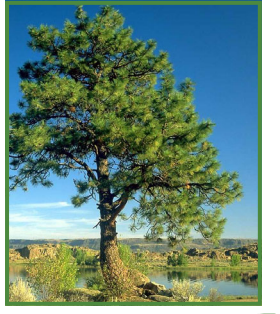


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BEAR IN THE AIR - Two 650-pound bronze hollow bears were installed last week at Evergreen Federal Bank's Illinois Valley Branch in Downtown Cave Junction (photo above right). They were unveiled in a public ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 20. Brady Adams, Evergreen president; and Corky Quen, branch manager help with the unveiling (photo right). Adams said that Evergreen wants to help improve the appearance of Downtown CJ and that he feels bears are representative of the Pacific Northwest. Additional photos on page 8 & 16.



City plans to toss two of its "alcohol" rules

Some in Cave Junction would call it a "Catch 22." Others would describe it as "stupid."

And there are some who simply can't understand how such a situation could occur.

No matter your view, the city council at the recommendation of legal counsel is planning steps to essentially eliminate its ordinances titled, "Consumption of alcoholic liquors in public places prohibited," and "Public intoxication."

The council on Monday night, Sept. 22, during a 10-minute meeting in city hall that missed the mark of being the shortest on record by three minutes, agreed to bring those ordinances into compliance with Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) -- which are in direct opposition to those two city rules.

As well, other areas including vagrancy are included in the ORS. Essentially the state rulings, in effect since the early 1970s, prohibit the city from deterring such areas.

To come into compliance, the matter will come

before the council during a public hearing on Monday, Oct. 13. And as it will be declared an emergency, elimination of the two ordinances would take effect on Oct. 14, City Recorder Jim Polk said last week.

At the recommendation of legal counsel, the council will be asked to "reserve" the two ordinances, which basically sets them aside and makes their numbers available for any new ordinances to avoid having to reprint the city ordinance book, Polk noted last week.

The reason, which negates the city enforcing those ordinances, is that under ORS 430.325, it states, "(1) A political subdivision in this state shall not adopt or enforce any local law or regulation that makes any of the following an offense, a violation or the subject of criminal or civil penalties or sanctions of any kind:

"a. Public intoxication.

"b. Public drinking, except as to places where any consumption of alcoholic beverages is generally prohibited.

(Continued on page 8)

Residents, merchants show support for IVCP

Lights, action: It's the Illinois Valley Citizens Patrol (IVCP), a group of volunteers working to reduce crime in Downtown Cave Junction.

Directors and potential members met in the Josephine County Bldg. on Monday evening, Sept. 22 to continue working on details for operations.

Patrolling already is under way, but the group wants to increase the frequency to "light up suspicious incidents, vehicles or persons" in and around the downtown area. In addition, patrollers -- equipped with two-way radios, cell phones, scanners and strong lights -- will swing through O'Brien and Selma too.

Potential patrollers or supporters can phone 592-9296, or pick up applications at the "Illinois Valley News" office. Background

checks of applicants can be required by IVCP, which is working with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

One board member addressed the I.V. Chamber of Commerce board during its meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18 in Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. The chamber is checking to see if its insurance coverage can be extended to include IVCP.

The IVCP representative told the chamber board that some retaliation in the form of paintball attacks and telephoned threats has occurred to at least two merchants involved in the patrol.

The speaker noted that community spirit is dying because of vandals and burglars wandering the streets in the dark hours.

(Continued on page 8)

I.V. residents arrested, cited on meth, marijuana charges

Some 19 gallons of chemicals and several marijuana plants were seized and six Illinois Valley residents were cited or arrested on methamphetamine and marijuana charges after search warrants were served in Selma and O'Brien on Wednesday, Sept. 17, said Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT).

According to JOINT, arrestees are:

*Todd Clark Renecker, 34, and Bill Sherman Renecker, 56,

both of 900 Naue Way in O'Brien.

*Julie Kathleen Brack, 31, of 6087 Rockydale Road in rural Cave Junction.

*Mary Jane Usher, 32, of 8560 Deer Creek Road.

Cited were:

*Robin Rhodes Coatney, 60, and Paul Frederick Coatney, 33, both of 8560 Deer Creek Road.

Both Coatneys were cited on charges of manufacturing a controlled sub-

(Continued on page 8)

More JoCo workers in August than in July, but fewer for year

Josephine County's unemployment rate decreased from 8.6 percent during July to 8.2 percent during August, and with a loss of only 30 jobs, 31,116 persons were employed during August.

The Oregon Employment Dept. (OED) also reported that during the past year, total payroll job counts also have declined, shedding 60 jobs since Au-

gust 2002. The county unemployment rate has increased from the same month a year ago, when it was 7.5 percent.

For August this year, Jackson County had an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. It was 6.4 percent during the same month last year. It was 7.5 percent during July this year.

OED said that there were approximately 2,550

persons unemployed in Josephine County's labor force during August, up from 2,300 in August last year. According to OED:

"Changes in payroll employment during August were slight in most industry sectors, with the largest net decline in local government, which shed 40 jobs, 20 of those in local education. Construction employment rose by 30

during August, and despite a reduction of 180 wood products manufacturing jobs during the past 12 months, overall manufacturing in the county is virtually unchanged during the past year.

"Retail trade showed little movement in August, but has gained about 270 jobs during the year in Josephine County. Food and beverage stores have added 80 of those new jobs within retail trade.

"Another sector that did not experience any growth during the month, but more jobs since August 2002, is the financial activities sector consisting of finance, insurance and real estate businesses. This population growth and interest rate-sensitive sector has added nearly 100 jobs in the past year.

"Health care and social assistance employment rose slightly, adding 20 jobs in August. However, total employment in this broad industry category has fallen by 90 jobs during the past 12 months.

"Government employment fell by 40 in the county during August, and stands at 320 jobs below the year-ago number. Local government employment accounts for all the over-the-month loss, and is 220 jobs below the number recorded in August 2002.

(Continued on page 8)



'KIDS & BUGS' - A group of youngsters participated on Saturday, Sept. 20 in a 'Kids and Bugs' program at Chinquapin Campground on Grayback Creek out Caves Hwy. The event taught how to collect and identify aquatic insects and their value in relation to the life cycle of salmon, and water quality. Co-sponsors were the Rogue Basin Coordinating Council and Illinois Valley Watershed Council. (Another photo, page 8)