

Here, There, & Everywhere

VOLUME TUNES - *Funktional Fusion*, with special guest, *MTV*, will highlight a concert to benefit Josephine Community Libraries (JCL) on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. at Rogue Theater in Downtown Grants Pass. JCL is working to reopen the county's libraries, closed for many months due to lack of funding. Tickets are available at Home Valley Bank branches, and the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* office. Concert co-sponsors are Home Valley Bank, Hart Insurance, Dutch Brothers, *Daily Courier*, and Rogue Theater. Visit josephinelibrary.org for more info.

THOMPSON TRACT - A public workshop about management plans for the 171-acre Thompson Creek Woodland Conservation Tract will be held Saturday, Jan. 19. Hosted by Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at Selma Community Center. Snacks and beverages will be available. Phone 592-3731 for additional information.

VALLEY STAND-OUTS - Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for "Citizen of the Year" and "Business of the Year." The deadline is Saturday, Jan. 26. Nominations must cite specific examples of the nominees' achievements and contributions to the valley during 2007. Forms are available at the chamber office in the I.V. Visitor Center. For more info, phone 592-3326.

COMMUNITY CENTER - A meeting to provide information and a chance to discuss the Glass Rail Outfit Community Center will be held Saturday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. The gathering will be held at the Rusk Ranch Country Cottage, 27742 Redwood Hwy. in rural Cave Junction. "Discussion about this exciting new project will include Phase I, the Wishes & Wings Therapeutic Handicap Program," said Shirley Rusk. For more info, phone 592-4658.

CHAMBER EVENT - A dinner and dance is set for Saturday evening, Feb. 9 for the annual awards ceremony sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce. The event will be held at the Junction Inn's Boswell Room. Music will be played by *Jefferson*. The deadline to obtain tickets is Monday, Feb. 4. Menu offerings are prime rib, chicken, or vegetarian plate. Anyone can attend. Tickets are available at the chamber office in I.V. Visitor Center; for more information phone 592-3326.

SOUP FOR SOULS - April 19 has been reserved for the annual Soup for the Souls event to benefit Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance. The fund-raiser at I.V. Senior Center will include a variety of soups from valley restaurants. Another feature, included in the price of admission, consists of bowls made by valley artisans and which attendees pick up (and take home) for their soup.

NOTEPAD - **Food service** will be provided by Illinois Valley Wrestling Club during an IVHS vs. North Valley meet Thursday, Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Ken Mann Memorial Gym ... **Tom Sawyer** will be performed by Tim Talty's drama students at Lorna Byrne Middle School on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 23 and 24 at 2 and 7 p.m. There is no admission fee, and the production will include music by the LBMS Choir ... **Overheard:** You know you're not healthy when you work up a sweat doing meditation ... **Telemarketers** can be avoided (again) come June, when the current five-year "Do Not Call" prohibition will expire. Visit www.donotcall.gov or phone (888) 382-1222 ... **A field guide** on noxious weeds to help identify unwanted growths soon will be on the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Website at <oregon.gov/ODA> ... **Grants Pass Family YMCA** has been awarded a \$10,000 grant by The Oregon Community Foundation to complete its new building and expand youth programs ... **T-shirts:** *TGIF (Thank God I'm Fabulous). *What would Elvis say? *I'm so far behind I thought I was first. *Work for God. The retirement benefits are great.

LAST WORDS - A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug. (Patricia Neal)

Club & Organization Notes

Illinois Valley Garden Club

The Friday, Jan. 18 meeting will feature a speaker from Forestry Action Committee with the topic, "Taking Care of Native Trees."

The horticulture show-and-tell table will feature native plants for winter interest.

The club meets on third Fridays at the RCC Kerby Belt Bldg. on Redwood Hwy. Coffee half-hour begins at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting at 1.

Anyone interested in plants and gardening can attend. For more information phone 592-4257.

In many ways bird-watching is best in winter with fowl coming to windows to eat at feeders. That view is far

more interesting than watching TV.

Birds like varied seeds and have feeding habits unique to each species. Some feeders commercially available are designed with this in mind. Remember also to provide water.

Rogue Valley Rose Society

The first meeting of 2008 will be held Sunday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. at Fruitdale Grange Hall, 1440 Parkdale Drive in Grants Pass.

Charlie Newsome, a Master Gardener, will teach how to compost the lazy way. Mike Zerwer will show the proper way to prune tree roses.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Suzy Powell at 862-7090

Barlow mining request nixed 4-1; sent to JoCo board

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

The Josephine County Planning Commission met Monday night, Jan. 14 in the county building in Cave Junction to determine if property owned by Barlow Sand & Gravel on Holland Loop should be added to the County Inventory of Significant Aggregate Resource Sites.

