

# Illinois Valley News

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## Rotary Club holds annual toy giveaway

By

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On Tuesday, Dec. 24, the Rotary Club of Illinois Valley held its annual toy giveaway. The event took place at the County Building from noon to 3 p.m. The toy giveaway is held for families that are in need of a little extra help during the holiday season and to ensure that every child in the community gets at least one toy on Christmas morning.

This event would not happen without the many volunteers, group organizations and community members that help each year to put on the event. In late October, the Rotary Club holds a Toy/Poker Run that starts off the beginning of the fund-raising and toy collection for the toy giveaway. This year, the Toy/Poker Run raised \$3,000; \$1,000 of which went to buy more toys along with what was donated during the toy run. The other \$2,000 goes to all the local school advocates in the Valley to help families that need a little boost with everyday essentials. The amount of money donated to each school is determined by the school's population.

"If a family needs a laundry voucher or a haircut, shoes, whatever the family needs, the money goes towards that," said Jannie Heller, a Rotary Club member.

This year the Rotary Club not only held their own fund-raisers for the toy giveaway but they also teamed up with Toys for Tots hosted by the Marine Corps to collect toys. Along with Toys for Tots, donation boxes for toys were set up at different local businesses. **See Toys on A-8**



(Photo by IVFD Media Dept)

I.V. Fire District personnel responded to a garage fire in the 7000 block of Takilma Rd, Dec. 27. No injuries were reported.

## More dead animals reported on woman's property

By

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IVN Contributing Writer

Illinois Valley resident Kandi L. Crow is under investigation for animal neglect once again.

This latest investigation comes just weeks after Crow completed her 40-day home detention sentence for an Oct. 2013 conviction

on 22 counts of second degree animal abuse stemming from the highly publicized seizure of over 200 animals from her property in September of 2012.

The new case results from reports of a dead goat and a dead chicken on Crow's land, located in the 1700 block of White Schoolhouse Road. The incident has been reported to the Josephine County District Attorney's Office, according to Sheriff Gil Gilbertson.

"The information was written up and now the DA's office will have to make a judgment on the situation," Gilbertson said. "It's animal control's case and they're working with the DA's office."

Deputy District Attorney Ryan Mulkins is handling the case, but was out of town over the holidays, thus no information will become available until early January.

**See Crow on A-8**

## Community Christmas dinner is a success

By

Judy Hoyle

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A new collaboration involving three primary organizations, 12 supporting merchants and organizations and 30 volunteers served a traditional Christmas dinner to over 125 community members at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction on December 25.

Coordinator Jennie Reed was thrilled with the high level of donations and participation. Many volunteers helped cook and serve the meal, including a wide variety of desserts.

"This was a genuine community effort," Reed said. "Everyone had such a wonderful experience that volunteers were coming up to me and asking to be included next year as well."

**See Christmas on A-8**



(Photo by Jenna Larkin, Illinois Valley News)

Garrick (left), Erich and Anabellah Grabarz with their gifts from Rotary Dec. 24 at the Josephine County Building in C.J.

## Fires, passings and redevelopment dominate 2013 headlines

By

Judy Hoyle

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Quite a few changes have taken place in Cave Junction over the past year and many of the big headlines in the Illinois Valley News were about fires.

The 2013 tourism season was deeply affected by smoke blowing across Josephine County from north of Grants Pass and from as far as Douglas County. The Tenth Annual Siskiyou Folk and Bluegrass Festival on July 27 was also impacted by smoke from the Labrador Fire, the result of which was reduced revenues for the I.V. Chamber of Commerce.

On May 30, 2013, fire struck, destroying the Cave Junction Post Office. Investigators say arson is to blame for the early morning blaze and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. The two alarm conflagration was fought by the I.V. Fire District and Rural Metro.

Rural and business postal delivery continued uninterrupted and post of-

fice box customers began picking up their mail at a temporary call window in the Josephine County Building until last month when full service was restored at a second temporary facility, the DMV building across from city hall on Lister Street.

Many Cave Junction postal service customers expressed relief that they were able to buy postage and ship packages in time for the holiday season. Current plans call for the postal service to return to the original location in 2014, once the structure is rebuilt.

On June 26, smoke and water damage resulting from an electrical fire effectively destroyed the computers and printers in MeriWeather Print Design and the business was a total loss. The structure is still being renovated.

The community also lost cultural and civic leaders over the past year. On June 24, Takilma blacksmith Jim Rich was found dead of natural causes. Since 1994, Rich was artistic director and co-founder of Jefferson Baroque Orchestra and spent several weeks each year

sailing the wooden ship Lady Washington along the West Coast.

On July 26, a house fire claimed the life of I.V. Medical Center board chair and I.V. Grange Grand Master Kendell Phillips. Bridgeview Church and other community groups organized fund-raisers for Phillips' widow, Tammie.

On July 30, Cave Junction City Council President Dr. Dan Fiske D.M.V. was found dead of natural causes. Fiske, owner of Crossroads Animal Hospital, served on the City Council for nearly 14 years and was also a dedicated Boy Scout leader who mentored several Eagle Scouts. Former City Recorder Jim Polk was appointed to complete his term of office through December 2014.

Well known Illinois Valley entrepreneur Harvey Shinerock passed away on August 7 following a lengthy illness. His widow, Joy, and their daughter, Sara, will continue to manage It's a Burl, their eye-catching Kerby complex of art galleries and studios.

**See CJ on A-5**