

Property tax increases

(Editor's Note: The following data are from the Josephine County Assessor's Office)

Property tax statements for the 2003-2004 fiscal year have been mailed to Josephine County property owners.

The tax statements have a due date of Monday, Nov. 17; and if paid in full taxpayers will receive a 3 percent discount.

New for this year is a change in forestland special assessment valuation for property owners with forestland holding of more than 5,000 acres.

The result in this segment increased the total of all specially assessed forestland so that the total assessed value of specially assessed forestland is up 246 percent during the valuation in 2002.

The total assessed value of all taxable property in Josephine County has increased 5.3 percent from 2002. As of Jan. 1, 2003 the taxable total value has increased to \$4,234,049,236.

The total taxable assessed value in 2002 was \$4,020,453,842, a 5 percent increase during 2001. The total taxable assessed value in 2001 was \$3,828,997,720.

The city of Cave Junction taxable assessed value is up 4.1 percent while the city of Grants Pass taxable assessed value is up 7.1 percent.

Values in Three Rivers School District grew at a rate of 4.95 percent while values in GP School District 7 grew 5.78 percent.

Measure 5 created a permanent limitation on property taxes of \$10 per \$1,000 of real market value for general government services, and \$5 per \$1,000 of real market value for education services, excluding bonded debt.

The market value (as defined in Measure 5) of taxable property increased throughout Josephine County. The total market value for 2001 was \$4,436,423,374; for 2002 it increased to \$4,803,016,923; and for 2003 it increased to \$5,478,773,876.

Generally the assessed value of a property can only increase 3 percent

from one year to the next. The required 3 percent increase is the result of Measure 50, a Constitutional amendment approved by voters in 1997.

If there is a new construction, parcel, subdivision or the removal of a special assessment, the assessed value may increase more than 3 percent.

The new construction or increased real market value must usually exceed \$10,000 in one year or an accumulated \$25,000 throughout five years to be added. If it is added, it is included in the assessed value at a ratio intended to reflect the percentage that assessed value of unchanged property of the same class has to market value.

If a property was valued less than the maximum assessed value last year, the assessed value could be increased more than 3 percent, limited by the real market value or the maximum assessed value, whichever is less. Properties are not revalued due to sales or transfers to a new owner.

Permanent property tax rates have been calculated and certified for each taxing district. In addition to permanent rates, the individual districts can levy, with voter approval, local option levies and bond repayment levies.

The local option levies can be up to five years unless they are used for capital construction, and bond levies are generally for approximately 20 years. Property owners are only billed for taxes due to the districts where the property is located.

Total tax levies, assessments and fees imposed by the State Forester's Office decreased to \$1.0129 this year.

Property owners who disagree with the value shown on the bill can ask the assessor's office for a review. Valuation reviews are to be submitted by Dec. 12. If the assessor does not agree with a reduction, or the owner is not satisfied, the owner may appeal to the Board of Property Tax Appeals (BPTA). Appeals to BPTA must be filed on or before Dec. 31.



Day of the Dead ...

(Continued from page 1)

lot of fun," said Scott Armijo.

He remembered celebrating Day of the Dead as a small child at his grandfather's house in California. Learning about the tradition in school, he said, helped make that experience more meaningful.

The project has also deeply touched Shaina Nelson, who had been close friends with Tygrachet Lorentz for almost eight years when she was killed in a car accident in April.

Nelson said photos of Lorentz will be included in the student's Day of the Dead display at the school.

"So that we can remember her," she said.

The fruits of the students' labors will also be featured at the next Art Walk on Friday, Nov. 14.

"It's cool that people honor their dead and bring them back to talk to them, to have a special day for

them," said Tracie Losey, who was helping classmates Tonya Tyler and James Guthrie paint an altar.

Such comments reflect Niemi's thoughts about the authenticity of the project for the students. That beyond learning book knowledge about the festival, they were able to personally connect with it and reflect on what they had experienced.

"They really learned about a different culture and a different celebration," Niemi said.

The next "Learning Through Art" project, "Trash-Formation" will take place in March.

Editor's Note: As part of The Day of the Dead project, two groups of seventh-graders were given the responsibility of creating a press kit for the project to be sent to area media. Some of the articles written by the students about the project will appear in a coming issue.

CJ Chamber of Commerce bash on Friday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. at Wild River Brewing & Pizza Company.



