

Doing good in the world with cookies, cocoa and Santa

By Laura Mancuso
IVN Staff

“Doing good in the world” is one of the mottos for the Rotary Club according to Jannie Crocker, president of the Rotary Club of Illinois Valley (RCIV) and that is exactly the plan for this year’s toy giveaway.

On Saturday, Dec. 24 the RCIV will host “Cookies and Cocoa with Santa” at the Josephine’s County Building, 102 S. Redwood Hwy. from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The RCIV has been officially sponsoring this event since 2010. According to Crocker, president of the RCIV since July, “In 2008, we realized that the Toy Run had been going on for 25 years, started by I.V. Biker’s Club. Then in 2010 the Rotary took over and partnered with the I.V. Bikers.”

Since then, the event has morphed from the Toy Run which included a party and silent auction to the current “Cookies and Cocoa with Santa” which is a partnership with the Josephine County Toys for Tots run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

The RCIV is fortunate that

after the Toys for Tots event in Merlin Dec. 17, the Marine Corps will donate their left over toys to the RCIV.

“The reason we’re doing this is to improve the lives of kids in the Illinois Valley,” said Crocker. “Last year 280 families were served, but the weather was bad. This year we are hoping to serve more families. We want any child to come see Santa and get a gift.”

And Crocker is no stranger to the Rotary Club’s mission. She shared how she started in Rotary when she was a child going to Rotary meetings with her dad in New Jersey. Also her grandfather and sister are Rotarians. It is definitely a family tradition now with her husband Ted Crocker on track to be next year’s RCIV president along with being a past president and having been involved with the Toy Run for many years. “This has been ‘Ted’s baby’ for a really long time. He really enjoys doing this.”

When Crocker was asked how this year’s support from the community has been compared to previous years she said, “Phenomenal,” and added, “People are reaching out to us to make

donations because word has gotten out that we’re doing this.”

If you would like to make a toy donation, boxes are available at the following locations: Shop Smart, Wright’s World Emporium, H&R Block, Washington Federal, The G Spot, Dollar General, Ray’s Food Place in Selma and Brown Claw Clothing in Selma.

The RCIV received most of their funding for the toy giveaway from their summer golf tournament at Illinois Valley Golf Club. Crocker mentioned that next year’s golf tournament will be an even better fundraiser with Bruce Reece as their tournament coordinator.

Crocker wanted the community to know that, “part of the money we raise during the summer goes to family advocates found at all the schools in the Valley including Community Bible, Madrone and the Dome School; private and public schools. A family advocate is someone at the schools that will help families in need. We give a percentage of what we make to each of the schools.”

The RCIV would like all Valley families to mark their calendars for “Cookies and Cocoa



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Thursday, Dec. 8, Jannie Crocker (left) shows Ted Crocker one of the donated toys for the Rotary Club of the Illinois Valley’s “Cookies and Cocoa with Santa” to be held Dec. 24.

with Santa” Dec. 24 and Crocker encouraged participation by saying, “It is not as strict as the

Toys for Tots in Merlin, any child can come to enjoy the festivities and get a gift.”

The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the Illinois Valley News archives

This week we go 49 years into the past to Dec. 14, 1967. Winter had taken a break on the Valley with sunny days, green grass and birds chirping as if spring was on the way. The Chamber of Commerce was preparing prizes for the Xmas show, soldiers were writing home about Vietnam and the high school kicked off the holiday season with a dance. Take a break from untangling holiday lights, grab a cup of the “good” eggnog and get ready to enjoy some quality time in the Archive Zone.

Valley man in Viet Nam action; describes it as ‘pure hell.’ Dan Robin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Robin, involved in the action of the Mekong Delta near Sa Dec earlier this month, described it in a letter to his wife Marg as “pure hell.” The 20-year-

old Boatswain’s Mate Second, a career Navy man and one of the youngest BM 2’s in the Navy, told of “Monitor” troop carriers, a boat little more than 30 feet long that can carry 40 troops besides its own crew of seven. Moving up the Mekong, the Monitors ran into cables stretched across the river by the Viet Cong. With the small fleet bunched together, the V. C. opened up with all its fire power, using rockets, machine guns, and rifles. One Monitor finally broke loose from the pack, rammed the cables at speed and succeeded in breaking two of the three there. Another craft joined it in the maneuver and broke through the third cable, freeing the rest. Robin wrote that all during the time the Monitors were trapped, they were being fired upon and returned the

fire. He wrote that although he was surrounded by the sound of guns and screams of wounded he didn’t think of being afraid, but realized he was when his legs almost gave out on him from shaking so badly. The engagement took the lives of two crew members with more wounded. The body count of Viet Cong dead, Robin wrote, was into the hundreds. He reported that he was becoming hardened to the sight of bodies, but not yet to the point of sitting down within 3 feet of one and eating his rations, as some of his buddies do. The member of the Riverine Division has spent three and one-half years in the Navy, recently re-enlisted for six and volunteered for the duty he now has. Married for two years, Robin has one son.

Chamber slate free Xmas Show; sets rules for decorating contest. The Valley’s Chamber of Commerce announced its 1967 Christmas Decorating Contest at its Tuesday meeting. All Valley merchants and residents are invited to enter. Two categories will be judged again this year, commercial and residential, with prizes given to three places in each. First prize in commercial will be a year’s membership in the Chamber – value, \$25; second will be \$15; third, \$7.50. Residential prizes will be \$15, \$10, and \$5 for the top three. The Chamber said businesses combined with residences will be judged in the latter category with the actual judging scheduled for Dec. 20.

BINGO FOR ALL AGES
WEDNESDAYS
EARLY BIRD 6 - 6:30PM
17 GAMES 6:30 - 9:30PM
HAMBURGERS FOR SALE
520 E. RIVER STREET, CJ
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Chicken Breasts
A free range bird. No antibiotics or hormones. Great for baking in the oven.
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Asstd. Almetta
Almond Milk Mousses
Rich & Delicious
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Mary's Gone Crackers
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\$3.99 ea.
Reg. \$5.69 ea.

Fuji Apples
\$1.09 lb.
Reg. \$1.19 lb.

Groceries

Asstd. Annie's Organic Fruit Snacks
Reg. \$5.49
\$3.29 ea.

Asstd. Annie's Bunny Graham Crackers
Reg. \$4.49
\$3.29 ea.

Asstd. Jovial Pasta Noodles
Reg. \$4.79
\$3.59 ea.

Asstd. Westbrae Canned Veggies
Reg. \$2.79
\$2.09 ea.

Deli

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
With side salad.
Reg. \$5.49
\$4.99 ea.

Grab-N-Go
Prezzel Hoagies
Veganise, mustard, lettuce, tomato with asstd. meats.
Reg. \$4.99
\$4.59 ea.

Painted Hills Beef Pastrami
Reg. \$16.09
\$15.59 lb.

2 Egg Scramble with Toast
Your choice meat, cheese, vegetables.
Reg. \$4.69
\$4.09 ea.

Salad Case

Organic Valley Ricotta
15 oz.
Reg. \$7.79 ea.
\$6.99 ea.

Bella Capra Goat Cheese
Garlic & Herb, Traditional, 6 oz.
Reg. \$6.59 ea.
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Laughing Cow
Garlic & Herb, Original, French Onion, 6 oz.
Reg. \$3.99 ea.
\$3.19 ea.

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