

Here, There, & Everywhere

CHAMBER MIXER - A mixer will be held by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Feb. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with light refreshments. It's open to chamber members and anyone who wants to learn about the chamber and its programs. The informal social gathering will be hosted by Jefferson State Financial Group on E. River Street across from Illinois Valley Senior Center.

'IDOL' NOT IDLE - Singer Kristy Lee Cook, 24, of Selma, stayed alive on "American Idol" Wednesday, Feb. 13 and will perform again Wednesday, Feb. 20. On the 13th she was among 24 chosen from 50 from an original 164. Viewers of the Fox network show will be able to register votes at the end of the show. Singing since the age of 2, her favorite expression is listed as, "Rope it, ride it, wrestle it, cowgirl it." Country Folks restaurant on Hwy. 199 in Selma will feature American Idol Night Wednesday beginning at 7 with a special price on hot dogs.

'WALK ABOUT' - The Glass Rail Outfit will conduct a tour Sunday, Feb. 24 to show the locations of the planned community center, campground and arena. The "walk about" will begin at 2 p.m. and last approximately two hours. Attendees should wear "appropriate clothing and rubber boots." The location is 27742 Hwy. 199. Signs will be posted. For more information phone 592-4658.

NOTEPAD - Ashley Webb inadvertently was omitted from a listing of fall sports awardees at IVHS. She received a participation award for girls soccer ... **"Living Well"** is the title of a program at Selma Center on Wednesday, March 5 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. It's to help those with chronic conditions live healthy lives ... **T-shirts:** *Because I said so is a perfectly good reason. *I took the Road Less Traveled, and got to work on time. *Sorry about global warming. It's my fault -- I'll take care of it. *I'm retired. Go around me.

LAST WORDS - The best proof of love is trust. (Dr. Joyce Brothers)

Selma Skill Share Saturday March 1st ~ 10 to 4



Selma Center 18255 Redwood Highway
Learn new skills at over 12 different

workshops offered throughout the day.
Potluck lunch and seed/start exchange at noon.

592-3642 ~ www.spiralliving.com

FREE!



**Embroidered
Adaptations**

We digitize your logo or art
to personalize hats, shirts,
uniforms, jackets, etc.

%% **Personal & Commercial Orders**
%% **No Order too Small or Large**
%% **Affordable Rates**

Call 659-6838 for quotes

Since 1986

MASSAGE THERAPY

Rachel Goodman, LMT

Relieves pain, stress & injuries
through Deep Muscle Massage,
gentle CranioSacral Therapy
or Foot Reflexology.

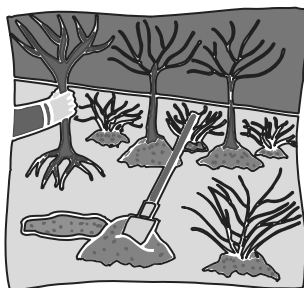
Call: **592-6947** for Appt. Mon-Fri
315-A Caves Hwy.

OR Lic.#2331 Healthnet • CareSource • Motor Vehicle Accidents

Bare Root is Here!

Now is the best time to plant Strawberries, Grapes,
Asparagus, Raspberries, & Rhubarb.

See our **HUGE** selection of
OREGON GROWN bare root
FRUIT, NUT, & SHADE TREES.
All at 30% OFF!



*Hurry in for the best selection,
this sale only happens once a year!*

DILLON'S NURSERY
GARDEN AND CENTER
Corner of Redwood Hwy. & Rockydale Road
Mondays - Saturdays, 9-5, Closed Sundays

592-5386



Letters to the Editor

Aiken's attention.

Grossi could have forwarded this message to Aiken, and that would be the end of the rumor. Instead of doing this, he led Aiken into believing that this was still an issue and used him to spread the rumor that there is still a rumor about him when in fact this has already been resolved.