Contributing her efforts to The Day of the Dead project, Ziona Hamtil (photo left) studiously decorates a candle. Seventh-graders in the press kit group (photo above, clockwise from top) Sara Austin, Kevin Snook, Tammy Huntamer, Amon Griffin and Sarah Jaentsch display one of the posters they made for the project. (Photos by Britt Fairchild)

CONE TEN POTTERY
Halloween Art and Fun Day for Kids!
 Friday, October 31
 12:30-3:30 p.m.
 Clay & Art Projects, Cider Pressing
 Sliding scale \$5-10/child (Snack Included)
 360 Caves Highway ● 592-4646

Clouser Calling
 Water Wells Pump Sales Installation Service
 592-6777
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 Licensed • Bonded • Insured
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Lumber use to slow in 2004, says WWPA

Mild slowdowns in new home construction and repair and remodeling expenditures are expected to reduce U.S. lumber demand next year, according to Western Wood Products Association's (WWPA) 2004 lumber forecast.

The Portland-based trade association said U.S. lumber consumption will decline 1.8 percent to 55.7 billion board feet (bbf) in 2004. Despite the decrease, the volume used will be the third-highest on record. Lumber demand in 2003 is expected to hit an all-time high of 56.7 bbf.

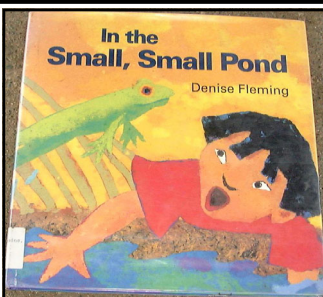
The two largest lumber use markets -- new home construction and repair and remodeling -- will account for most of the decline in 2004, WWPA said. The decline will reduce the volume of lumber used in the segment to 1.69 million units. Repair and remodeling usage is anticipated to decline 3.3 percent.

U.S. lumber production is also forecast to ease by 1.4 percent to 35.7 bbf.

Elementary Schools Menu Sponsored by

'Illinois Valley News'
 321 S. Redwood Hwy.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30
 *Chili cheese Fritos, cheeseburger, pepperoni pizza, super sub sandwich, garden salad, chocolate pudding
FRIDAY, OCT. 31
 *No classes
 (November menu not available at press time)

The Bookworm
 presented by the I.V. Library
 This book presented by Senior Library Specialist Jennifer Berubee and is available at the I.V. Library. (Public service announcement)

 Phone 592-3581 for more information
'In the Small, Small Pond'
 Author & Illustrator: Denise Fleming
 Ages: 3 to 6
 A story about the creatures that inhabit a small pond.
 Simple Reading

Josephine County Public Health
 Is offering
FLU SHOTS!
 Phone (541) 474-5337
 24 hours a day for information on locations dates and times.
 Cost is \$15
 Medicare and Oregon Health Plan billing available

Let's Celebrate SOFCU's 50th anniversary!
 Visit a SOFCU location near you during the month of November!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Food basket donations Entries for cruise	4 Vote on costumes	5 Costco at Medford Branch	6 Name That Tune Popcorn at North Branch	7 Drawings 50's candy Popcorn at Main Branch
10 Kids coloring contest Old time photos at Roseburg Sofie the Bear at Cave Junction Main Roseburg	11 Closed for Veterans Day	12 Kids coloring contest Old time photos at Cave Junction Sofie the Bear at Medford, GP North and Roseburg	13 Old time photos at Medford Name That Tune Popcorn at North	14 Drawings Old time photos at Rogue River Popcorn at Main
17 Cookies at all Branches Rootbeer floats Main and North	18 Cookies at all Branches Old time photos at North Branch Rootbeer Floats Rogue River and Medford	19 Cookies at all Branches Old time photos at Main Rootbeer Floats Cave Junction & Roseburg	20 Costco at Main Elvis and Marilyn on the loose Name That Tune Popcorn at North Branch	21 Costco at North Branch Drawings Hula hoop for turkeys Popcorn at Main
24 Costco at Rogue River Kids ID Kits at all branches	25 Costco at Cave Junction Popcorn at North	26 1950's candy Last day for cruise entries Name That Tune	27 Closed	28 Closed

For more details on branch and times, visit www.SOFCU.com

WIN - Oldies Cruise 2004

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