

Lions Labor Day Festival briefs

No joke, Ditch Digger celebrates with 11th annual free school supply give away

David Anderson Excavating also known as the “Ditch Digger” will once again be at the I.V. Lions Labor Day Festival distributing free school supplies to the kids in attendance. This marks the 11th continual year that David and family has provided entertainment and necessary supplies to our back-to-school children.

Anderson has lived in the Valley since he was 12 years old with the exception of his time spent in California a few years ago. Having dropped out of school when he was young, Anderson understands the struggles that face the unprepared. “No child should be embarrassed to go back to school without the supplies they need,” Anderson said. Anderson and his wife Darlene, along with their family, have been providing supplies at no cost to the kids who visit their booth at the festival since the grandchildren started attending Evergreen Elementary back in 2005.

The Andersons have grown from one table after the parade back in 2005 with only pencils, crayons and filler paper to a full booth set up with everything that is required for the Valley kids to get back to school. Darlene and daughter-in-law, Raquel, shop for supplies throughout the summer, inventory the products, display the items and work the booth during the event with help from other family members.

“The booth is all about the kids, nothing is ever sold. Kids as early as pre-school and as old as college (and yes, even a few adults returning to school) have visited the booth through the years,” Darlene Anderson said. Many return year after year anxious to “earn” their school supplies. To “earn” supplies, each participant must entertain Darlene and her helpers with some small effort. “Through the years we have probably heard the ABCs in every way possible, forward, backwards, in other languages and even in sign language. Kids tell jokes, count their numbers, say math problems, dance, sing, do silly stuff they make up and man the knock-knock jokes are right up at the top of the list,” David Anderson added.

David Anderson spends the majority of his time at the festival wearing his other hat

– vendor booth chairman for the I.V. Lions Club. Although he does not get to spend a lot of time in the school supply booth, he gets the occasional request to appear from kids who want to show him what they can do this year. It is heartwarming to know that such a small thing as a box of crayons or erasers can make a child excited to perform and attend school.

Free school supplies will be available Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Jubilee Park during the I.V. Lions Labor Day Festival. Bring your kids and come on down. Enjoy the festival!

Grange youth group carnival booth fundraiser at Labor Day Festival

The youth group from Deer Creek Grange #371 in Selma will be manning their carnival booth at the Labor Day Festival to raise funds for the maintenance and restoration of their grange hall. Their hall has been a landmark in the valley for over 110 years. Chartered in 1906, it is the longest continual operating grange in Josephine County. It is also the hall that is in need of much renovation and maintenance. Struggling with membership numbers, hall deterioration and the economic conditions in the nation, it is difficult to keep this grange up and running. The youth group has stepped up to help!

Over the past three years the youth group has operated the carnival booth at the festival to the delight of many. For only \$1, participants, young and old, play to win prizes. There is never a loser, every player walks away with a prize. Stuffed animals are the highlight to win according to past players. Sometimes a child sees a specific prize they want to win but do not have the dollar to spend, no problem, the move into the I.V. Lions hay - coin toss, search for the money and step right back over to win their prize. Good for the kids, good for the Lions, good for the Grange. All-American ingenuity at its best.

Patrick Anderson and Jacob Yost have been the successful booth operators for three years and once again will be on hand to “play” with the kids who step up to win. Patrick will be attending OSU in September and Jacob is a junior at I.V. High. Their carnival efforts have

helped to replace overhead lights at the hall and repair water leaks. These two set up their booth, operate the booth and prepare their financial reports and turn in the funds to the Grange.

Come to the festival, play the carnival booth and help to retain a Valley landmark. All funds are used for maintenance and renovation of the Deer Creek Grange #371 hall located at 3750 Lakeshore Drive in Selma.

Meet your new community resource at the festival

A new community resource will soon be available to residents in the Illinois Valley! Options for Southern Oregon, Josephine County’s Community Mental Health Program, will be opening a new center in Cave Junction to provide better access to behavioral health services. The Illinois Valley Center will be located at 319 Caves Highway in Cave Junction. The building, which formerly housed the Siskiyou Community Health Center, is undergoing extensive renovations to ensure the new facility is ready to provide comprehensive and state of the art services to the community. Although Options currently provides services to all three Illinois Valley public schools and partners with other agencies to serve the needs of the community, much of the area is under served. The new facility will help to address this unmet need and provide better access to services. Community members will be able to access a wide range of services through Options’ Illinois Valley Center, including outpatient behavioral health treatment, crisis intervention, tele-psychiatry, employment support and education, case management, skills training and peer support services. Options plans to open the Illinois Valley Center by late fall. Options staff will be present at the I.V. Lions Club Labor Day Festival Sept. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Information, balloons and other goodies will be available, so please stop by the Options’ white tent to learn more.

