

JoCo jobs rise, but gas prices a downer

Unemployment in Josephine County dropped to 7.4 percent during April vs. 8.6 percent in March.

However, there is some concern that “the specter of gas prices that are breaking records looms large in the minds of businesses that rely on auto-traveling tourists this summer.”

And, added Oregon Employment Dept. (OED), that means that 30,245 persons were employed. Also, the rate in April 2003 was 10 percent, when 2,407 persons were unemployed.

This April, the county’s total nonfarm employment rose by 2010, bolstered by seasonal increases in construction (+40), natural resources and mining (+40), and leisure and hospitality (+90).

“The long decline in wood products manufacturing employment appears to be ebbing a bit,” said OED. “After reaching an employment trough of 560 in May 2003, employment now stands at nearly 700 in this once-dominant component of the county’s manufacturing sector.

“Strong demand for wood products, and soaring panel prices for plywood and other wood products have been a benefit for this industry.”

Retail trade added 30 jobs during April, and has risen by 150 since April last year. Health and social services showed little change in job counts, but employment has increased by 120 during the past year, said OED.

Employment in the county’s government sector dropped by 50 during April. The loss was offset by a gain of 10 in federal government jobs.

Through the year, said OED, government employment has decreased by 140, with a drop of 120 in local education employment “accounting for most of the decline.”

For April, OED reported that Jackson County had an unemployment rate of 6.4 percent, down from 8 percent in April 2003.

The Oregon seasonally adjusted rate is 6.7 percent; and the U.S. seasonally adjusted rate is 5.6 percent.

This Memorial Day:
*Be fire safe
*Be a safe driver
*Be careful in water
*Don’t drink and drive
*Buckle up
*And honor our military veterans

Ten minutes with ...



... Rick Hornsby, former Laidlaw bus driver, who transported Illinois Valley High School students.

Are you originally from here?

No, I was born south of Chicago, Ill., in Fair Berry. It’s just a little spot in the wall; bigger than Cave Junction though. I lived there until I was 18, then came here; I’ve been here close to 20 years. My mother was from Medford, and my father was from Illinois; they met at the Civil Conservation Corps in White City. My great-great-grandfather has an Indian uniform in the Jacksonville museum; they called him Little Whitebobber, and my grandfather was a trapper for Oregon.

Is Cave Junction much different from your hometown?

This is the Illinois Valley, and I’m from Illinois; and the school colors are red and white, so I feel at home. It’s like little Chicago, on a smaller scale. In Chicago, people have their own little cliques, and they got ‘em here too; if you don’t belong to one, you don’t belong. I like the seclusion here. Although Cave Junction is getting too big for me.

Do you live and work in Cave Junction?

I used to be a school bus driver for the high school for 17 years, but I’ve been retired for five years now. I have two brothers and one sister, Ginger, who drives a school bus for IVHS now. I live with my cousin, Marsha Hornsby. I hadn’t seen here in over 33 years, and she found me on the Internet and called me. After coming for a visit, she liked it so much here, she sold her home and moved here.

What’s the most unusual thing you’ve seen while living in Illinois Valley?

That’s a tough one; some of them I can’t talk about. In Wilderville, when I was 21, we’d gone out back to cook some bacon. And something was on the other side of the creek over there. The dogs were going underneath the house, tails between their legs; I could see some eyes going back and forth walking and looking at me from across the creek. I was in laying down later one night, and the whole house shook. I went outside and this thing was standing there, covered in hair, at least eight feet tall.

I took out my .22-caliber rifle and put 15 shots in his belly. It grunted every time, then turned around and ran. I called the sheriff’s office. There were 4-inch trees ripped out of the ground. I remember them talking about Big Foot at the time. Two weeks later, in the Grants Pass paper, it said a team had tracked Big Foot to the Wilderville area two weeks prior to that; and that’s about when it happened.

What do you do for fun?

Well, I used to play in a band; well, I was in several of them. The last one was mine, “Unlikely.” People used to come up to me and say that was an unlikely name for a band. I started playing music when I was 8 years old in bars. Of course, one of my parents had to be in there with me. My brother was a musician, and my mother played the fiddle. I liked to play rock and roll, but now that I’m older I prefer country. I liked playing drums. Ginger Baker, the drummer for “Cream,” was one of my favorite styles to follow. I met him over 25 years ago; he played with Eric Clapton.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Vanilla. There are so many toppings out there that you can turn it into anything you want. Of all the toppings, I like vanilla with a hard shell of caramel on it.

~Interview and Photo by Shane Welsh

Tell them you saw it in the ‘Illinois Valley News’

More Blotter ...

(Continued from page 15)

*When a man near O’Brien recovered his reported stolen car, it had sustained minor damage, he said.

