



I.V. Little League held its 2009 season closing day ceremonies on Wednesday, June 24 at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction. Trophies and recognition pins were awarded. Players, sponsors and coaches were honored. Janet Ewing, president of I.V. Little League, served as master of ceremonies. (Photos by *Illinois Valley News*)

Need for help including Food Stamps increasing

Need for economic assistance continues to grow — one in six Oregonians count on Food Stamps.

As unemployment figures hit historic levels, the need for basic economic support such as Food Stamps and cash assistance continues to grow, said Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS).

District 8, comprised of Josephine and Jackson counties, lists 2,070 families receiving TANF (see below), a 31.9 percent rise from May 2008. And 56,843 persons in the two counties are receiving Food Stamps, a 14 percent increase from 2008.

Statewide, the need for cash assistance (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/TANF) increased nearly 30 percent from May 2008. Only extremely low-income

families qualify for this aid — the monthly income limit for a family of three is \$528 — and 25,509 families statewide are receiving assistance.

Washington County, adjacent to Clackamas County, had the largest percentage jump with 50 percent more families needing assistance than last year at this time.

“We began to see huge increases of people coming into our branches last year and those numbers continue to grow today,” said Xochitl Esparza, TANF program manager for DHS Children, Adults & Families Division.

The need for Food Stamps also continues to grow. The most recent statewide figures for May show that 601,706 Oregonians —

nearly one in six — receive Food Stamp benefits. Demand jumped 27 percent from May 2008. Clackamas led the counties in the largest increase level, with a 36 percent jump from last year.

“We are working hard to get people the services they need as fast as possible,” said Belit Stockfleth, Food Stamps Program manager. “Our innovative Food Stamp intake process means that people are getting same-day service so they can put food on the table tonight.”

To qualify for Food Stamps, families must earn less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, along with other qualifying factors. For a family of four, the income limit is less than \$3,400 per month. Benefits are determined on a sliding

scale, based on household income, and are distributed through the “Oregon Trail Card” that is used like a debit card to purchase food.

Benefits are intended only as a supplement to a family’s food budget, not to cover it entirely.

To learn about eligibility for Food Stamps, TANF, Oregon Health Plan or other services, visit a DHS Food Stamps office. To download applications for TANF and Food Stamps, go to oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/.

DHS also partners with SafeNet to help people to find resources such as community food pantries or other assistance. The number is (800) 723-3638.

Rally ...

(Continued from page 11)

team. She was a real quick study,” said Paul.

Noted Paremann, “It was a lot harder than it looks. It is something I really enjoyed and will never forget.”

The Cougar rally squad is looking to grow in numbers and would like to eventually have a JV squad. The coaches are looking for freshman girls and boys to try out. Yes — boys. In fact the last boy to cheer was Robert Roth.

“It is really hard to get the boys to try out, because of the ridicule they may receive,” said Merrill “We eventually would like to have a competitive extreme squad, and boys would be an asset,” Merrill added.

There are six male Cougars who should be recognized for their school spirit and pride. They show up at every game, match, meet and contest — rain or shine — to cheer and encourage their beloved, the mighty Cougars.

They are Arik Gerhardt, Shane McCarthy, Mike Coots, Taylor Harris, John Delgado and Mark Delgado That is a pride of Cougars, with Cougar pride.

Community members interested in getting involved with a “true American sport” can contact Merrill at Illinois Valley High School.

Dogs in cars on hot days can die

Josephine County Animal Protection & Regulation reminds the citizens of Josephine County to keep their dogs happy and healthy during times of extreme heat and extreme noises.

Animal Protection & Regulation has received many calls during the prior several weeks about dogs trapped in hot cars. Many dogs love to go on car trips

with their owners, no matter how short. However, even short trips into the store can be fatal for your best friend.

Cars can easily exceed heats of more than 120 degrees in just a short time in the sun. On hot days, it is recommended to keep dogs at home in the shade. Or if they must travel with you, leave them for only a short while — 10 minute maxi-

mum, park in the shade, keep windows down or with wide openings, and leave water for your animals.

Animal Protection & Regulation also reminds dog owners to keep dogs secured during the coming weekend of fireworks and other loud noise-making that occurs during the July 4th weekend. Dogs often get scared at loud noises and can break loose of previously secure enclosures.

Dog owners are encouraged to keep dogs inside during times of high fireworks, or to check on them regularly if they are in outside enclosures.

For more information, to report a dog trapped in a hot car or to locate your dog that has escaped due to fear of fireworks, phone Animal Protection & Regulation at 474-5458.

Biz sales skills offered

Small businesses can’t “cost cut” out of difficult times; they must sell to achieve prosperity.

A one-day class on selling and presentation will help business owners acquire the skills to achieve prosperity.

Offered by the Rogue Community College Business Development Center, *Selling and Presentation Skills Sales Camp* is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. The interactive class will focus on understanding and reaching prospective customers.

Topics will include qualifying, handling objections, and secrets to goal-setting. The sales camp will be offered at the RCC Business Development Center, 214 S.W. Fourth St., Grants

Pass. Nancy Koerberis is the instructor; tuition is \$99.

Also designed to help businesses succeed is an RCC course, *Providing Outstanding Customer Service*. It offers information and skills with which to build a strong customer service operation and includes information on handling phone calls.

Set for 6 to 9 p.m. July 20 to 27, the class will be offered at the RCC Riverside Campus, A Bldg., Room 12, 202 S. Riverside Ave., Medford. The instructor is Greg Bassett; tuition is \$159.

Enrollment in both classes will cost \$248. Pre-registration is required by noon two working days before the class to avoid cancellation. Enrollment is limited. Register online, at any RCC registration site, or phone 956-7494.

Funeral plans class July 14

A free class to learn about planning services, by Lyn D. Stanger, director and manager at Hull & Hull Funeral Directors, is offered by Lovejoy Hospice.

“Have your questions answered about your choices, expenses, and pre-planning for cremation, funerals, burials, celebrations of life, and memorials,” said Lovejoy. Attendees can bring a lunch; a beverage will be provided.

RSVPs for the Tuesday, July 14 class from noon to 1 p.m. are needed by Friday, July 10. RSVP to 474-1193.

The location will be the Lovejoy facility in Grants Pass at 939 S.E. Eighth St.

Eat Your Vegetables!

Wild River Organic Farm:

Delicious, Nutritious, Affordable, Local Food

- Enjoy fresh produce grown organically a mile from Cave Junction.
- Know your farmer and watch your food grow.
- Save money!
- Order the produce you want when you need it.

Contact us for a farm tour or membership information.

Wild River Organic Farm
541-659-6121 - wildriverfarm@gmail.com
www.wildriverfarm.blogspot.com

One of four people in this country is mentally unbalanced. Think of your three closest friends. If they seem OK, then you're the one.

~ Anonymous ~

Water Wells Pump Sales Installation Service
592-6777
1470 Caves Highway
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
WWC #1504 • CCB #152266 • CPI #7-113
Member Oregon Ground Water Assoc.

Gold Creek Construction LLC

- Concrete
- Remodel
- New Construction

592-6609