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Tree lighting set Dec. 11 by chamber

Saturday, Dec. 11 is set for the annual lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on the lot between Junction Inn and Pizza Pit.

The event, sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, will run from 3 to 5 p.m.

There will be free candy canes, and music with T. Lund and student choir members. There also will be caroling. Watch next week's issue for details.

Biscuit cash looks short

Timber salvaged from the 2002 Biscuit Fire is selling at lower prices than expected, meaning that the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest could net less money for rehabilitation projects, according to The Associated Press.

The AP further noted the following:

It also means that the salvage and restoration project will not reach the size predicted in July, when environmentalists criticized the Bush Administration for the largest federal timber sale in recent history.

In July the U.S. Forest Service announced that it would sell 372 million board feet of timber killed during the Biscuit Fire. The proposed sale was projected

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Following are the high and low temperatures as recorded by Cheryl and Harry Johnson in O'Brien:

- *Friday, Nov. 19, 47-36.
- *Saturday, Nov. 20, 46-33.
- *Sunday, Nov. 21, 50-28.
- *Monday, Nov. 22, 51-27.
- *Tuesday, Nov. 23, 51-31.
- *Wednesday, Nov. 24, 52-33.
- *Thursday, Nov. 25, 56-47, and (.39 inches of rain).

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

- Wednesday, Dec. 1**
Sunny and cold
High--43, Low--22.
- Thursday, Dec. 2**
Partly sunny
High--45, Low--21.
- Friday, Dec. 3**
Cool and sunny
High--45, Low--27.
- Saturday, Dec. 4**
Rain and snow mix
High--43, Low--27.
- Sunday, Dec. 5**
Rain and snow mix
High--42, Low--31.
- Monday, Dec. 6**
Possible showers
High--47, Low--26.
- Tuesday, Dec. 7**
Rain with morning ice
High--45, Low--29.



REDWOOD HWY./LAUREL ROAD MISHAP - The four flashing amber lights at the intersection of Hwy. 199 and Laurel Road on the north side of Cave Junction were lowered unexpectedly at approximately 3:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29. A Bronco driven by O'Brien resident Mike Palmer, 62, struck a utility pole, breaking it off at the base and causing electrical and support cables to drop, said Oregon State Police. The agency said that Palmer, who was reported to be uninjured, was southbound when he apparently reached to get something off the floor of his vehicle. OSP added that he veered off the road and traveled approximately 250 feet before striking the pole. Palmer



was cited on a charge of careless driving. Illinois Valley Fire District, Pacific Power, and Oregon Dept. of Transportation responded to the accident. Traffic was limited to intermittent one-way travel until the damage was repaired. A street sign was knocked over as well, and Palmer's vehicle incurred damage to its right-front.

City acts to accommodate Measure 37

Declaring an emergency due to the impending effective date of Measure 37, the Cave Junction City Council Monday night, Nov. 22 heard and approved an ordinance providing procedures for processing real property compensation claims.

According to a summary provided by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), Measure 37, approved by voters Nov. 2, authorizes a property owner

to file a claim against a government that enacts or enforces certain types of land use regulations, if the restrictions reduce the use of private real property and if the restriction reduces the value of the property.

All governmental agencies within Oregon must have procedures in place to process claims before the law takes effect on Thursday, Dec. 2.

Cave Junction took its

cue from information provided by LOC, compiled by a bevy of attorneys.

Although it is unclear if Measure 37 allows for it, the ordinance approved 5-0 includes a section which allows the city to recoup processing costs, including the cost of staff and legal counsel, by presenting the claimant/property owner a bill following final action on the claim by the city.

-Michelle Binker

CJ cop notes advance against transients

Appearing before the Cave Junction City Council for the first time since he was assigned to the CJ beat, Josephine County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ray Webb summarized a statistical report on crime in the city during October.

During the Monday night, Nov. 22 meeting in city hall, Webb noted that the total number of incidents is down from the month

prior, with highly significant reductions in property and "person-on-person" crimes.

However, traffic incidents, stops and contacts were up 22 percent from the month prior, Webb reported.

