

Here, There, & Everywhere

STROLLING FOR DOLLARS - Pregnancy Center of Illinois Valley will hold its annual Walk-athon fund-raiser on Saturday, April 25 in Jubilee Park beginning at 11 a.m. Music and a light lunch will follow. Walkers should secure pledges and sign up by phoning Mary Lefner at 592-6058.

GAME ON - On Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Illinois Valley Game Group will host *Cave Con 1*, a convention featuring chess, Dungeons & Dragons, Magic, Heroclix, Mechwarrior Pirates, Axis & Allies, and more. There will be a game swap and open gaming at the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. No charge for admission. (See ad on this page.)

FREE FOOD - Our yards, gardens and fields are filled with wild-growing, nutritious greens this time of year. Learn to identify, harvest and eat these healthy greens in a variety of dishes at the *Wild Spring Greens* class to be taught by Suzanne Vautier and sponsored by Spiral Living Center. The class will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Frog Farm in Takilma. There is a fee. Phone 592-3642 or visit spiral@spiralliving.org for more information.

ANNIVERSARY ARTWORK - Students are encouraged to enter a poster and poetry contest on the theme, *The Marble Halls of Oregon*, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Oregon Caves National Monument, some 20 miles east of Cave Junction. The National Park Service-sponsored contest runs through Thursday, April 30, when entries should be submitted to the Illinois Valley Visitor Center, 201 Caves Hwy. in Cave Junction. First prize is a special tour of new and/or undeveloped parts of the Oregon Caves. Contact NPS Rangers Sandy Gladish (415-0502) or Matthew Klokik (415-2427) for more information.

BIG TOP AFFAIR - Cave Junction Lions Club will welcome the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus to the Junction Inn lot in Cave Junction on Monday, May 11. Show times are 5 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Coffee Heaven, Evergreen Federal Bank, Home Valley Bank, Lue-van-o's, SOFCU Community Credit Union, Michelle's Family Restaurant, Taylor's Country Store, River Valley Restaurant, Sterling Savings Bank and Illinois Valley Visitor Center.

PARADE PREPARATIONS - "Labor Day is coming," says Illinois Valley Lions Club member Harry Johnson. "It's time for all of you to get your floats dusted off or start making them." This year's Labor Day Parade theme is *150 years of Oregon History, Hear the Past, See the Future*. Float entries should be made to fit this theme. The parade will be held on Monday, Sept. 7. For assistance or questions phone Johnson, 596-2104.

NOTEPAD - A free, guided hike to York Creek Botanical area will be led by Siskiyou Project biologist Rich Nawa and members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon on Sunday, May 3. The hike will feature *Kalmiopsis leachiana* a Rhododendron-like flower discovered by botanist Lilla Leach in 1930. Hikers should bring a lunch and water for the 6-mile, all-day hike. Meet rain or shine at 10 a.m. on the parking lot at Ray's Food Place in Selma. Phone 476-6648 for more information ... **An organizational** meeting and sign-ups for Toastmasters International will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 1 in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. Contact Buster Van Der Wood at 660-2354 for more information ... **Three Rivers School District's** Summer Food Service Program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to all children within the district throughout the summer months. TRSD is looking for qualifying sites interested in providing meals. Phone Michael Morris at 476-4183 for more information ... **Tuesday, April 28** is the last day to register to vote in the special election to be held on May 19, said Josephine County Clerk Art Harvey. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters on May 1. For more information phone the clerk's office at 474-5243 ... **Food security** in Illinois Valley is the topic of a meeting to be held Tuesday, April 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. This is in advance of a "Farm Festival" and conference on the issue of food security to be held in May. Phone John Gardiner at 415-2613 for more information ... **Top spellers** Liam Dwyer (Lorna Byrne) and Nigel Gulden (IVHS) participated in the Three Rivers School District Spelling Competition on Wednesday, April 15. Dwyer took first place in the grade 6-8 division and will advance to the regional competition at Southern Oregon University on May 16. Gulden placed third in Division Three (grades 9-12) ... **Aaron Matthews**, a teacher at Lorna Byrne Middle School, was a recent pick as Teacher of the Month by Radio Station **KLDR** ... **T-shirts:** *I can't sleep or the clowns will eat me. *How many roads must a man travel down before he admits he is lost? ... **Bumper stickers:** *Shh. I'm listening to a book. *It's been a long week, and it's only Monday.

