

Hunnicutt named OIA head director

Oregonians In Action (OIA), Oregon's property owners association, announced the appointment of Dave Hunnicutt as executive director.

Hunnicutt succeeds Larry George, who resigned to devote more time to his family's hazelnut processing business.

Hunnicutt has been OIA's director of legal affairs since 1996. "We were all disappointed when Larry resigned, but we're ready to move forward and continue fighting for property rights and representing the interests of property owners throughout the state," said Hunnicutt.

OIA will continue to take an active stand in defending the rights of Oregon property owners.

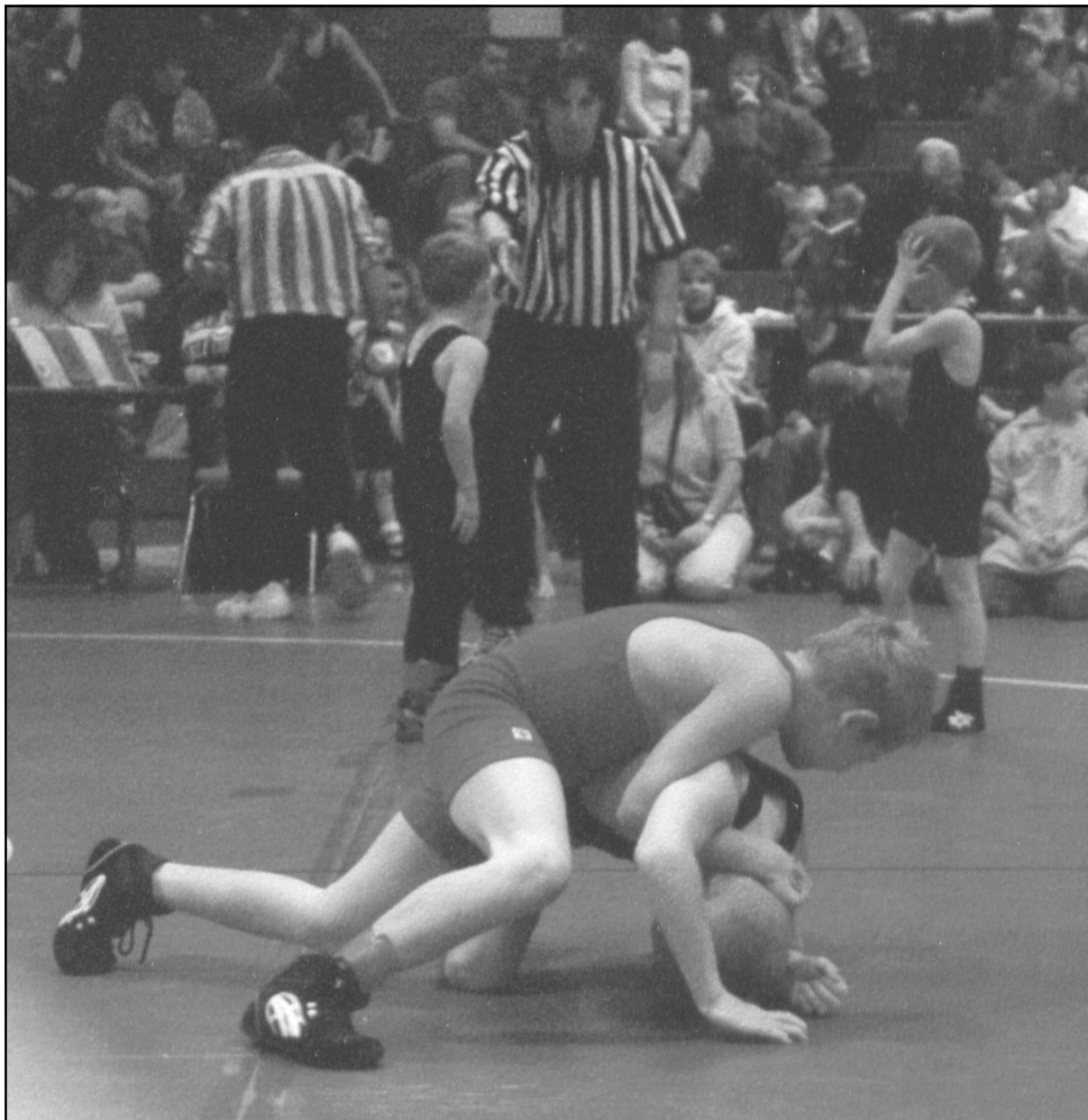
"Our mission will remain the same," said Hunnicutt. "We will promote and defend the rights of landowners to make reasonable use of their property, challenge burdensome and unnecessary regulations which limit individual freedom."