The deputy also indicated that he was "networking with the Narcotics Taskforce in the fight against drug dealers and trafficking."

Concerning transient

persons who have been causing trouble while intoxicated or trespassing, Webb mentioned steps taken which will allow deputies to remove unwanted campers from certain properties.

Webb also mentioned a case in which the city's public intoxication ordinance, a non-standard rule under Oregon law, appears to have survived a legal hurdle.

-Michelle Binker

New 'first bridge' needs city water adjustments

Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) will replace a bridge on Hwy. 199 which crosses the East Fork of the Illinois River on the south side of the city of Cave Junction.

The city council is required to come up with a plan for relocating a water service line, which runs un-

der "first bridge," to customers south of the river, outside city limits.

And it is rapidly running out of time, as it has promised ODOT the work will be completed by April 1, 2005.

The city is required to disconnect and relocate the line slung beneath the exist-

ing bridge before work on the new one begins.

The city is exploring options for providing drinking water to affected customers, including Illinois River "Forks" State Park, south of the bridge. One option would reactivate the Rockydale well field.

-Michelle Binker

School district website offers numerous links

Three Rivers School District has initiated its own website to provide Josephine County residents access to a wealth of data.

Information is available at threerivers.k12.or.us.

The site features links to each district school. E-mail addresses of teachers, meeting schedules, activity calendars and other information also are available.

The district worked

with Project A in Ashland to develop the site. The fee was \$4,000 and it will cost \$1,000 annually to maintain. The district said is a bargain overall, as doing it in-house would have cost more.

OSP notes holiday stats

A reduction in traffic crashes, fewer fatalities and a drop in arrests for driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUI) during the Thanksgiving holiday period was reported by Oregon State Police.

During the period from Wednesday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 28, four persons died in three crashes. Last year, six died in three crashes, OSP said.

DUII arrests by troopers decreased to 58 vs. 80 last year. Statewide, troopers responded to 450 crashes vs. 512 last year.

County payroll jobs up, but jobless rate at 7.3%

Payroll employment in Josephine County increased by 80 jobs during October, with losses in leisure and hospitality more than offset by hiring in the local government education sector, according to Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

Josephine County's unemployment rate was unchanged from September, at 7.3 percent in October. There were 2,360 estimated as unemployed in the county's civilian labor force of 32,400.

The Jackson County unemployment rate during October was 5.6 percent.

There was little change in most of Josephine County's industry sectors in October. Slight declines were reported in construction (-10), manufacturing (-10), retail trade (-20), and federal government (-10).

Wholesale trade, which added 20 jobs in October, was the only published industry sector to add employment other than local government education (+220). The largest over-the-month decline occurred in leisure and hospitality, which fell by 90 jobs, said OED.

During the past 12 months nearly all industries in the county have added jobs. The only exceptions were food and beverage stores, leisure and hospitality, other services, and government, OED said.

Construction employment has risen by more than 100 jobs since October 2003. Building permit data published by the Census Bureau bodes well for future strength in the county's construction sector, said OED.

New housing units throughout the county indicate a strong situation for the construction industry.

Through September 2004, permits were issued for 603 total housing units in Josephine County. Through September 2003, 432 total unit permits were issued in Josephine County. Building permit data is a good indicator of future building and employment demand for this sector.

Preliminary population estimates recently released from Portland State University's Population Research Center show Josephine County's population at 78,600, as of July 1, 2004, up 3.8 percent since the census on April 1, 2000.

Other sectors showing employment growth during the past year include manufacturing (+250), wholesale trade (+80), retail trade (+50), financial activities (+50), professional and business services (+60), and educational and health services (+60).

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'THREE PIGS: A Comic Tale With a Twist' will be presented by the Dell' Arte Company from Blue Lake, Calif. on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. from Lorna Byrne Middle School. The production will feature an ensemble of 10 'physical comic actors' playing an array of musical instruments in a new look at the classic story of 'The Three Little Pigs.' There is an admission fee for adults; all youth will be admitted free. (Photo provided)