

JOINT ...

(Continued from page 1)

-proximately 200 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition, a .45-caliber Thompson submachine gun, a dismantled military M60 machine gun with ammunition, a "Street Sweeper" semiautomatic 12-gauge shotgun, two 9mm Uzi weapons, and several SKS assault rifles and handguns.

Thirty-three weapons seized at the Lower River Road sites included assault rifles, shotguns and several handguns, said Selig.

Also at those sites, officers found 218 marijuana plants, and approximately five pounds of processed marijuana.

At the Stewart Road address, officers seized 3,449 pot plants and about 60 pounds of processed marijuana.

Selig said that the low street value of the 60 pounds is \$180,000.

Also seized was a total of \$110,000 cash including \$50,000 in a safe.

Property tax bill deadline, data outlined

Josephine County property tax statements were mailed to property owners on Friday, Oct. 22, said the county tax and assessor's offices.

The total assessed value (AV) of all taxable property in Josephine County has increased 5.8 percent from 2003. As of Jan. 1, 2004 the taxable total value has risen to \$4,481,076,323.

The total taxable AV in 2003 was \$4,234,020,736, which was a 5.3 increase from 2002, when the total taxable AV was \$4,020,453,842.

*The city of Cave Junction's taxable AV is up 6.54 percent.

*Values in Three Rivers School District grew at a rate of 5.44 percent.

*Grants Pass city taxable AV rose 9.02 percent.

*Values in Grants Pass School District 7 grew at 6.33 percent.

Total tax levies, assessments and fees imposed countywide this year total \$42,795,897.41 -- a 6.73 percent increase from last year. This compares with \$39,914,918.15 for 2003, which was a 2.55 percent rise from the 2002 amount of \$38,921,169.58.

The market value (as defined by Measure 5) of taxable property increased throughout the county.

Total market value for 2002 was \$4,803,016,923; for 2003 it was \$5,478,748,706; and for 2004 it increased to \$6,502,743,771, approximately a 19 percent rise.

3 Percent Discount Offered to Nov. 15

If property tax bills are paid in full by the Nov. 15 due date, there is a 3 percent discount.

To receive the 3 percent discount, payments must be postmarked on or before Monday, Nov. 15.

Taxes also can be paid in three installments due Nov. 15, 2004; and Feb. 15 and May 16, 2005.

Taxpayers are encouraged by the tax and assessor's offices to pay early

(Continued on page 9)

Schroeter busy in many endeavors

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

One young Illinois Valley woman doesn't have the typical 9-to-5 workday.

Not only is she a single mom of two girls, but also a fitness instructor, a volunteer, a housecleaner, a writer, and immediate past-president of The Shining Stars, an organization she helped form.

Plus she's a skilled belly-dancer.

Meet Crystal Schroeter.

Between family, work and volunteering, Schroeter's day starts at sun-up and ends at sundown. It's amazing that she has any time left to gather her thoughts, but she said that she "takes it all in stride."

"I have one of those Type-A personalities," she said. "I'm a driven person. I don't think too much about it, I just do it."

While she may "occasionally get down," it doesn't stall her for long. Schroeter claims it was her upbringing that has led her to volunteer for her community time after time.

According to Schroeter, she and her sister were raised as members of Job's Daughters, an organization for girls from 11 to 18 who have a family member involved with the Masons.

In addition, also in Springfield, Ore., she was a member of Rainbow Girls, in which she served as a worthy adviser.

"We were raised to believe in philanthropic work; to volunteer and not get paid," Schroeter said.

"When you spend your life working for other people, you just naturally fall into the category of volunteering," she said.

"Growing up, we worked all the time raising money for other organizations," Schroeter said.

Now that she's older, she's still involved raising money for other charitable causes. Currently, she is vice president of The Shining Stars, a not-for-profit

organization designed to benefit local children.

"I spend a minimum of 10 hours a week volunteering for The Shining Stars, and around festival time it's 50 hours a week," Schroeter said. The group has held consecutive festivals in the past three years.

Besides The Shining Stars, Schroeter volunteers in her daughters' classrooms a few hours a week at Evergreen Elementary School. Also, she was recently approached by faculty at Lorna Byrne Middle School to volunteer her

'I'm a driven person. I don't think too much about it, I just do it.'

time for a new after-school recreation program for sixth-graders.

"I'm kind of known around the valley as a big exerciser," Schroeter said.

In fact, Schroeter spends 30 hours a week exercising as a fitness instructor at Curves in Cave Junction.

"I can't stay up too late, she said. "I'm beat because I'm literally running around all week."

In her "spare time," Schroeter, a new home owner, finds time to remodel her residence that sits on 5 acres.

"I just bought some property and fixed up the mobile because it was kind of ramshackly, but it's fine now, Schroeter exclaimed. "It's really exciting being a property owner."

She has lived in the valley since 1993.

"I moved to the valley to raise my family," she explained. "It's a beautiful place to raise a family."

Schroeter was born and raised in Eugene, Ore., but moved once the population began soaring.

"I'm kind of like the webbed-foot, rust-back Oregonian," she said. "I've been to many other places, and I've always known that I would come back."

Since she's been back, she has hit the ground run-

ning and hasn't stopped.

Besides everything Schroeter does, she still finds time to clean a couple of houses every week, deal with ad and subscription services for "Illinois Valley News," and writes an occasional article.

"I write when I have time," she said. "It keeps my mind sharp. I do a lot of work for The Shining Stars, like writing grants and stuff like that, so I'm kind of self-taught, I guess."

"I'm always learning something new and working with computers, so it keeps me up on stuff."

Going full-throttle, Schroeter has no plans of slowing down soon.

"I'm going to sit on a couple of committees this year as well," she said.

The act of balancing a busy lifestyle and raising a family makes Schroeter an excellent role model to her two young girls, Radiane and Aurora.

"Women carry the weight of the world on their shoulders, so I have to raise my girls to be strong," she said. "I've got a pretty big plate, but I've also got some very broad shoulders," she concluded.

Wilderness addition pondered

A resolution opposing designation of an additional 64,000 acres of Siskiyou National Forest as Wilderness was on the agenda for Josephine County commissioners.

The matter was to be considered during the board's meeting in Grants Pass on Wednesday morning, Oct. 27, according to information received Monday, Oct. 25.

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Ballots for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 election can be placed in the ballot box in Cave Junction City Hall until 8 p.m. Nov. 2, and will be counted.

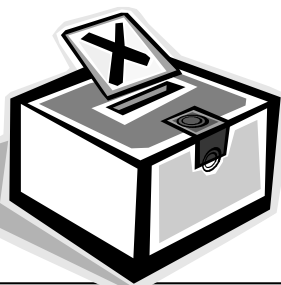
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