Hunnicutt indicated the OIA will ask the legislature to adopt a replacement for Ballot Measure 7, the compensation measure approved by the voters in November 2000, and recently overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court.

In addition, OIA will seek changes to Oregon's overly restrictive rural zoning laws, and will challenge urban policies that mandate high density housing developments in established neighborhoods.

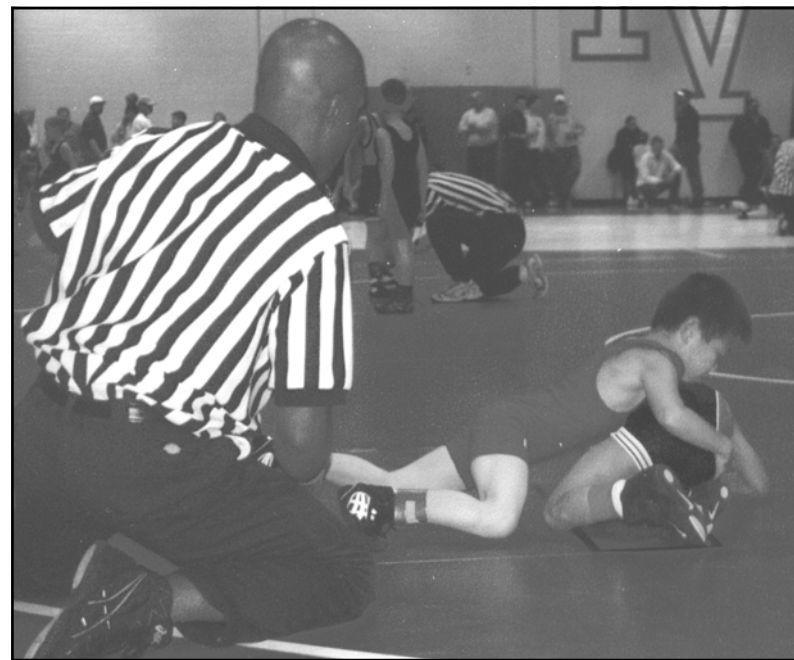
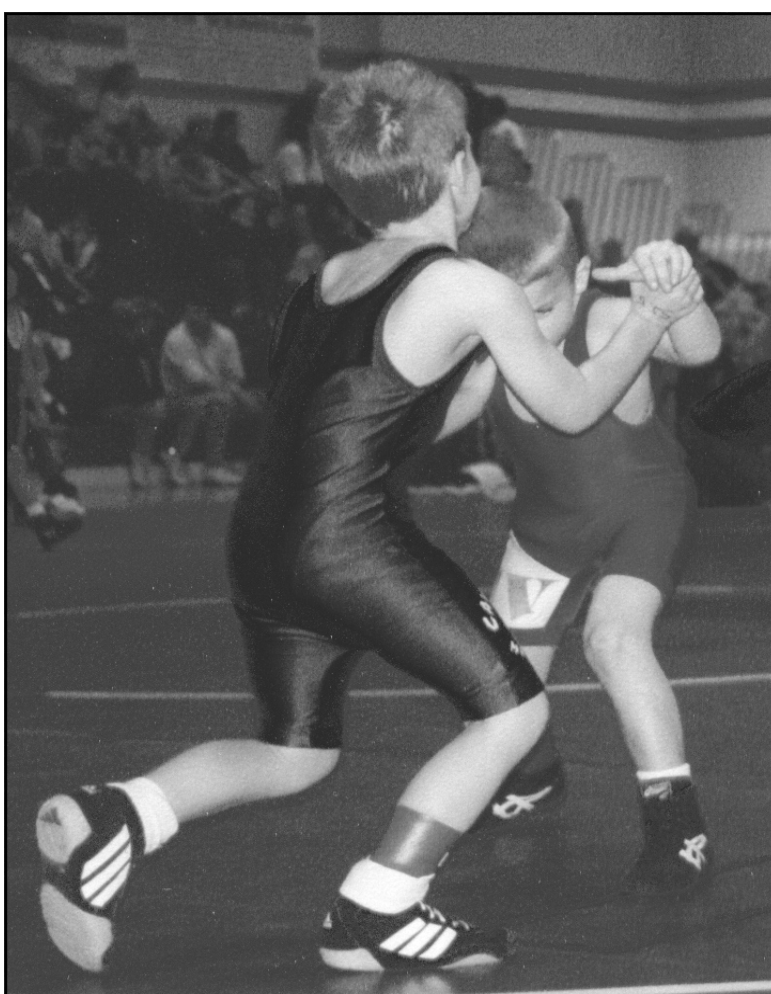
"We will continue to be involved in all areas of government-with the legislature, the state agencies, the courts, and the initiative process," said Hunnicutt.