From my perspective, Grossi appears to be "... totally self-serving and disingenuous" by doing this. As Aiken wrote in his article, "This rumor just confuses the issue by making legitimate discussion more difficult." More important, this article undercuts my objective of trying to provide the public with legitimate, accurate information about community issues. It appears that this also undercuts the objectives of the "Rumor of the Week" column.

However, I do question the motivations of the article and here is why. In Aiken's Jan. 30 article he asserted that the airport hasn't been upgraded, but in his "rumor" article he continues to use this term. The manner that the term is being used makes me feel that it is being done to cast a disparaging pall over anyone who objects to what is happening at the airport.

The term "downgrade" appears to me to be used as a label to sway public opinion rather than an informed commentary for resolving public confusion about the issue at the airport.

Keep in mind that when I write, I am speaking with the voice of many people. For example, I am fortunate to be included in a circle of community members with an extraordinary level of aviation-related expertise. Some of these people have 20 to 40 years of flying experience including professional pilots.

Some have FAA experience while others are in the business of training pilots or repairing airplanes, or have had extensive experience with being on the former Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Board. I have personally attended many airport board meetings, so I have a great deal of personal, on-the-ground experience with airport issues.

Moreover, it has been explained to Aiken by another very reliable source that many of the people I associate with hold a high level of respect in the community for their expertise and integrity. Besides this, my knowledge of the airport cuts deeper than the average Illinois Valley resident, as evidenced by the articles I have written regarding the history of the airfield, smokejumper history, and the history of the airplanes used during the smokejumper era (all published in another newspaper).

Aiken also knows that I have been at the *I.V. News* office going through old editions of the newspaper looking for airport articles. I have collected copies of just about every article that was written about the airport from 1986 through 2001. I have also read the 1990 and 1992 master plans, the 2001 Airport Layout Plan technical report and many FAA circulars.

I have conducted this research so that I can legitimately and accurately answer questions about the airport and its history. I doubt you will find many people in the valley who have devoted this much effort toward assuring accuracy.

Understand that the airport isn't the only thing I do in the community. I have spent more than 10 years writing about the Hwy. 199

corridor extending from Crescent City to Grants Pass to include trail guides, road guides (see *Valley Visitor*), and history. I have conducted programs on tide pools, estuaries, redwood forest, stream ecology and tsunamis when I lived in Hiouchi.

I continue to conduct geology seminars on the Josephine ophiolites in the Smith River National Recreation Area; I spent 10 years training staff at Oregon Caves about the history, geology and ecology of the local region. I have spent the past 20 years conducting public programs that range from the lowest reaches of Death Valley to the rim of Crater Lake and from the redwood coast to the bristlecone pines of Wheeler Peak in Nevada.

During all these years I have never found a story that is as compelling and captivating as the smokejumper and Moon Tree story in Illinois Valley. Based on the depth of my background and experience, my dedication to preserving the historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base reaches far beyond this simply being an opinion.

My motivation for working on this project is, and has always been, all about preserving our heritage, contributing to our community pride and improving our local economy. Believe me, I have a history of community involvement and a file full of documentation to back up what I have done in the community and why.

What I want to stress is that one need be cautious about using the airports manager as a primary source of information. If Aiken continues down this track, I am concerned that he will end up filling all the Letters to the Editor column space in *I.V. News* with more retractions.



Volunteer Planting Day

Saturday, March 1, 9 a.m.

Meet at the lower IV Forest Service Campground

*The community needs your help in planting
thousands of seedlings.*

**You can volunteer to: plant trees, bring food,
set up, clean up, or help in some other way!**

**If you'll be planting trees,
be sure to dress in layers.**

**If you have planting tools,
it would be great if you could bring them along!**

Come support our community!

If you have questions phone

FAC

592-4098

"PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE PLANT TREES"



Forest Edge Farm



**Come bid on one of our hats and
other great items at IRVAC'S
Winter Gala Feb. 24
Deer Creek Center 2-5 pm**

*Come see a selection at the Ranch 592-6078
or the Guild Gallery at the Kerby Belt Building
592-5019*