LAST WORDS - In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination. (Mark Twain)

Weather Watch Cave Junction

Wednesday, April 22 Sunny and breezy High--79 Low--42	
Thursday, April 23 Cloudy and cooler High--68 Low--39	
Friday, April 24 Chance of rain High--57 Low--34	
Saturday, April 25 Cloudy with showers High--58 Low--32	
Sunday, April 26 Clouds and sun High--59 Low--34	
Monday, April 27 Sunshine High--59 Low--35	
Tuesday, April 28 Sunny and warmer High--67 Low--37	

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:				
*Fri.,	April 10	60	34	.05
*Sat.,	April 11	62	41	.00
*Sun.,	April 12	61	44	.00
*Mon.,	April 13	55	34	.06
*Tue.,	April 14	52	29	.05
*Wed.,	April 15	60	30	.00
*Thu.,	April 16	69	29	.00
Following are the high-and-low temperatures and rainfall recorded at Oregon Builders Inc. in Cave Junction:				
*Fri.,	April 10	60	34	.01
*Sat.,	April 11	64	40	.00
*Sun.,	April 12	64	40	.02
*Mon.,	April 13	56	32	.00
*Tue.,	April 14	52	28	.02
*Wed.,	April 15	60	30	.00
*Thu.,	April 16	68	27	.00

Federal funds to help Oregonians keep insurance

The Oregon Dept. of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) recently proposed legislation to help more Oregonians who lose their jobs take advantage of health insurance premium assistance that is part of the federal economic stimulus package.

"As more and more Oregonians experience the economic difficulties and emotional strains of losing their jobs, they often are faced with the additional burden of having to pay for health insurance on their own," said Gov. Kulongoski.

"The federal stimulus package provides much-needed help with paying for premiums, and we want to make sure Oregonians can take full advantage of it," the governor said.

The federal stimulus package, the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), includes assistance for people who lose their jobs to continue group health insurance coverage under their state continuation plan or COBRA. The federal COBRA law applies to employers with 20 or more employees.

Oregon's state continuation law applies to employers with fewer than 20 employees

and other employers not subject to COBRA. These laws entitle former employees to stay on their employer's health plan, but normally they must pay the full cost of the insurance, which many cannot afford.

The stimulus package will pay up to 65 percent of premiums for workers who choose to continue group coverage. For example, a family that may typically have to pay \$1,200 a month to continue an employer plan would pay \$420 monthly with the subsidy. A single employee who might typically have to pay \$400 monthly to keep his or her health insurance would pay \$140 a month with the subsidy.

However, Oregon's state continuation law prevents some individuals from taking full advantage of the subsidy. To ensure Oregonians can take full advantage of the help that is available, the department is proposing legislation and follow-up rule making that would include the following:

*Extending the amount of time former employees can continue coverage through the state continuation program from six months to nine months.

*Give Oregonians who lost their job before the federal stimulus package was announced, and who chose not to continue their employer plans at that time, a second opportunity to decide to continue coverage.

*Make sure all eligible Oregonians know about the subsidy by requiring insurers to notify all employer groups and individuals whose jobs ended between Sept. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2009 of the possibility that they qualify for the subsidy. Consumers would have 31 days from the date they were notified to decide to continue group coverage.

If you lose your job involuntarily and want to take advantage of the federal subsidy, you should do the following:

*Immediately tell your employer or health plan administrator that you want to continue your health insurance and fill out the required paperwork.

