

Here, There, & Everywhere

FINANCIAL FITNESS - SOFCU Community Credit Union is offering a series of financial workshops beginning Thursday, April 2 at its south Grants Pass branch office, 1551 Harbeck Road. The workshops are designed to help people set realistic goals for their financial future. Also, there will be tips on how to resolve or repair credit issues, identify money traps and avoid scams. The sessions will be held Thursday evenings, from 6 to 8 p.m. through April 23. Phone Kathy at 479-2601 ext. 2135 for reservations.

FUN & FASHION - Western Star Chapter 64, Order of the Eastern Star, will have an afternoon of "Food, Fashion, Fun and Art," plus a silent auction, on Saturday, April 4. The public event will begin with lunch at noon, followed by a fashion show at 1. It will be held at the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. For a donation, door prizes and other surprises await those who attend.

MUSEUM MUSINGS - Kerbyville Museum will reopen on Saturday, April 4, said Dennis Strayer, museum president. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. New exhibits featuring railroad mining and logging are among displays. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth 6 to 16 years of age; and \$2 for seniors 56 and older. A family rate of \$10 covers groups with two adults and two or more children. Admission is free for children younger than 6. (*Sponsored item*).

HUNGER HELPERS - Country & Western singer Dale Hopper, of O'Brien, and his dog, *Claude*, will perform Friday, April 10, at Illinois Valley Grange Hall, 3763 Holland Loop, from 6 to 8 p.m. The concert will benefit area food banks. Admission is by donation. Nonperishable food items will be accepted. For information phone Denny Hare at 592-3857; or Ryan Nolan at 592-2914.

JOYFUL REJOICING - *Joyful Noise* and the Southern Oregon Davidic Dancers will hold a community potluck and Passover celebration, *Praising Jesus in Song, Dance & Testimonies*, on Friday, April 10. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. To help or for more information, phone 659-8403 or 592-3818.

CURVES AHEAD - A special program is offered at Curves in Cave Junction through a Curves/Avon Fitness Study. The specially priced offering, limited to the first 50 women who sign up, is presented in an ad on this page.

NOTEPAD - Southern Oregon Guild's Gallery & Artist's Center has reopened in the RCC Business & Entrepreneurial Center in Kerby. The public is welcome to visit the new art space from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays ... **Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance** will hold its third annual Soup for the Souls fund-raiser for Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Saturday, April 11. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Said Iris Chinook, development coordinator, "Join us for an all-you-can-eat soup and bread dinner with raffles, door prizes and cake walk." Everyone is welcome. See the ad elsewhere in this issue. Phone 592-4147 for more information ... **Rogue Valley Flyers** will hold a Shop & Swap Meet featuring remote control airplane items on Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Floral Bldg. at Josephine County Fairgrounds ... **Josephine County Artists Association Spring Art Show Luncheon and Critique** will be held Monday, April 27 at The Brewery Restaurant, 509 S.W. G St., Grants Pass. There is an entry fee for submitted artwork, which will be judged in six categories and two classes. Phone Carol Smith at 479-1602 for more information ... **An all-comers** meeting to plan events and activities for Illinois Valley's celebration of Oregon's sesquicentennial will be held Monday, April 6 at Michelle's Family Restaurant in Cave Junction beginning at noon. Individuals and group representatives can attend.

LAST WORDS

- I believe that one of the greatest dangers to modern society is the possible resurgence and expansion of the ideas of thought control, such as Hitler had, or Stalin in his time, or the Catholic religion in the Middle Ages, or the Chinese today. I think that one of the greatest dangers is that this shall increase until it encompasses all of the world. (Richard P. Feynman in a 1964 speech at the Galileo Symposium in Italy).

Cable service curtailed; city out franchise fees

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A series of ownership changes and bankruptcy filings continue to complicate efforts to recoup franchise fees owed the city of Cave Junction.

The situation came to a head last week, when subcontractors for the Washington-based company, Charter Communications, began removing equipment from utility poles throughout the franchise area. All Cave Junction cable service was discontinued as a result.

