

Winter jackets needed Hazelnut harvest falls short of expectations

Bridgeview Community Church is organizing a winter jacket give a way. Saturday, Dec. 1, BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH 5181 Holland Loop Rd., CJ.

This is open to all who might be able to donate gently used items. For drop off please call Pastor Sonny Moore at 1-458-229-0000. Thank you and God bless!

Chamber seeks to add joy to those in need

The Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber invites the community to assist with Operation Joy. Operation Joy is a program designed to provide those in assisted living facilities some holiday cheer by receiving Christmas cards.

If you are a school, church, organization or group interested in helping stop by the Chamber office and pick up a list of the participating homes and the names

of the residents. If you have a collection of new cards, you are not planning to use drop them by our office and we will put them to good use for you. Please get cards to us by Nov. 30.

We will deliver the cards when they are done.

Contact 541-226-3101 or stop by Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce 1995 NW Vine Street Grants Pass.

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Hazelnut growers in Oregon were anticipating a record-high crop in 2018, although it appears the harvest is coming in short of expectations.

The Capital Press reported Monday that the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service predicted 52,000 tons of hazelnuts in August, which would have beaten the previous record of 49,500 tons in 2001.

Instead, local processors say they are looking at between 46,000 to 48,000 tons, which is higher than last year's 32,000 tons but still not on par with increases in handling capacity.

Larry George, president and CEO of George Packing Company in Newberg, said he doesn't know exactly why hazelnut yields did not meet record forecasts.

He said it looks like one of the primary new nut varieties, called Jefferson, did not perform as well as previously thought when the orchards were planted in 2007.

George said it is also possible growers harvested fewer early season orchards due to low prices caused by economic turmoil overseas, including Chinese tariffs and currency devaluation in Turkey, the world's leading producer of hazelnuts.

"We'll know in a few weeks," he

said.

Whatever the explanation, a lesser hazelnut crop doesn't bode well for processors such as George Packing Company, which has invested millions of dollars to increase capacity.

Hazelnut acreage has approximately doubled in Oregon over the past decade, up to 72,353 acres, spurred by new varieties such as Jefferson, Yamhill and McDonald that are resistant to Eastern Filbert Blight.

With the growth in acreage, George said there was a rush to expand alongside the orchards. Nearly all U.S. commercial hazelnuts are grown in Oregon, and George Packing Company is the industry's largest processor and marketer.

Patrick Gabrish, vice president of sales and marketing for Hazelnut Growers of Oregon, a member-owned co-op representing 150 local hazelnut farmers, said he's not overly concerned about lower yields. He pointed out that 33,000 acres of orchards still have not reached nut-bearing age. When they do, he said the spike in volume may help to stabilize prices and develop new markets.

"There's going to be plenty of crop to work with over the next few years," Gabrish said.

Both Gabrish and George raved about this year's crop quality, aided by a dry harvest season that minimized mud

and mold. Months of drought, however, also emphasized the need for growers to adopt irrigation and nutrient programs to maximize yields through difficult summers.

This year was already challenging for the hazelnut industry as global factors combined to drive down prices for growers. First, China slapped 15 percent and 25 percent retaliatory tariffs on the product from the U.S. in response to the Trump administration's escalating trade war. Then, the Turkish lira plummeted in value, allowing the country to flood the market with cheap hazelnuts.

For the first time, growers accepted a three-tier price system at 62 cents per pound for in-shell hazelnut varieties, and between 81 and 91 cents per pound for "shell-out" varieties, which command more value for larger kernels.

That is lower than last year's price of 96.5 cents per pound for all hazelnuts, and \$1.18 per pound in 2016.

Terry Ross, executive director of the Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association, said the system was meant to encourage growers to plant more shell-out varieties to tap into newer and potentially more lucrative markets.

"There is a lot of potential," Ross said. "The future is bright."

<http://www.capitalpress.com/washington>

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.

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

Reader says enough is enough!

Do any candidates realize how showing the same "ads" over & over & over for weeks & weeks & weeks prior to an election cause me (an average voter) to want NOT to vote for them?

