

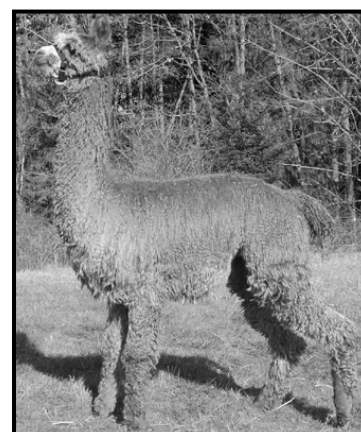


A five-week membership drive for Josephine Community Libraries Inc. (JCLI) was kicked off Saturday, May 17 with a march in Downtown Grants Pass. The move to reopen and operate county

libraries by nonprofit organization is gaining momentum. Backers need members to show county commissioners that libraries matter to the JoCo citizens. (Photo provided by JCLI)

Alpaca ranch will host open house May 25, 26

Suri Futures will host Open Farm Days Sunday and Monday, May 25 and 26 at the farm at the west end of River Street in Cave Junction. The free event, which will run from noon to 5 p.m., will feature shearing demonstrations, fleece and textile products, and alpaca poo fertilizer.



Spring brings baby alpacas and shearing season to Suri Futures alpaca farm. The cria (young alpacas) are in the pasture with their dams, and they will soon be joined by a new herd sire, "High Voltage Vortex." The new male is true-black, a color which is enjoying increasing popularity among suri alpaca breeders.

"We're very excited about this stud. He's got the best genetic material for a black suri," said John Gardiner, co-owner of Suri Futures. "Three years ago you could hardly find them."

The Peruvian textile industry demanded predominately white alpaca fleece, to which color could be added. As such, the genetic variations of colored animals were repressed. In the growing market for alpaca fleece, the

natural colors are resurgent. "The black genetics were buried, but they do pop up," said Gardiner. "The other reason we've decided to have the Open Farm Day," said Christine Perala-Gardiner, "is that we're excited about the opportunity of sharing about the textile market."

"This is an invitation for people to join us in a conversation about growing the local economy," Perala-Gardiner said.

"We're going to have an Open Farm Day every year around shearing time," Perala-Gardiner said.

"We want get people excited about the fact that in this valley we produce this fabulous fiber," she said.



Several wildfires have kept area firefighters busy of late. Some 5.5 acres of wildland were burned out Indian Creek Road (photo) Thursday, May 15. Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) responded. On Sunday, May 18, IVFD extinguished a .25-acre fire on Naue Way. The same day, a

wildfire 3 miles past the turn for Caves Creek Campground near Oregon Caves National Monument was reported. Total containment was anticipated this week at the former logging site. ODF and U.S. Forest Service firefighters are in charge. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept.)

Flags down to honor Army death

All flags at public institutions are to be flown at half-staff on Thursday, May 22, in memory of U.S. Army Cpl. Jessica Ann Ellis, of Baker City.

Ellis, 24, was killed in action on Sunday, May 11, 2008 when her vehicle was struck by an IED (improvised explosive device) in Baghdad, Iraq. Ellis was a medic assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st

Airborne Division (Air Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Gov. Kulongoski ordered the flags to be lowered.

"Jessica was an outstanding young woman and a decorated soldier who served her state and her country with courage and conviction," said Kulongoski. "She will be missed by her friends and family and Oregon will be less than we could have been without her."

Woman found after reports of being gone

A Murphy woman reported missing by her family was located at Rogue Valley Medford International Airport, and later arrested under a peace officer's mental hold.

Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) identified the woman as Yvette Burtley, 25. She was reported missing from the family home on Monday, May 12.

JCSO officers tracing her debit card transactions on Thursday, May 15 found that she might be at the airport. Medford Police officers found her there, and she was returned home.

JCSO officers asked to interview her at 8:45 a.m. Friday, May 16, but she refused. At 10 a.m., a 911 call was received from the Burtley residence reporting that Yvette was about to leap from a balcony, JCSO stated.

Deputies responded and found that the woman's mother had pepper-sprayed her to keep her from jumping. Yvette was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital for evaluation, said JCSO.

IVHS offers driver training in summer course

Rogue Community College is offering a *High School Driver Training* course at Illinois Valley High School with classroom sessions July 14 through 31, Mondays through Thursdays from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m.

These classes will take place during the IVHS regularly scheduled summer school session so bus service will be available.

An additional 12 hours of on-the-road driving instruction that does not coincide with the classroom schedule will be arranged between the instructor and students. This course is available for a discounted tuition rate of \$217 for current high school or

GED students under the age of 18 who have a learner's permit, but do not yet have a driver's license.

Students must receive their learner's permit before the start of class. IVHS students who already have a license and those 18 or older can take the class for \$427. The course meets Oregon requirements for high school driver education and may allow for discounts on student auto insurance.

RCC also is offering a free two-hour class for parents and guardians on July 14 from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. *Partnering with Parents and Guardians for Safe Driving* will review high school

driver training instruction methods and new driving concepts.

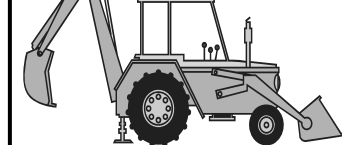
These courses are being brought to IVHS through the school's 21st Century Grant Program. Students who successfully complete the driver training will be eligible for a \$100 refund on their course tuition. Scholarships may be available to families who qualify.

For more information contact Jennifer Marsden at 226-6368. To register for the class phone RCC at 956-7116. The course title is *High School Driver Training* (course number .499, section TI, CRN #: 1180731).

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Freedom is not merely the opportunity to do as one pleases; neither is it merely the opportunity to choose between set alternatives. Freedom is, first of all, the chance to formulate the available choices, to argue over them -- and then, the opportunity to choose.

- C. Wright Mills -

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