Frank Antonovich, vice president of Charter's northwest properties, said that the franchise was transferred to Rapid Communications on Dec. 31, 2006 after eight years of service. Cave Junction was one of several Oregon cities included in the service area. The rest were Adams, Athena, Brownsville and Weston.

Cave Junction City Recorder Jim Polk said that the franchise ran through August 2007. However, the chain of ownership became much more complicated after that.

Antonovich said his "understanding" is that Rapid subsequently sold the system to PC One, a New Jersey-based company. The franchise then was sold to Texas-based Almega Cable. That company was registered in Washington state on Jan. 16, 2009, but is not registered to do business in Oregon.

But according to Polk, the franchise agreement on file with the city is through PC One.

"We have nothing to reflect it was transferred to Almega," he said.

When the system was owned and operated by Charter, that company had an agreement with Pacific Power and Frontier that allowed its equipment to be placed on their utility poles.

"The initial sales agreement to transfer obligation was to assign current contracts or get a new contract with those pole owners," Antonovich said. "That was part of the initial sales agreement that did not happen.

"Because that did not happen, Charter was left as the company that held the pole contract with Frontier and Pacific Corp."

A recent Charter press release states that, "Almega Cable failed to negotiate the requisite pole attachment agreements." Charter issued a final notice to Almega on March 4 regarding the pole agreements, the release states, but those requests were ignored as of March 23.

"We, during the sale, worked with the cities on the franchise transfer at the time of the sale. That was done," Antonovich said. "We did everything by the book, as far as being a franchise transfer and filing the right documents."

Polk has referred the matter to City Attorney Patrick Kelly over the failure of the companies to renegotiate a franchise contract with the city. But Kelly said that may be easier said than done.

"There's a 95 percent chance it's futile," he said. "We're dealing with the remnants of a dying company."

Kelly said he plans to research Almega to determine if there are any judgments against the company, and to see if it owns any property.

"I have to analyze if it's practical to seek a judgment," Kelly said.

It typically costs between \$3,000 and \$4,000 to file a lawsuit, Kelly said. As such, he said, "there would have to be a way of getting paid before I can assume it's practical to pursue.

"I don't do things that are worthless and I don't want to waste taxpayer money," Kelly added. "Are we willing to expend your money on me to sue to get a judgment I have to determine is collectable or not?"

To further complicate matters, Charter filed for a prearranged Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Friday, March 27 to restructure approximately \$8 billion of bad debt. The company still would have around \$13 billion of debt on its books after bankruptcy proceedings concluded.

Safety council seeks volunteer

Josephine County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications to fill one at-large member vacancy on the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC).

The council's purpose is to plan for the use of state resources to serve the youth of-fender population.

As well, to coordinate juvenile justice policy among affected entities and, in consultation with the Commission of Children & Families, develop

and recommend to the county commissioners a plan designed to prevent criminal involvement by youth.

Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, April 8. They are available at the county Board of Commissioners' office, Room 154 in the courthouse in Grants Pass, or online at co.josephine.or.us. Click on "Board of County Commissioners," then "Documents and Forms."

Club & Organization News

Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI)

On Friday, April 17, at Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River Road in Selma, persons who are earning their naturalist certificates and those who want to find out about this dynamic program will gather.

Attendees can stay for the following free evening event on *Solitary Wasps and Bees* (a book by Mary Paetzel) with Lee Webb. It's a free event, but the registration deadline is Friday, April 3.

On April 24, SFI is offering a day hike along the Illinois River Trail.

Hiking will start at Briggs Creek along a picturesque drive along Illinois River. More beautiful views await as the trail parallels the rugged and majestic Illinois River Canyon. Transportation to and from the trailhead is provided. There is a fee; register by Friday, April 10.

What are the connections between climate change and mass extinctions? SFI will present a forum on that topic on Saturday, April 25.

Investigate the effects of

higher temperatures and carbon dioxide levels in plants, animals and fungi during field trips to serpentine and granite soils and into caves. There is a fee; register by Friday, April 10.