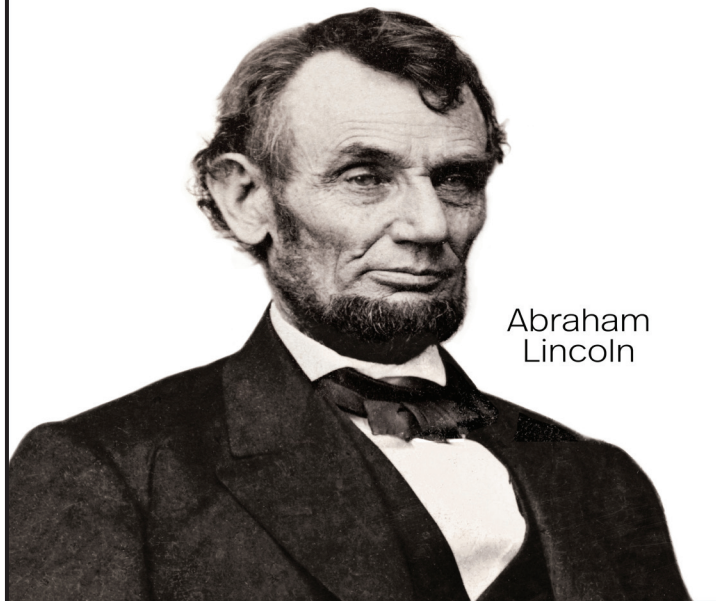
Do they think anyone is impressed by repeated he said/she said negative, negative criticisms? Every channel, same words, many, many, many times — every program, they are just plain irritating!

Sincerely,
Sharon Reasor
Selma

A house divided... cannot stand.

CIVILITY is in you.

PassItOn.com



Abraham Lincoln

Survey for new charter school available

A group of I.V. educators is exploring the feasibility of developing a free public charter high school (grades 9-12), opening in the I.V. in Fall 2020. We seek input from the public on the need for an additional high school option, as well as what people would like to see as part of a new school. This survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time.

Visit ivcharter.wordpress.com to take the survey. Thank you for your time.

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

Save the date

Nov. 17

*FREE FREE FREE DENTAL CLINIC

This is a one day event. Medical Teams International will only do extractions and fillings. Space is limited so call Illinois Valley Baptist Church @ 541-592-9268 for an appointment.

*Nov. 17 Pie and Praise, Event of the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley at the CJ Senior Center at 520 River Street from 2-4 p.m.

Nov. 18

The 41st annual Jed Smith Mountain Men, Block Powder Turkey Shoot will be Nov. 18 at the Rowdy Creek. Smith River, Calif. Follow road post Del Norte Rod and Gun Club to field behind. Starts at 10 a.m. Potluck at 1 p.m. the fee is \$20 for a chance to win a turkey and ham and Black Powder rifle. For more information call Joyce Lockhart 707-458-3585 or Brain Scott 707-954-6032.

Nov. 22

* Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Free meal for one and all! Nov. 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. At Jubilee Park Pavilion Rain or Shine, Food contributions are welcome but not required. To volunteer, to donate, or if you are preparing a turkey, call Tim at 541-291-8860. Sponsored by Doug Hoskins Resource Center and Cultural & Ecological Enhancement Network (C.E.E.N.)

* Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner for everyone at the I.V. Grange, 3763 Holland Loop Rd. Nov. 22 from 2 - 5 p.m.

Nov. 24

I.V. Holiday Tree Lighting Nov. 24, 6 p.m. Chevron lot. Raffle tickets are available to win baskets filled with items donated by local I.V. businesses. Ticket are \$5 each or 5 or \$20. Raffle tickets are available at the I.V. Visitors Center, Selma Second Hand (next to Selma post office) and at I.V. News.

Dec. 2

*Banana Belt Photography Club of the Illinois Valley. If you do enjoy photography, then:

Our local photography club is an informal, friendly, supportive environment for photographers of all levels of experience and with an interest in digital photography. Come join our Club to:-Meet fellow photography enthusiasts -Improve your skills and knowledge -Share tips and information-Go on local field trips and photo shoots-Join monthly challenges and critiques-Display your photos on our Facebook page. Business meetings are held the first Sunday of every other month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We welcome new members and visitors at our meetings. The first business meeting is non-obligatory. Banana Belt Photography Club of the Illinois Valley email: bananabelt-photoclub@gmail.com. Like Us On Facebook: www.facebook.com/BBPCIV

Continuing

*Evergreen Elementary School is looking for SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers. Come read with children for an hour a week and change a life. Currently the program is on Wednesdays, but with enough readers, we'd like to expand to Tuesdays and Thursdays also. Volunteers

are asked to arrive about 11:35 and will be finished reading by 12:45. To learn more about SMART you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

*Chess Club at the library. All ages and levels are welcome. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month. Chess boards will be provided. Drop in for a game from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. For more information contact Roberta Lee at 541-592-4778. IV Branch, Josephine Community Libraries, 209 W Palmer St, CJ

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff another day expand hours. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

*Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every month. Services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by I.V. News LLC
Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone 541-592-2541

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$35
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$36
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$43.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

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News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcement and Letters
4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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