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One thing missing from our discussion is the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) grants. These are the Congressional appropriations that are intended to partially make up for the loss of O&C timber receipts. An SRS appropriation has been renewed by Congress on a stopgap basis for each of the last few years, in the amount of a little under \$5 million each time. But so far, Congress has made no appropriation for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

How will that affect our county? In each of the previous few years the whole of the SRS appropriation has gone straight into our Public Safety budget. And in what O’Hare refers to as a “strategic budgeting move,” the county spends the previous year’s SRS appropriation while carrying forward the current appropriation into the next year.

Yes, it’s a little complex. But bottom line, Sheriff Daniel has last year’s SRS appropriation to spend this year. But next budget year, 2017-18, he will be short about \$5.0 million.

That’s a 36 percent cut in the sheriff’s budget.

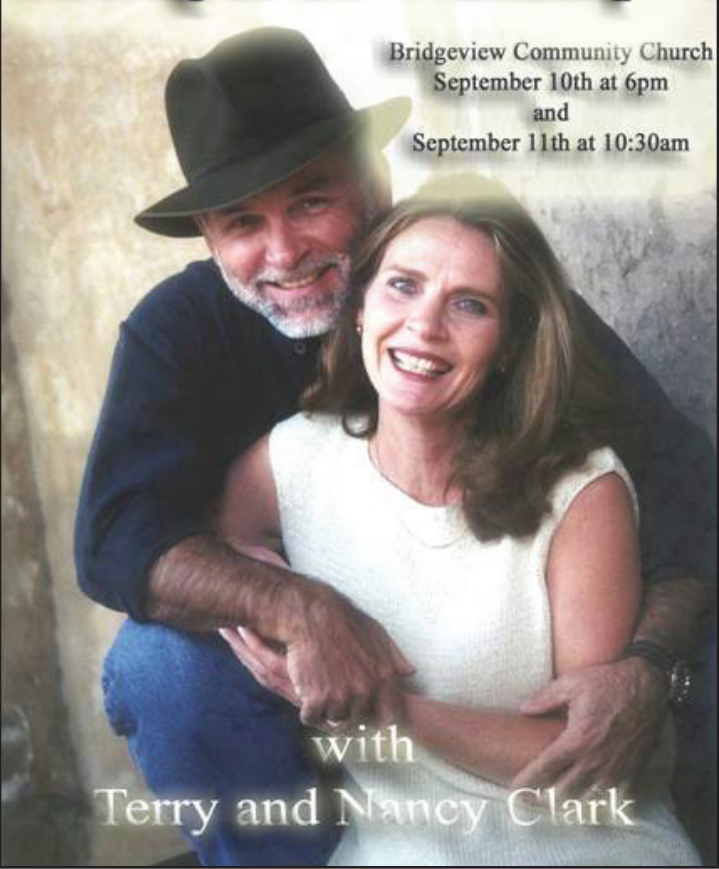
Unless, of course, Congress steps in again and, what many would say, saves our bacon.

Asked what he considers the hardest part of his job, O’Hare responds:

“Explaining the budget to the ordinary citizen, who’s not a math major or a financial adviser. It’s complicated. The county doesn’t produce just one widget. We’ve got all these different facets, all these different arms, all these different programs that are not related to each other. What does animal control have to do with roads and bridges and what does that have to do with the jail? It’s so diverse. And yet we’re all under one umbrella called Josephine County.”

A Night of Worship

Bridgeview Community Church
September 10th at 6pm
and
September 11th at 10:30am

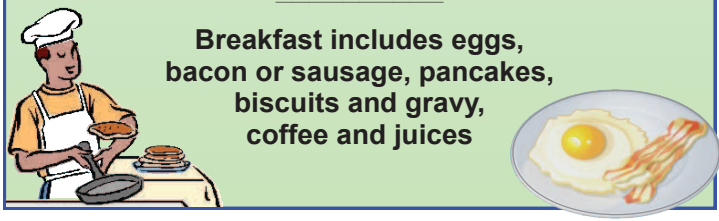


with
Terry and Nancy Clark

Belt Masonic Lodge Labor Day Breakfast

**September 3, 4, & 5, 2016
7am to 11am
Jubilee Park, Cave Junction**

**\$8 Adults / \$4 ages 6 to 12
Free for ages 5 and under**



Breakfast includes eggs,
bacon or sausage, pancakes,
biscuits and gravy,
coffee and juices



*Serving the Best Cheeseburger
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Celebrating 10-years as the Valley’s Bar & Grill

TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
NOON TO CLOSE

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IV Lion's Club Labor Day Festival Entertainment

TJ and the Spurs

Saturday September 3 at 6 pm

World's Finest

(sponsored by IV News)

Sunday September 4 at 6 pm



Music, Karaoke and Talent Show at the ampitheater at Jubilee Park!

Lions Club Labor Day Festival TALENT SHOW

**Saturday September, 3
Sunday September, 4
Monday September, 5
1 P.M. EACH DAY**

**SIGN-UPS 1-2 HOURS BEFORE THE
START OF THE TALENT SHOW**

**Saturday: Kids
Sunday: Teens
Monday: Adults**