For more information or to register, phone 597-8530 or visit www.thesfi.org.

Eastern Star

Western Star Chapter 64, Order of the Eastern Star, will have an afternoon of *Food, Fashion, Fun and Art*, plus a silent auction, on Saturday, April 4.

The public event will begin with lunch at noon, with a fashion show at 1 p.m. The event will be held at the Josephine County Bldg. in Down-

town Cave Junction.

Door prizes and other surprises await for a donation by those attending.

California State Employees Association (CSEA)

CSEA Chapter 165 (Retired Employees Association) will hold a business/lunch meeting at Elmer's on Biddle Road in Medford on Thursday, April 2, with sign-in at 11:30 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Ken Doddard, director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Ashland.

Meetings are held on first Thursdays every other month. For more information, contact Bruce Eliason, membership chairman, at (541) 779-2912.

Starting or Growing a Business in Illinois Valley?

Need money?

Micro Business-Loan Funding Always Available!

*Start-up, existing, home-based or other business enterprises

*\$200 minimum to \$25,000 maximum

*Apply at the IVCDO office - 201 Caves Hwy.

*Questions? Phone 592-4440

Upcoming Spiral Living Center Classes



Fruit Tree Grafting with Mark Kelz
Saturday, April 4th, 11 to 3 \$25

Wild Spring Greens

with Suzanne Vautier
Saturday, April 25th, 10 to 1 \$20



Classes held at Frog Farm in Takilma. Call to pre-register.

541-592-3642 ~ www.spiralliving.org

ILLINOIS VALLEY'S LOCAL MOBILE RV SERVICE

Accessory installation & more

Ask about our Spring Check-up Special!
13-point basic check-up starting at \$129⁹⁵

Call today to schedule your appointment!

541-592-9905

1-4-U RV REPAIR

More than 25 years experience
RVIA/RVDA Certified RV Repairs



Country Breakfast I.V. Senior Center

520 E. River St., CJ

Saturday, April 4
8 to 11 a.m.

- * Biscuits & Gravy * Pancakes
- * Eggs * Bacon * Sausage
- * Coffee, Milk, Juice



Adults - \$6
Children 12
& under - \$3

I.V. Little League Opening Day Ceremonies

Saturday, April 4, Jubilee Park

Events Schedule

- Player Parade

Player Parade participants must arrive, in full uniform, by 10 a.m. at LBMS.

- Team & Individual Photos
- Minors' Exhibition Game
- Baseball Caps to Game Spectators
- Free Hot Dogs & Sodas Provided By Masons
- Drawing: \$50 Gift Card

Entry included with registration paid-in-full by 3/31



Join the Fun of
Opening Day...
Play Ball!

I.V. Little League Hotline
541-659-8618

Calling ALL Women!

Be a part of the Curves / Avon Fitness Study:
The largest fitness study for women ever.
SIGN UP NOW - LIMIT 50 WOMEN PER CLUB

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- A Start and Finish Fitness Evaluation
- 30 Days FREE on CurvesComplete.com - the Complete Solution to Managing your Weight
- Supervised Training from a Curves Trainer

30 Days for \$30*

Work Out 3 Times a Week for 4 Weeks

Curves | AVON

CALL YOUR LOCAL CURVES CLUB
BY MAY 9, 2009 TO PARTICIPATE.

curves.com

592-4599
226 N. Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

*Participants will have full membership privileges during the study. Available only at participating locations. Participants will be asked to complete 12 workouts over a 30-day period with no fewer than 3 workouts per week. Registration required for 30-day free Curves Complete access. See your Curves club for details. Offer valid for U.S. and Canadian residents only. Not valid in Quebec. Offer available for new Curves Complete members only. The diet and fitness information on Curves Complete is designed for use by women. Offer valid through 5/9/09. © 2009 Curves International Inc.

Illinois Valley News is an equal-opportunity
advertising medium. Phone 592-2541