*Although “people playing with a phone” was the initial reason given for a 911 hang-up call from Mona Way, there was a verbal disturbance, but no crime, a deputy noted.

*For some reason a Lifeline alarm was given on Rockydale Road, but neither problem nor person were located.

*In Selma a man was warned for illegal passing on the left.

*Kelly Marie Kennedy, 44, was cited on a charge of DWS on Westside Road. Her vehicle was impounded.

*No crime was located in Kerby following some sort of problem, but there was a notation of an emotionally disturbed person.

*Some fool dialed 911 from a public telephone at Redwood Hwy. and Lister Street for no good reason.

*On Takilma Road a man with cancer, contemplating suicide, agreed to being taken for help under an officer’s mental hold.

*People involved in a traffic accident apparently went to fists, then left, in Selma at 8:15 p.m.

*On Redwood Hwy. at Deer Creek Road, a man said, young people threw something from their car toward his car as they passed at 8:26 p.m.

*A woman was cautioned about speeding on Rockydale Road at Nolan Road.

*Following a report of a fight outside a CJ business, Robert J. Myers, 33, was arrested on a charge of fourth-degree assault.

*Three guns were checked after a traffic stop in Downtown CJ at 9:40 p.m., and it was noted that the driver was “suffering” from defective equipment.

*“Unknown reason” was listed as the cause for an alarm at 10:48 p.m. at Oregon Mt. Real Estate.

Saturday, May 8

*Jerry L. Tibbs, 44, was cited on Waldo Road at 23 past midnight on charges of first-degree DWS, driving uninsured and failure to signal for a turn. He was warned for switched license plates and a defective rear light.

*A young woman was warned frankly for speed-

ing on Caves Hwy. at Dogwood Lane at 1:08 a.m.

*People in Kerby heard a crashing noise inside a residence, and then a dog barked for an hour. No problem was located.

*Another young woman was warned about speeding, and a white light to the rear, at 1:49 a.m. on Redwood Hwy. at Ken Rose Lane.

*Kevin Rasmussen, 21, was cited on a DUII charge, and warned for no insurance and failing to maintain lane at 2:14 a.m. near 1300 Caves Hwy. A small quantity of marijuana was confiscated. His vehicle was impounded.

*Various other drivers today and during other days in this report were warned or cited for a num-

ber of infractions.

*Derrick Hood, 16, was lodged at the Juvenile Justice Center in Grants Pass in connection with being a suspect for third-degree robbery, third-degree theft, and first-degree criminal trespass.

*The possibility of people using a truck to steal stuff was checked at 12:14 p.m. in the 30900 block of Redwood Hwy.

*Despite a report of an unconscious transient along Downtown CJ’s main street at 2:50 p.m., neither medics nor deputies could locate the man.

*Three men were said to be causing a disturbance at “Forks” State Park, but only two were there when a deputy arrived, and they denied any bad moves.



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*I.V. Branch - Dept. of Human Services, Self Sufficiency	*Oregon Caves National Monument
*Ready, Set, Go!	*Pacifica
*Project Baby Check	*Dome School
*Early Head Start	*College Dreams
*Child’s Play	*JoCo Early Intervention
*Wildlife Images	*Lion’s Club
*Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon	*Honey Bee Choir
*Audubon Society	*Friends
*KSYS - Oregon Public Broadcasting	*Bill Hunt
*JoCo Health Dept.	*Sheriff Dave Daniel
*Shining Stars	*Dan Fiske, DVM
	*Siskiyou Field Institute
	*Siskiyou Community Health Center



DILLON'S NURSERY GARDEN AND CENTER
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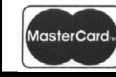
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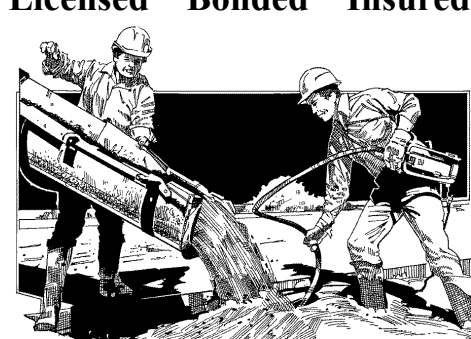
Congratulations to Donald Lennen. Winner of the earthworm farm from our Earthworm Composting Workshop.

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THURSDAY, MAY 27
*State track at Eugene
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FRIDAY, MAY 28
*State track at Eugene
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*Seniors' last day
SATURDAY, MAY 29
*State track at Eugene
TBA
MONDAY, MAY 31
*Memorial Day
no classes
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2
*I.V. Graduation
mandatory rehearsal
1 to 3 p.m.