

Illinois Valley News

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Emergency loans may help businesses impacted by wildfires

By
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Governor John Kitzhaber's staff, working with Oregon Emergency Management and local Emergency Management Offices, is seeking information to determine the need for a Small Business Administration (SBA) economic disaster declaration as a result of the wildfires in southern Oregon. Such a declaration could result in low-interest emergency loans to businesses affected by the wildfires.

To make a successful bid for these relief funds, the SBA declaration must be based on a certification, signed by the Governor, that validates how at least five small businesses in a disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury and are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available. There are no known grants to help out in this situation.

To help the Governor make a solid case that numerous Josephine and Douglas county businesses are in need of financial assistance, one-page surveys from business owners are required by the SBA. Simply filling out the survey will not obligate any participating businesses to take out a loan, but will help the Governor establish the level of need to the federal agencies.

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(Photo by IVFD Media Dept)

A single vehicle rollover occurred Saturday, Aug. 10, one person was transported via Mercy Flight to Medford. No further information was available at press time.

Josephine County Fair returns to its rural roots

By
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After having tried a more modern approach to increase profits, the 99th Annual Josephine County Fair, set to run August 14-17, is returning to its roots.

"Our overall strategy is to bring this back to being a more agricultural fair," said Interim County Fair Manager Mary Groves. "We'd moved away from that in recent years, and the sense is that people want their good old-fashioned county fair back."

Over the past year, many have worked to enhance the Fair's original formula. The fairgrounds have been spruced up and organizational levels have been much improved, according to Josephine County Commissioner Keith Heck.

"The whole ship is moving in the right direction," Heck said. "The fair will be even better than

in the past. There'll be events that we know Jo-Co residents enjoy, not all that glitz and glamor. This year's offerings better reflect our values and our rural agricultural lifestyles."

The Fair's daily entrance fee is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children six to 12 years old. Children five years old and younger get in free. A Season Pass for adults costs \$30 and for children, \$15. These sale prices are down from \$36 and \$20, respectively. Carnival armbands that provide access to all the rides cost \$28 per day. Half Price tickets are available on Thursday morning, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Home Arts building, in the air-conditioned Pavilion, will feature day-long food demonstrations, including competitions for pies and cakes. Other competitions for quilts, photography and different art mediums take place in that building as well. The Fair is also presenting a rock show and various commercial business displays.

Entertainment will include bull riding, a gym-

nastics demonstration, motor sports, draft horse demonstrations, lawnmower races, a petting zoo, wild animal demonstrations, clowns and more.

Each evening, from 5:30 until 9:00 p.m., there will be line dancing and easy listening music from Timeless, and then square dancing during breaks. On Saturday night, in the same timeframe, the crowd will be treated to the Line Dancing Kings & Queens of Country from Sound Stage Productions. Headlining on the main stage this year are Billy Lund and the Whiskey Weekend Band, Carrie & the Six Shooters Band and the Chris Gardner Band.

Several of the Fair's venues will afford the public an opportunity to escape smoke from wildfires burning in the area. The Floral, Agricultural and the Arts and Crafts building with the 4-H activities are all air-conditioned.

See Fair on A-9

Valley icon passes



It's a Burl has been an area attraction for years.

By
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Well known Illinois Valley entrepreneur Harvey Shinerock, 80, died Wednesday, August 7, following a lengthy illness.

Shinerock was a painter and owned an art gallery in Los Angeles, but decided he couldn't make a living at it. In 1975, he decided to become a woodworker after meeting an artist in Albuquerque who was doing very well creating clocks from burlwood.

Gary "Wiz" Burns met Shinerock at an art show near Placerville, California, in 1980 and they forged an ongoing working relationship and friendship. Burns now has his own studio in Grants Pass and sells his intricately carved pieces on the Internet and elsewhere.

"We had a lot of adventures together," Burns recalled. "We collected driftwood on the beach together and did art shows together. He shared his family with me and I'm going to miss him. He was quite a rascal."

