

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Due to a technical issue we received this submission late and this was the only hole we had left, djm.

## Real Christmas Spirit

You probably know the lyrics to the song "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town":

"You better watch out, you better not cry  
Better not pout I'm telling you why,  
Santa Claus is coming to town.  
He's making a list, checking it twice  
Gonna' find out who's naughty and nice.  
Santa Claus is coming to town.  
He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows  
when you're awake

He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake"

Cute little song isn't it? It fires up the Christmas spirit. But is that the REAL Christmas spirit? Think about it. Who does the song say deserves to be accepted and receive Santa's gifts? Only those who've been good.

In other words, only the righteous deserve acceptance. Only the "good" will receive their Christmas gift. We're lucky God doesn't operate on the same principle.

It's been said, anyone can devise a plan by which good people may go to Heaven. Only God could devise a plan whereby sinners, who are His enemies, can go to Heaven; only God could devise a plan by which people who've made terrible decisions in their lives could receive hope, mercy and forgiveness.

On our own we can't be good enough to be acceptable to God. It's only through the saving grace of God's Son, Jesus Christ that we become acceptable to God and receive eternal life.

That's the real embodiment of the Christmas spirit. Grace is a gift. We haven't earned it. We don't deserve it. It's there under the Christmas tree whether we've been naughty or nice. All we have to do is unwrap it. All we have to do is accept God's gift of grace by accepting his Son as our savior.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

That's our real Christmas gift. That's the real Christmas spirit.



IVHS student Nehemiah Wilson (left) received third place in Humorous Interpretation at the North Medford High School Speech Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 13.

## Letters to the Editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

**POLICY ON LETTERS:**  
'Illinois Valley News' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

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(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

**Reader says sober up!**  
Monsanto's cabal spent over \$20 million lying to Oregon voters about the effects of GMO labeling. They outspent

GMO labeling supporters 2 1/2 to 1. Unfortunately, not enough people saw through their deceitful propaganda ... out of state money talked.

About one third of registered voters in Oregon didn't bother to vote at all. Amazingly, among those who did, more voted to legalize recreational pot than the number who voted to label Genetically Modified food. Those voters obviously support people's right to anesthetize themselves more than people's right to know the truth about the food supply.

It boggles my mind to think that people could support individual freedom on one issue and be blind to it on the other.

To me, justice would be served if anyone who voted yes on pot, but no on GMO labeling, should have to smoke GMO pot that's laced with Roundup.

As long as the majority of people place the freedom to self-medicate over

the importance of becoming informed and making educated decisions about their own health, we'll all be at the mercy of international chemical giants to make health decisions for us. And what could be better for those companies' bottom lines than an anesthetized electorate? Some people and groups did everything reasonably possible to take the responsibility for our health from Monsanto and cohorts. Sadly, a tiny majority believed Monsanto's lies about food costs which effectively prevents the rest of us from receiving vital information about our food. The effect becomes that only people who can afford to buy certified organic foods can be sure they're not eating GMOs.

If we get another chance to vote on mandatory GMO labeling, hopefully enough of us will sober up & vote yes.

**Rob Pell  
Grants Pass**

**ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS**  
WWW.SINCE1928HULL.COM 541-592-4110

## Save The Date For more listings go to www.ivcalendar.org

**Dec. 17**  
Music Concert at Lorna Byrne Middle School at 7 p.m.

**Dec. 18**  
Music Concert at Illinois Valley High School at 7 p.m.

**Dec. 19**  
The IV Garden Club will be having its annual Silver Tea and holiday potluck on Friday, Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. where we will have a toy drive and book exchange. The IV Garden Club meets the 3rd Friday of the month at United Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins (across from Shop Smart) in Cave Junction. Visitors welcome. For information call 541-592-6037.

**Dec. 19**  
IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Girls JV Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Boys JV Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling Away vs. Grant Pass High School at 9 a.m.

**Dec. 20**  
IVHS Girls Varsity Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Boys JV Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Boys Varsity Basketball Away vs. North Valley High School  
IVHS Girls JV Basketball Away vs.

North Valley High School  
IVHS Boys Varsity Wrestling Away vs. Grants Pass High School at 8 a.m.

**Dec. 20**  
Last Minute Christmas Gifts Bazaar Dec. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd, Cave Junction. Handmade Arts & Crafts / Bake Sale Gift wrapping available. Enjoy yummy soup & desserts while you shop (available all day). Please join us for live music, fellowship & fun. For more info call 541-592-6058. 100% of proceeds to benefit the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley.

**Christmas, Dec. 25**  
Cave Junction Cares presents Christmas Breakfast with Santa. Free; rain or shine, come eat and enjoy from 10 a.m. - noon at Jubilee Park. This is a community

effort and all volunteers and donations of any kind will be gladly accepted and appreciated. Please call Lynn Boucher @ 541-592-3594 for additional information. Please drop your donations off at Redwood Service Center, 223 N. Redwood Hwy. for 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. until Dec. 24 or you can mail any contributions to Cave Junction Cares, Lynn Boucher, P.O. Box 1841, Cave Junction, OR 97523

**Christmas, Dec. 25**  
Traditional Christmas Dinner free to everyone noon to 3 p.m. at the County Building in Cave Junction (corner of Lister and Highway 199). Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Musicians and donations are still needed. Please call Jennie 541-592-0327.

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