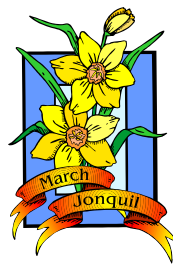


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Coug girls in playoff for state

A state girls basketball playoff game will be hosted at Illinois Valley High School Saturday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in Ken Mann Memorial Gym.

Because it is a state game, the admission charge will be \$6 for adults; \$4 for students, said IVHS.

"We hope that many members of the community come to watch the game and support our girls team," said Janie Pope, athletic activities director.

Illinois Valley varsity girls basketball team staked a claim for a Skyline Conference title by demolishing Mazama 66-39 Tuesday night, Feb. 22 at Klamath Falls.

The 10th-ranked Cougars finished regular season play at 10-2. Phoenix has an identical record. I.V. has a 19-5 overall mark for the season.

In the Skyline, Henley, Hidden Valley and North Valley follow, each with 6-6 marks.

The IVHS girls are seeded tops for the Class 3-A state playoffs because they beat North Valley, in its three-way tie for third.

On Saturday, the Cougars will host the winner of the game Tuesday night, March 1 between the Far West League's third-place team and the Sky-Em's number-two team.

Against Mazama, I.V.'s Sheena Cole dumped in 22 points. She also is the top scorer in the Skyline.

Cole was aided in the Cougar victory by teammates Sarah Houston and Emily Dudley, who contributed 17 and 15 points respectively.

Houston also turned in 11 boards; Cole and Dudley were good for five each. Also, Dudley stole the ball three times.

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Mar. 2

Variable sunshine,
Showers possible late
High--55, Low--36.



Thursday, Mar. 3

Mostly cloudy,
Chance of rain late
High--54, Low--42.



Friday, Mar. 4

Possible showers,
Cloudy evening
High--61, Low--39.



Saturday, Mar. 5

Partly sunny,
Chilly evening
High--62, Low--35.



Sunday, Mar. 6

Mostly sunny,
Evening cooling
High--62, Low--35.



Monday, Mar. 7

Variable sunshine,
Clouds clearing
High--63, Low--40.



Tuesday, Mar. 8

Mostly sunny,
Mild evening
High--66, Low--43.



TREE TIME - Forestry Action Committee and Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District co-sponsored the annual Tree-Planting Day on Saturday, Feb. 26. Efforts were concentrated at 'Forks' State Park, which was damaged by fire last year. (In top photo, from left) Ben Milner, 11, of Boy Scout Troop 79, Ginger Nordal, and Lander Nordal, 9, were among some 200 volunteers. (At left) Brian Bemis, 8, of Pack 79, and his dad, Steve, helped plant seedlings provided by BLM. (Bottom photo) Many members of Middle Rogue Steelheaders and Southern Oregon Fly Fishermen turned out for the annual event.



PLANTING SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE - It's not too late to be a tree-planting sponsor, said Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District. Information is available by phoning 592-3731 or send contributions to P.O. Box 352 Cave Junction.

Dillon's Nursery a growing grounds

By **CHRISTINA HILL**
Correspondent

Heavy clouds may still be over the valley, but according to Paul and Shannon Dillon, co-owners of Dillon's Nursery & Garden Center, wet weather shouldn't stop anyone from completing some yard work.

"People don't think about doing a lot of outside stuff right now, but actually winter months are a great time to plant trees and shrubs," said Paul. "They can handle it because they're already out there (in the weather)," he said.

"And if you put them in the ground now," he

added, "the rain will settle them in, and by the time they wake up when spring comes, they're ready to grow. It's better than plant-

ing on the edge of heat and suffering from drought."

The Dillons are entering their fourth year of

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PAUL and SHANNON DILLON (Photo by Christina Hill)

More taxes not needed as state economy rises, says Speaker Minnis

Additional revenue being created by Oregon's improving economy means that the Legislature has enough resources to craft a responsible budget and increased taxes are not needed, said House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village).

"We have an additional \$202 million over our last revenue forecast," Minnis said last week. "This is more than a 9 percent increase over last biennium.

"If there was ever a question about raising taxes, this should put an absolute end to those discussions. Oregon does not need higher taxes, and Oregonians will not accept them."

Oregonians rejected higher taxes when asked on Ballot Measure 28 in January 2003, and they said "No" by an even greater margin in February 2004, Minnis said.

"Raising taxes would only jeopardize our economic recovery and increase the burden of government on Oregon families and businesses when many of them are just starting to get back on their feet," Minnis said.

"We have the resources we need to build a responsible budget," she concluded.

I.V. Lions, Boys & Girls Club gain use of Jubilee

Two organization requests for Jubilee Park use, both for Illinois Valley youth, were approved 4-0 by the Cave Junction City Council during its meeting in city hall Monday night, Feb. 28.

One request, by letter, was from Illinois Valley Lions Club for its annual Easter Egg hunt. It will be held Easter Sunday, March 27. There was no mention of a use fee.

The other request was by Scott Thornhill, director of the I.V. section of the Boys & Girls Club. He asked the council for use of the park pavilion, including the kitchen area, from June 20 to Aug. 19 Mondays through Fridays.

At his request the council waived the \$20-per-day use fee. But Mayor Tony Paulson urged Thornhill to budget for it next year.

"It would really help

us," said the mayor.

In his request, Thornhill said that the club performs public service work such as picking up trash, reporting vandalism and those responsible, and supervising the park during the day.

Councilman Margaret Miller noted that the club's presence could help reduce incidents of drinking and other illegal activities in the park.

Thornhill agreed, saying that he and staff in the past have told certain persons that their behavior needs to be curtailed when children are present.

During the past two years the club has used Evergreen Elementary School and Lorna Byrne Middle School for its program. But Thornhill believes that attendance will rise with the program at the park.

Councilman Rita Dyer was absent Monday night.

Hval new CJ postmaster

Lynne Hval, new postmaster at the Cave Junction Post Office, feels that she's come home.

Not only does the nearly 18-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service want to retire in Illinois Valley, she also wants to make the post office "homey and wonderful."

Hval (pronounced "all" with a "V" in front), most recently was carrier supervisor at Kenton Station in North Portland, where she spent three years.

She began her postal career in Beaverton, Ore., where she worked for eight years. She then went to Kalispell, Mont., and worked for about seven years.

"It was snowy," she said, in tongue-in-cheek understatement. She began as a clerk, and then entered supervision as carrier supervisor.

"I'm happy to be in Cave Junction," she said. "I've found a home here, and I want to retire here."

She said that she likes small towns, and that having the rivers, trees and mountains make her feel good. She noted that as a young-



LYNNE HVAL

ster she and her family did a lot of rafting, and she wants to get back to some of that.

"I'm not a big city person; I like country," said the new postmaster. She replaces Dan Blau, who came in after longtime Postmaster Bob Richardson retired, but left the job and took early retirement.

"Bob is a God-send," said Hval. "He's come in to help me get started and has provided a world of information."

She also praised the CJ Post Office staff, saying that, "They are wonderful and make this post office what it is.

"I'm also a hard

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