Shinerock and his wife, Joy, moved from Southern California to Israel but returned to travel around the United States in a converted bus. Between them, they had nine children. Their daughter, Holly, passed away nine months ago.

The couple opened "It's a Burl" in 1987 in the former Kerby Post Office. The building burned in 1995 and was rebuilt. Contractor and business partner Stanley Dalegowski designed a remodel that expanded the building to 4,000 square feet which includes living quarters under the undulating roof.

"Harvey was a really good friend and I enjoyed knowing him," Dalegowski said.

Eventually, Shinerock stopped traveling to art shows and just sold work from the business which covers most of the two-acre lot with both fantasy-filled display spaces and a work yard stacked with raw wood, sculptures, gardens, three tree houses, sleeping dogs and an eye-catching purple waterfall next to Redwood Highway.

Burns described the business as a Mecca for woodcarvers.

"This is the biggest operation of its kind that I know of on the entire West Coast," he stated.

The store and website offer burlwood chairs, loveseats, benches, tables and interior design items as well as raku and stoneware pottery and hand-blown glass.

Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center Development Coordinator Kenny Houck stated, "As master of the iconic 'It's a Burl,' Harvey was an old-school pragmatist visionary who coaxed the best work out of two generations, literally dozens of artists and artisans. Always in motion, rarely in a hurry, he made those denim overalls look rather sophisticated while holding court as director of the whimsical roadside attraction that helped put Kerby back on the map. I mean, Wow, what a memorable impact in shaping the identity of our local culture! With a melodic, gravelly voice to match a rolling gait, the image I hold is of quizzical upturned eyes sparkling under wrinkled brow, looking back over his shoulder, moving on to the next project."

In accordance with Shinerock's wishes, there will be no funeral ceremony and Joy and their daughter, Sara, will continue the business.

A five-minute "Slice of Life" documentary by Tom Guilmette is a portrait of Shinerock and a showcase of what he created with the help of family and friends at www.vimeo.com/19502657.

Council appoints Polk to serve

By
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Charles "Jim" Polk was appointed to serve the remainder of Dr. Dan Fiske's term as Cave Junction city councilor on Monday, August 12, during a regularly scheduled meeting.

Dr. Fiske died on July 30 and his term of office will end in December, 2014.

In nominating the retired City Recorder to the position, Councilor Margaret Miller praised his depth of knowledge and experience due to his many years of working for the city. Following a brief discussion, Polk was awarded the City Councilor Position 1 seat by unanimous vote and was immediately sworn into office by Mayor Carl Jacobson.

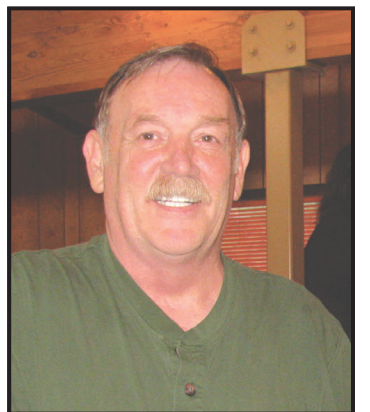
In other new developments, Deputy Joel Heller gave his first report to city councilors. Heller will be the new full-time sheriff's contract deputy serving Cave Junction 40 hours a week.

The council approved a zoning clearance for a 10,909 square foot addition to Siskiyou Health Clinic at 25647 Redwood Highway. The council also approved

an annual population growth rate projection of 2.5 percent for the Cave Junction urban boundary as part of the county coordinated population projection. This determination will aid in the completion of a new wastewater master plan for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Toward the end of the meeting, Mayor Jacobson read a City of Cave Junction Proclamation recognizing the contributions of Dan Fiske who had been a city councilor since 1999 and "...proved to be a capable, honest, courteous and trustworthy official, devoting himself unselfishly to the community..." Mayor Jacobson noted that the U.S. flag had been flown at half mast for four days in his memory.

See Polk on A-10



Jim Polk