*If it is not clear, ask your employer or plan administrator where to send your 35 percent share of the monthly premium. Insurers cannot require people who are eligible for the subsidy to pay 100 percent of the premium.

*If you encounter problems, phone the DCBS Insurance Division's consumer advocates at (503) 947-7984 or toll-free at (888) 877-4894.

For more information on the federal subsidy program, go to <http://insurance.oregon.gov/consumer/consumer-issues/federal-stimulus-info/federal-stimulus-info.html>.

I.V. Game Group presents
CAVE CON 1 GAMING CONVENTION
Featuring: Chess Dungeons & Dragons Magic Heroclix Mechwarrior Pirates Axis & Allies Much More
Game Swap & Open Gaming:
Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
C.I. County Building
Admission FREE



IVFD budget hearing set; board candidates fielded

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) Chief Harry Rich announced that candidates have been fielded for the district's three four-year open board positions.

Having candidates filed for those positions will save IVFD money, because write-in campaigns require each individual ballot to be processed.

"The county charges the district significantly more to process hand write-ins," Rich said. "Counting the write-ins is definitely more expensive."

Rich addressed the IVFD Board of Directors on the evening of Thursday, April 9 during his first meeting since returning from a four-week vacation.

An update on IVFD's 2009-10 fiscal year budget was presented by Administrative Assistant Robin Paulson. "So far, so good," she said.

IVFD's proposed '09-10 budget totals \$1,087,465. The 2008-09 budget was approximately \$935,962.

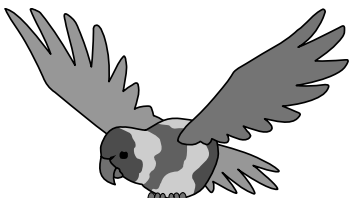
Allocations for materials and supplies rose from \$275,775 in the 2008-09 fiscal year budget to \$342,734. The total for personnel rose from \$467,776 to \$527,246.

Rich said that the '09-10 budget will include a line item to cover expenses incurred by IVFD's media department under the title of "forensic photographer." Those services currently are provided by Dale & Elaine

Sandberg.

"Right now, he does not get anything," Rich said, adding that IVFD does reimburse the Sandbergs for some supplies like DVDs and CDs used in their official duties.

A hearing on the proposed budget will be held during the board's next meeting set for May 14.



Illinois Valley CHILDREN'S FAIR & PET PARADE

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Jubilee Park

FUN ACTIVITES & GIVE-AWAYS

- Face Painting
- Fishing Booth
- Annie the Clown
- Seed Planting
- I.V. Lions Train
- Play Dough
- Ring Toss
- Free Snacks
- Salmon Tent
- Dog Training Info
- Fish Printing
- WOW Wagon
- Lots More

PET PARADE
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
REGISTRATION
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Dress up your pet!
Don't forget your leash!

SMALL PETS ONLY
No Large Animals

CAR SEAT SAFETY
I.V. Fire District will be on site to check car seats and boosters for proper installation.
Car Seats available at \$20 and \$10 for Booster Seats

Proudly Sponsored by
Josephine County Commission on Children and Families
Siskiyou Community Health Center
Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries * Head Start * Early Head Start
Jo. Co. Health Dept. * Early Childhood Services * Dome School
Boys and Girls Club * IV Lions Club * I.V. Fire District
I.V. Family Coalition * Aflac

Info call Laura (541) 659-8132



Senior Nutrition Menu
Sponsored by

592-3562

Meals are served in the
CJ County Bldg.
592-2126, 955-8839
FRIDAY, APRIL 24
SWISS STYLE STEAK
Delmonico potatoes,
Scandinavian blend,
vegetables, onion bread,
peach cobbler
MONDAY, APRIL 27
MEATLOAF WITH GRAVY
Garlic mashed potatoes,
broccoli Normandy, seven
grain bread, orange cake
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE
Cut green beans, spinach
romaine salad, garlic roll,
sugar cookie