Illinois Valley residents turned out in force to participate in the discussion. Chairman Ron Wright made every effort to allow all to engage the discussion. By actual head count, there were nearly 70 people in attendance, but the nearly three-hour hearing proceeded in an orderly and controlled fashion.

Present from the nine-member commission besides Wright were Elizabeth Metcalf, Robert Ettner, Doug Beck and Don Moore. Initially there was no quorum because Moore, a Cave Junction city councilman, attended the council meeting at city hall. But Kerby resident John Bowler went to city hall from the county building to advise that without Moore there would no quorum.

As the council still had a quorum without Moore's presence, he relocated.

Because the request before the commission was simply to classify the site as an aggregate source, discussion was to be limited to two extremely specific areas. The quantity of material to be mined had to be less than 500,000 tons, and the usable farm soil had to constitute less than 35 percent of the material to be mined.

Although both these criteria appeared to be satisfied, other issues were raised concerning procedural matters that called into question the entire process. In the end the commission voted 4-1 to recommend denial of Barlow's request.

In October, Barlow had requested that the property be listed as an aggregate site, and had requested a conditional-use permit to allow mining to proceed on the property. Because questions were raised concerning soil content during that meeting, a continuation of the hearing was called for, and Barlow resubmitted its application in November with new boundaries for the mining site and withdrew the request for the conditional-use permit.

This action forced another continuance to allow the commission to review material associated with the new application.

During Monday's proceedings, Bowler questioned the legitimacy of applying for the addition of the property to the list of aggregate sites without considering the eventual goal of mining the site. County Planner Mike Snider was somewhat unsure of the exact legal requirements of the statutes.

But Metcalf pointed out that if Barlow wanted the site to be considered as an aggregate resource then obviously it intended to mine the property. Therefore, it was noted, the criteria should be expanded to include such matters as the ecological effects the mine would have on Illinois River and tributaries.

The soil content percentages were called into question by Holland Loop resident Ken Stern. He presented the commission a map from the National Resources Conservation Service that he said showed the map of the area soil composition presented by Snider to be inaccurate.

Another objection to the request presented by several in attendance was that one criterion is specific that less than 500,000 tons of material could be removed from the site. Further, that because Barlow owns several proper-

ties in the same area it would be possible for it to mine substantially more material by isolating each dig site and classifying them as separate operations.

Said Ettner, "We are gerrymandering the numbers. It's kind of a joke for me to sit and listen to this." He indicated he felt the criteria were being too narrowly construed.

Beck moved that the commission recommend approval with the condition that the county board of commissioners take into account the questions surrounding the criteria. This motion failed 3-2 with Beck and Wright vot-

ing in favor.

When submitting his "No" vote, Moore stated "This is one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make." He went on to say that he felt state laws had "tied my hands behind my back," but felt he could not recommend approval.

A new motion was made by Beck to recommend denial of Barlow's request. This passed 4-1 with only Wright voting in favor.

The recommendation of denial will be forwarded to the county board of commissioners for further consideration and action.

Editor's Note: Recent Illinois Valley High School wrestling victories, and a report of the Cave Junction City Council meeting Monday night, Jan. 14, will be in our next issue. There's only so much room in an issue, and it's difficult to pick and choose what gets in and what fits. Or as comedian Jerry Seinfeld observed, "Isn't it amazing that the amount of news that happens ... always just exactly fits the newspaper."



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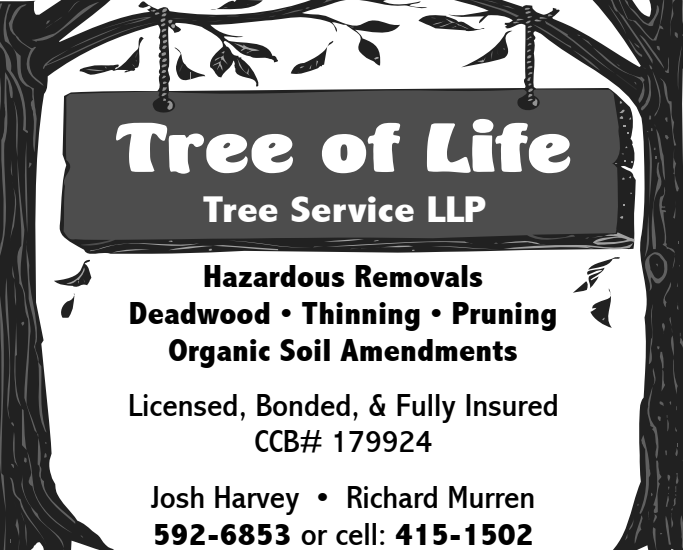


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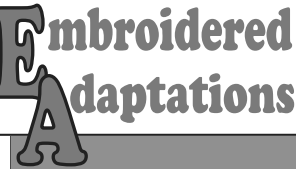
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