"OIA has grown tremendously in the last decade, and I hope to continue that progress," he said.



YOUTH WRESTLING
The Illinois Valley Youth Wrestling program sponsored a tournament at Illinois Valley High School on Saturday, Dec. 7. Eight individual youth wrestling teams competed in six different categories. Each youth wrestling group will sponsor one of these tournaments as one of their major fundraisers. Approximately 260 wrestlers from eight different programs attended the I.V. tournament. There are 36 youths participating in the I.V. Youth Wrestling program.

(Photos by Kathy Young)



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DHS has two stage plan to guard against smallpox

Public health officials at the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) will send two smallpox vaccination plans to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"There's not been a case of smallpox in the United States since 1949," said Mel Kohn, state epidemiologist in DHS.

"But because there is a remote possibility that smallpox could be used in a bioterrorist attack, our Nation needs to be ready to protect its citizens," said Kohn.

DHS will forward its plan for how public health would protect Oregonians in case of a smallpox outbreak. A second plan for vaccinating health workers in preparation for smallpox has been forwarded to the CDC. Other states around the Nation are submitting similar plans.

"Smallpox vaccine is not entirely safe. It can cause severe side effects and in rare instances even death," said Kohn.

"We need to be ready to spring into action if smallpox is discovered, yet we don't want to risk harming large numbers of people through large scale vaccination in the absence of the disease," said Kohn.

The first plan focuses on the approach Oregon would take to protect the public if a case of smallpox was detected. It relies on a concept called "ring vaccination."

"Ring vaccination in-

volves swift inoculation of people who were in very close contact with a smallpox victim," Kohn said.

"This is followed by an additional round of vaccination with a second set of persons, those who were in contact with the contacts of the victim," he said.

Kohn noted that individuals who are vaccinated within four days of exposure to smallpox should be protected against the disease.

The second plan details how Oregon will prepare for a potential smallpox outbreak. If Federal authorities release the vaccine for preparedness purposes, a small number of health care workers around the state will be offered vaccination. They would then be ready to respond to an outbreak, if needed.

"A total of approximately 100 public health workers at nine locations around the state will be identified and offered vaccine, along with approximately 600 health care workers in hospitals throughout Oregon," Kohn said.

"During the next year, all local health departments will develop the capacity to establish large immunization clinics quickly," he said.

Kohn emphasized that all vaccination is voluntary. He also said that if the federal government made a recommendation for broader vaccination, the state public health officer would advise the governor on how that could be carried out.

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