsored by OSU, will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. Tai Chi is said to be excellent for arthritis, balance, blood pressure, and stress and pain management. Interested persons can phone Horizon Village at 955-0777.

NOTEPAD - **Bob Litak** has announced that, as planned, he is leaving I.V. Community Development Organization to return to his tax practice. Bob Schumacher will take over his duties managing the Microbusiness Revolving Loan Fund program, and promoting business development in the valley ... **"Beyond Abuse"** is the name of an I.V. Safe House Alliance group that meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. to explore the relationship between substance abuse and domestic violence. Phone 592-2515 for more information ... **T-shirts:** *Because I said so is a perfectly good reason. *I'm a dreamer, which is why I sleep at work. *I'm retired. Go around me. *As a matter of fact, I did sleep in these clothes.

LAST WORDS - Some may think that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. But remember, it still has to be mowed. (Unknown)

Valley rumor machine causes achin'

By **WALLY AIKEN**
For **IVN**

Here is an issue that is crucial to our business economy, political structure, and to the general well-being of Illinois Valley. Of course I am addressing the IVRM: Illinois Valley Rumor Mill.

Admittedly, the issue came to the forefront of my thinking because twice in recent weeks I have been the peripheral target of rumors, and I was more than a little irritated. You see, by their very nature, rumors are difficult to refute. How does one prove that their intentions are not to rape and pillage the environment for personal profit as one rumor has it?

Or, how do I prove that I am not a cowardly Communist bent on destroying the rights of veterans everywhere, as another rumor states? You see the dilemma.

Ultimately all you can do is let it go and hope that truth will emerge, but it did get me thinking about a recent, actual rumor incident in our community. A rumor that was my creation and for which I am entirely responsible.

More than a year ago and long before I became a writer for *I.V. News* I was speaking with a friend in private conversation, but in a public place. I was commenting about the IVRM's fascination with possible commercial establishments that might be slated for the development north of Cave Junction.

Rumors were circulating around town faster and more

effectively than Santa distributes toys. Albertson's was most often mentioned, but there were myriad other options available for the devoted "rumophile." In keeping with my perverse sense of humor, I suggested to my friend that we start a rumor that an AIDS clinic would be built at the site in question. We laughed and moved on.

Bear in mind that this was a private conversation and was meant as a joke. Realize also that there is absolutely no logic to the idea. But still, not three weeks later, a woman asked me if I had heard that an AIDS clinic was being built in town.

Now fast forward to a few weeks ago. I was covering a Cave Junction City Council meeting, and a resident asked the council directly if an Albertson's was slated in CJ. Mayor Tony Paulson explained that no businesses had come forward with requests to build there and said that developer Larry Osborne had only stated a desire that a grocery outlet of some sort be established as an anchor business for whatever commercial development might take place.

After the meeting, Paulson and I were discussing all the rumors about the situation. He told me that the weirdest one he had heard was that an AIDS clinic was being built. My first reaction was to say something like, "Really? I've never heard that."

I was sure I could put up a façade of total innocence.

But my belief in truth won, and I had to admit my complicity in the affair.

The point here is the willingness of some people to believe the outlandish just because it seems to be more fun than believing the truth. Truth, after all, is mostly boring and doesn't stir up nearly as many people as do rumors.

Most people aren't interested that Paul McCartney is alive and doing well in Tucson, Ariz. It's much more fun to believe that he died in a car crash and was replaced by a double so that the *Beatles* could continue their dominance of the pop charts in the 1960s undisturbed.

Ignore the fact that John Lennon admitted to producer George Martin that he had deliberately planted the "evidence" knowing full well

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We wish everyone
Season's Greetings & a Wonderful New Year!

Thanks to all the nice people who have been patient with me since September, when I took ownership of the shop.
God Bless You!
Diane

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Letters

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consensus for old-growth protection and thinning of existing tree plantations has never been stronger, BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into tree plantations that are highly susceptible to wildfire.

But even more devastating is the idea of OHVs, ATVs, and ORVs in or near everyone's backyards in this valley. This brings the WOPR right into our faces. The public comment period on WOPR is in effect until Jan. 11.

She wants signs done
From Linda Corey-Woodward
Cave Junction

After talking to local merchant organizations, I have come to the conclusion that nothing will be done about the "Welcome" sign near Hay's Hill on Redwood Hwy. (see Letters to the Editor, Dec. 5 and 12), unless the community comes together and fixes the problem.

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, owner of the sign, says that it has not collected on the insurance claim for the truck that hit the sign almost two years ago and caused a corner of it to burn. There are conflicting stories about whether or not money has actually been raised for the sign. The result is a stalemate and many annoyed citizens of our fair valley.

If residents, merchants, bankers, developers and other interested parties join forces and devote money and volunteers to get the work done in March 2008, the sign can be rejuvenated and our pride restored.

I think that the chamber of commerce, I.V. Merchants Association, the banks, Larry Osborn, real estate agents, and other stake-holders in our community should move forward now. A special bank account should be opened for donations for the sign materials; and either hire professionals to repair and paint the sign or get volunteers to meet on certain days in March and do it.

The chamber may own the actual billboard, but the sign represents our entire valley, and we all have a certain kind of "ownership" of it. If enough people care about our community, we can make it happen. Those interested can contact the chamber and IVMA, and have a planning meeting. Enough jawing, just "Get 'er done."

Murder scene photo
From Terry Cain
Selma

I appreciate the letter by Mary Guerra and Arianna Guerra in the Dec. 19 issue about the Dec. 12 murder scene photo.

Yes, the news must be reported, but Tom Green should be honored with dignity, not insensitivity.

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Weather Watch
Cave Junction

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Cloudy with chance of rain, sleet & snow

High-38 Low-24

Thursday, Dec. 27

Snow flurries with ice and rain showers

High-38 Low-28

Friday, Dec. 28

Rain, sleet & snow

High-40 Low-27

Saturday, Dec. 29

Snow, rain & continued ugliness

High-47 Low-32

Sunday, Dec. 30

No break yet!

High-37 Low-27

Monday, Dec. 31

Thank goodness! Just cold and rain

High-37 Low-34

Tuesday, Jan. 1

More cold and rain

High-44 Low-36

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.

*Fri., Dec. 14: 44 - 27

*Sat., Dec. 15: 46 - 32 0.20

*Sun., Dec. 16: 47 - 30 0.71

*Mon., Dec. 17: 44 - 39 0.55

*Tue., Dec. 18: 48 - 40 1.30

*Wed., Dec. 19: 46 - 41 2.56

*Thurs., Dec. 20: 41 - 36 0.39

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Illinois River Farm.

*Fri., Dec. 14: 46 - 26 0.01

*Sat., Dec. 15: 48 - 30 0.07

*Sun., Dec. 16: 47 - 31 0.75

*Mon., Dec. 17: 45 - 38 0.61

*Tue., Dec. 18: 48 - 39 1.23

*Wed., Dec. 19: 45 - 40 2.05

*Thurs., Dec. 20: 44 - 31 0.29

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