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Voters deny new charter

Josephine County will not have a new charter.

Voters overwhelmingly defeated a measure that would have replaced the current charter with a new one in the vote-by-mail special election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Measure 17.96*
Replace county charter
Yes- 34%
No- 66%

*Unofficial results

Of the 43 percent of eligible voters (slightly more than 20,600), 66 percent voted against Measure 17.96, while 34 percent voted in favor.

If approved, Measure 17.96 would have increased the number of commissioners from three to seven, each of whom would have received no more than \$500 a month without benefits.

Instead, voters chose the status quo, keeping the three current commissioners -- Harold Haugen, Jim Brock and Jim Riddle -- in place. If the measure passed, Haugen, chairman of the board of commissioners said Tuesday he would retire and Brock noted he would resign.

Student shares traditions of the Day of the Dead

By SARA AUSTIN
Correspondent

Have you ever heard of the holiday The Day of the Dead? If you, or a family member are of Mexican descent, then you probably have.

Although this holiday begins around the same time as Halloween, the two are quite different.

"El Dia de los Muertos" is Spanish for The Day of the Dead. This holiday has been around

for many, many years. It was created as a way for Latinos to honor the deceased.

Day of the Dead is celebrated every year on Nov. 1-2.

In preparation for this day, food, altars, flowers, skeletons, masks, candles and other decorations are made.

Masks are made with bright colors and scary features to frighten the spirits of the dead into going back where they

came from. Sometimes masks can be made to honor a loved one who has died.

Candles are used to decorate the altars or as decorations around the house. They too are decorated with bright colors and patterns.

Marigolds are the flowers most commonly used on this holiday. They are farmed and harvested every year around October and November. People use them

to decorate altars and to give as offerings to spirits.

Seventh-graders from Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) decided to study this holiday and push for deeper understanding of its celebrations by creating many projects.

One class was separated into five different groups: altars, skeletons, food and candles, flow-

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Disabled man beaten into a coma

A mentally disabled man was transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass on Monday, Nov. 3, where he remains unconscious after being repeatedly kicked in the head by two men.

According to an Oregon State Police news release, a trooper discovered Paul Barnard of Williams unconscious in Williams. During an investigation it was learned that property was also taken from him while he was unconscious.

Damien Paul Karbowski, 19, and Zachariah Morgan Kain, 20, of Williams were charged with first-degree assault in connection with the beating.

Chamber will feature area gems at auction

Dinner for two and overnight lodging at Oregon Caves Chateau.

One-hour massages by Rachel Goodman, licensed massage therapist.

A huge stuffed bear from Evergreen Federal Bank.

And beer and wine-tasting courtesy of Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co., and Foris Vineyards of Illinois Valley.

Those are just a sample of auction items and happenings during the open-to-all 16th annual Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Big Bash Auction & Mixer on Friday, Nov. 7 in Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co.

The mixer and beverage-tasting will begin at 6 p.m. The auction will kick off at 7 p.m. with Jim Frick of Century 21 Harris & Taylor again seeking bids and adding his sense of humor to the proceedings. Head clerk again will be Anna Swett of Anna's

Attic and One-Horse Auction.

Anyone can attend the auction. Many items of merchandise and gift certificates will be available.

Each year, the chamber's largest fund-raiser for its community activities and tourism-related work results in plenty of bargains.

"It's always an enjoyable evening with plenty of fun and friendship," said a chamber member. Other items include:

Dinner for two at Carlos Restaurante, gift certificates from Elmer's in Grants Pass, \$25 credit at the Grants Pass Wal-Mart, overnight lodging at Erin Lodge, wine from Bridgeview Vineyards Winery, a wrist watch from the city of Cave Junction, and gift subscriptions from "Illinois Valley News."

Many other items and certificates will be on the block; they're too numerous to mention here.

Chamber seeks four members for its board

Four positions need to be filled on the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Directors were advised by Dulcie Moore, office manager, during their meeting in Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Terms will expire at the end of this year for Terri Smith (Northwest Hairlines), now serving as board president; Vice President Ted Crocker (Ted Crocker LTC), and Directors Kim Kemper (Lancaster Rolling Video)

and Kyle Kirchner (former I.V. fire chief).

The latter two resigned on Oct. 18 and July 17 respectively.

A nominating committee was formed. Members are Crocker, Pat Dees (Klamath First Bank), Martin San (Cave Junction Lions Club), and Jana Fincher (Fincher Farms).

Those interested in serving on the board, which "needs new blood and people who will work to promote the community through the chamber," can

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TRICKS AND TREATS -- Hundreds of Illinois Valley children and adults turned out for Evergreen Elementary School's annual Harvest Festival on Thursday, Oct. 30. The festivities included games, food, and a silent auction. Fifth-grader Hailee Parker (left) takes a bite out of an apple on a string. Fourth-grader Danielle LaVassaur (top) races Annie Norton from I.V. Boys & Girls Club in a pumpkin roll. Sydney Bailey, 2, (above) holds a game ticket while wearing her ladybug costume. (Photos by Britt Fairchild)



TASTE OF WINTER -- Hay's Hill and parts of Illinois Valley were dusted with snow Tuesday, Nov. 4, making for wet travels on Redwood Hwy. This 'snapshot' was posted on the 'road cam' section of the Oregon Dept. of Transportation's Web site at www.tripcheck.com. Check 'Weather Watch' on page 4 for the week's forecast.



PUMPKIN LAUNCH -- Wayne McHugh, Duke Scott and George Middel (above) prepare their mechanical pumpkin launcher during the Great Pumpkin Toss at Illinois Valley High School on Wednesday, Oct. 29. Brent McCaslin (right) chose to use a rope to launch his pumpkin. Related photos on page 13.

(Photos by Steve Fairchild)

