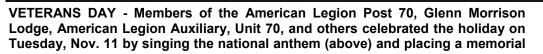
Honoring heroes near, far and wide





wreath at Cave Junction City Hall (right). Other activities included a flag presentation at Illinois Valley High School on Monday, Nov. 10 and a flag-folding ceremony at Community Christian Academy on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

(Photos by Steve

MERICAN LEGI ED AMERICA

JoCo unemployment rate falls during September

Unemployment in Josephine County declined to 7.9 percent during September from August's 8.3 percent, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

September marked the first time during 2003 that the county's unemployment rate fell below 8 percent, the agency reported.

OED reported that 28,642 persons were employed in the county during September vs. 28,327 during the same month a year ago, a difference of

315. However, total nonfarm employment grew by 340 jobs last month. Through last month, job counts have fallen slightly, down by 90 payroll jobs, said OED.

OED said the health care and social assistance category posted a strong monthly gain of 120 in Josephine County to reach 3,150 jobs, the highest level since April 2002. But 110 jobs were lost in the leisure and hospitality

Forest Counties Payments bill needs Senate approval

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation introduced by Congressman Greg Walden (R-Hood River) and Peter De-Fazio (D-Springfield) to reauthorize the Forest Counties Payments Com30, 2007 when the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (County Payments Act) is set to expire.

This legislation was passed by Congress to provide revenue for schools and roads to communities (tourism) category.

Government employment, bolstered by a gain of 280 local education jobs, rose by 320 during the month. Total government employment is down by 340 through the year with losses in federal and state government, along with local government education jobs, OED noted.

Through the year, the county unemployment rate has risen by nearly 1 percent. Manufacturing em-

Bush OKs cuts in Iraq funding legislation

President Bush signed into law the Iraq supplemental spending bill, which retained \$1.86 billion of cuts in wasteful spending proposed by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). An amendment by Wyden and Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) cut this spending and included a \$200 million reduction in the president's \$900 million request to purchase gasoline, diesel and other refined oil products for Iraq, with the goal of selling the gasoline to Iraqis at subsidized prices as low as four cents per gallon. The final legislation cut \$210 million from the fuel spending request. "Taxpayers shouldn't have to subsidize Iraqi gasoline at inflated prices while Oregonians have spent the last few years paying exorbitant prices as the pump," Wyden said. "It's unacceptable to overcharge taxpayers by more than \$200 million for gasoline we're sending to Iraq, and my amendment put a stop to this kind of carelessness with the American people's money," he added.

ployment last month was little changed during September and has remained virtually level despite a loss of nearly 200 jobs in the wood products sector since September 2002, reported OED.

Wholesale trade employment rose slightly, adding 40 jobs.

Employment in retail trade fell by 50, but has added 240 jobs to the county economy during the past 12 months, reported OED.

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mittee, which was authorized by Congress in 2000.

The committee was established to evaluate the impact of reduced timber receipts on communities located near federal lands and submit recommendations to Congress for compensating communities for diminished timber-related revenues.

The Walden-Defazio legislation would extend the committee until Sept.

located near federal lands. The reauthorization of the committee is necessary to oversee the continued implementation of the County Schools Act.

The Forest Counties Payments Committee is comprised of local government and school officials from across the nation.

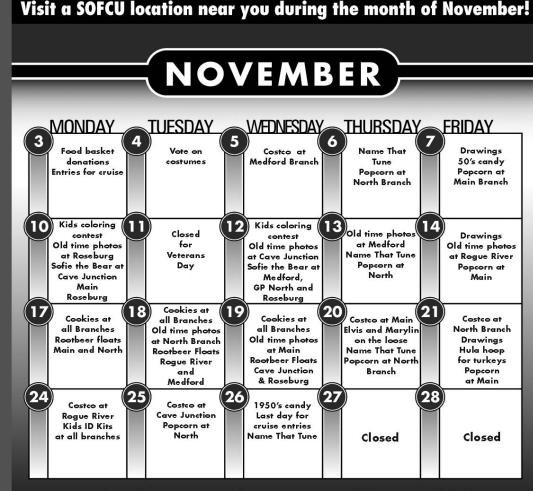
HR 3249 must now be approved by the U.S. Senate before being sent to the President for his consideration.

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The signed bill by President Bush also included \$1.65 billion in funding cuts requested by Wyden.

Language in the final report accompanying the legislation details cost savings on various projects for Iraq, including the procurement of trash trucks, development of business education courses, zip code and 911 projects, housing projects and a \$400 million savings on the construction of two

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