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Illinois Valley News

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Easter specials, greetings on pages 9 and throughout.



TOP FIREFIGHTER - Many Smiles, of Illinois Valley Fire District's Cave Junction Station, received the 2004 Firefighter of the Year award during the annual awards banquet at Illinois Valley High School Saturday night, March 19. She is the fourth consecutive woman firefighter to win the award. See page 8 for additional award winners.

Here are the high and low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded by O'Brien residents Cheryl & Harry Johnson:
*Fri., March 11, 74-38
*Sat., March 12, 75-39
*Sun., March 13, 71-45
*Mon., March 14, 68-36
*Tues., March 15, 70-28
*Wed., March 16, 59-38
*Th., March 17, 63-44, T
*Fri. March 18, 69-39, T.
*Sat., March 19, 56-41, 2.08.
*Sun., March 20, 48-41, 2.05.

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, March 23
Scattered showers, Rain increasing late
High--51, Low--33.

Thursday, March 24
Moderate rainfall, Evening showers
High--51, Low--34.

Friday, March 25
Mostly cloudy, Chance of rain late
High--52, Low--37.

Saturday, March 26
Variable rainfall, Mild evening
High--52, Low--43.

Sunday, March 27
Rain increasing, Continuing late
High--57, Low--41.

Monday, March 28
More of the wet stuff, Mostly cloudy evening
High--59, Low--40.

Tuesday, March 29
Scattered showers, Light evening rain
High--59, Low--40.

IVFD looks at beefing up burn permit ordinance

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

"The number of illegal open burns we've responded to since the first of this year is astounding."

As a result, said Chief Harry Rich, of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), he and Jerry Schaeffer, fire marshal, are working on a

new burning permit that will go along with IVFD ordinance 03-01.

In the event a citation is warranted by IVFD, the district will charge a minimum of \$250, or the cost of suppression (whichever is greater) for illegal open burns.

Rich commented during

a board meeting Thursday night, March 17 at IVFD Administrative HQ.

Rich explained, "People are burning trash, tires, furniture; they're burning everything you can imagine. They really don't realize that the smell is pungent and very distinctive.

"We've been going out

at all hours of the day and night on these illegal open burns. Gentlemen, we're done," he said.

"The community needs to know that this is a federal air quality safety requirement that they burn safe stuff -- not plastic, garbage, furniture, or tires," he said. Rich added that this causes

significant health risks to the community and environment.

"This fire district is in the business of protecting the community, and that's exactly what we're going to do," said Rich.

"If one of my duty officers finds an illegal open
(Continued on page 4)



MINOR INJURY CRASH - Cave Junction resident Roger W. Brown, 59, was cited by Oregon State Police on a charge of driving under the influence of an intoxicant after a three-vehicle collision at Caves Hwy. and Laurel Road Friday morning, March 18. His blood-alcohol content was .28%, OSP said. He didn't stop at Laurel and his pickup truck struck a northbound van driven by CJ resident Muriel J. Sanford, 64, causing it to hit an empty Laidlaw school bus stopped to make a left turn. The bus was driven by Selma resident Pamela S. Thompson, 52, OSP said. Sanford suffered minor injuries, but her three passengers were unhurt, OSP said.



Protestors cite 'govt. dbl-speak'

By LAUREL SUTHERLIN
(Editor's Note: The writer identifies himself as a project director for the Oxygen Collective, a spokesperson for the Biscuit Alliance, and a board member of the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center).

Don't be fooled by Government Doublespeak, as the Bush Forest Service is working hard to pull the wool over the eyes of the American public.

Scott Conroy's comments ("Illinois Valley News," March 16) claim that a "Conflict Industry" is discrediting the hard work of the honest folks at the U.S. Forest Service.

He makes a compelling case for the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project. Regrettably, it is a well-crafted smoke-screen confusing the issue to conceal gross violations of the public trust on the part of the agency he represents.

The "Conflict Industry" he refers to is actually a dedicated coalition of locals,

(Continued on page 15)



COUGAR PALS from Illinois Valley High School visited their little buddies at Cave Junction Head Start Wednesday, March 16. (Clockwise from top left) Participants included Tyler Wylie with Emma, Jenna Lorenson with Kleya, Kami Culver with Alexis, and Rose Ballard with Madison. (Photos by Dale Sandberg)

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