

Crow... continued from A-1

The county's animal control department declined to comment on the current situation, though Gilbertson confirmed that an Animal Protection Officer visited the property last week.

Crow, 63, is on probation and is court-ordered to not handle animals.

Josephine County Circuit Court Judge Pat Wolke, who presided over the earlier case that involved more than 177 miniature horses, goats, cats, dogs and other animals in various stages of starvation and emaciation, had told Crow to stay away from animals and to avoid possessing even "a hamster" or she could face "serious consequences."

Crow had relinquished those animals, some of whom had to be euthanized, to receive a cap on restitution and to allow the county to auction off the surviving animals once they were healthy enough.

Rotary ... Continued from A-1

The club also had many contributions come in from different organizations. Some of those included the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the senior center and many other service groups.

During the first hour families flowed through the doors of the County Building non-stop, but then slowly started to trickle in. There were plenty of volunteers on hand to deal with the flow of traffic during the toy giveaway. Volunteers consisted of not only Rotary members but church groups, community members and people who just wanted to help someone's holiday be a little more special. Santa was also on hand to help with the festivities and make sure the kids were being good.

"It's just tremendous how people are coming together," Heller said of the countless volunteers that showed up throughout the day.

Rotary Club president Ryan Nolan would like to extend his gratitude to all

the businesses that made contributions to make the toy giveaway possible. Though there are too many to list, here are a few: Toys for Tots, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the bikers of the Valley that participated in the Poker/Toy Run, the banks and restaurants that had the donation boxes in their place of business and to the countless other businesses, organizations and individuals that either volunteered during the annual toy giveaway or made other types of donations to make the event happen.

"There was a lot of help from a lot of groups. The community also did a lot to help put this on," Nolan said.

Each child received one large toy, one smaller toy, a stuffed animal and either a book, game or puzzle. While many parents brought their children to help pick out the toys, many parents chose to leave their children at home, making for a Christmas morning surprise. With rows

of tables piled high with hundreds of toys, by the end of the day, the toy supply was diminishing, with almost not enough toys to serve those coming through the doors.

"We ran really low on toys near the end, especially for girls. With an accurate count, ages and gender of the kids listed on the sign-in sheet, we will have a better representation of toys for next year," said Carol Ronan, a Rotary member.

Ronan also said that any of the toys that were left over stayed at the County Building for any children in need of a toy that attended the Christmas dinner which was served on Christmas Day, also held at the County Building.

Last year the Rotary Club had 196 families come through for the toy giveaway. This year that number was nearly doubled with 298 families coming through the doors and 312 children were recipients of toys, putting a little extra smile on the faces of some needy families.

Christmas ... Continued from A-1

Illinois Valley Baptist Church, which currently holds Sunday worship services at the county building, was the major sponsor of the event, teaming with the Doug Hoskins Resource Center, formerly the Lifelines Food Bank. The resource center, now managed by Fountain of Life Assembly of God is located on S. Junction Avenue right next to the church.

Josephine County Master Food Preservers, including Reed, were also part of the organizing team for the successful event, which took place between noon and 3 p.m. on Christmas Day. Reed hailed food and supply donors for the event including Coffee Heaven, Dave's Outdoor

Power Equipment, Dr. Joe's Pet Hospital, I.V. Trophy & Collectibles, My Place Café, the Pregnancy Center, Reflections, River Valley Café, Tony's Appliances, Tropical Island Tans and Valley Evangelical Free Church.

Reed also thanked the I.V. Rotary Club and the I.V. Toy Run motorcycle group for donating remaining toys and gifts following their giveaway event on December 24. As a result of that donation, children at the December 25 dinner were also able to choose toys. All the remaining food was donated to food banks and the Warming Center at Immanuel United Methodist Church.



(Photo by Jenna Larkin, Illinois Valley News)

Santa visits with Bram (left) and Ever Ponders Dec. 24 in CJ.

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