

Established 1937

# Illinois Valley News



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## Fugitive, meth lab nabbed at CJ residence

Three persons, including a wanted fugitive who tried to fight officers, were arrested on Kerby Avenue in Cave Junction in connection with methamphetamine charges.

In addition, a hazardous chemical waste disposal team had to be called in.

The arrests occurred at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 29 at 220 S. Kerby Ave., said Det. Sgt. Ken Selig, of Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT). Arrested were:

\*Merle "The Squirrel" Leonard Southard, 25, described as a Cave Junction transient.

\*Virgil Daniel Guess, 26, of 220 S. Kerby Ave., where JOINT officers served a search warrant.

\*Meadow Dawn Hilton, 27, of the Kerby address.

Southard was wanted in connection with a Jan. 15 search warrant service on S. Old Stage Road, where JOINT found a meth lab.

On Tuesday he was charged under two previous arrest warrants charging failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance, meth; and new charges of manufacturing, possession and delivery of a controlled substance, meth; and three counts of possession of a precursor substance, meth.

Guess and Hilton each were charged with manufacturing, possession and deliv-

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Following are the high and low temperatures, and rainfall, as recorded by Cheryl and Harry Johnson, of O'Brien.  
Monday, March 28: 48-39, 1.18  
\*Tuesday, March 29: 52-35, 1.07  
\*Wed., March 30: 59-31  
\*Thurs., March 31: 70-33  
\*Fri., April 1: 55-40, .01  
\*Sat., April 2: 54-39  
\*Sun., April 3, 43-33, 1.25

## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

Wednesday, April 6  
Scattered showers,  
Evening clearing  
High--62, Low--38.



Thursday, April 7  
Moderate precipitation,  
Light evening rain  
High--54, Low--36.



Friday, April 8  
Increasing showers,  
Cloudy evening  
High--53, Low--38.



Saturday, April 9  
Mostly moist,  
Light evening rain  
High--55, Low--37.



Sunday, April 10  
Mainly rainy day,  
Evening showers  
High--61, Low--41.



Monday, April 11  
Steady rainfall,  
Showers increasing  
High--57, Low--37.



Tuesday, April 12  
Rain, rain, rain,  
And more rain  
High--57, Low--38.



**ILLINOIS VALLEY LIONS CLUB** held its belated Easter egg hunt Sunday, April 3 in the Jubilee Park pavilion. The annual event was postponed from Easter Sunday due to weather, which didn't cooperate a week later either, but the I.V. Lions still managed to conduct their free, community service project. Chairman Sam Michel said that next year's hunt will be held Easter Sunday no matter what the weather.



## Spring Swing

This week's issue contains a Swing Into Spring special spread on pages 4 and 5. You can find great deals on a number of services and products.

## JoCo jobs up overall at 31,644

With 31,644 people on payrolls, unemployment in Josephine County decreased to 8.5 percent during February compared to 9.54 percent during February 2004, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

The rate in January this year was 8.3 percent. During February this year, payroll employment rose by 140 jobs, according to OED.

During the past 12 months, it noted, the county has added 1,000 jobs to its payrolls.

OED said that during the first quarter, "unemployment rates are typically the highest" because seasonal industries -- such as construction, agriculture, and leisure and hospitality during the later winter months -- "are at their lower employment levels of the year."

During February the construction and manufacturing sectors each gained 30 jobs. "These two industries account

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## I.V. High School students showing artful talents

Teacher Elaine Barker notes highlights of numerous awards, gallery showings by pupils

More than a dozen students at Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) recently have had their artwork displayed in Oregon professional galleries.

During the Vision 2005 High School Student Competition, nine IVHS students had the privilege of exhibiting their work.

Senior Chris Mulhall, junior Ashly Wissler and sophomore Ariella Hubbard won recognition for their pieces. Mulhall's pastel, "Fat Man," came in 4th place and won a \$20 prize.

Wissler's and Hub-

bard's scratchboards came in 2nd in their grade categories. Each won a \$40 award.

This display at the Coos Art Museum ran through Friday, April 2 in Coos Bay.

Four students and art teacher Elaine Barker were able to attend the awards dinner at the Coos Museum.

They also were treated to a tour of Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) that presents this competition in conjunction with CAM.

Last year, IVHS student Caylee Griffiths received the Best of Show purchase

prize. Through the scholarship that came with that honor, she is attending SWOCC.

The Rogue Community College Fire House Gallery in Grants Pass will display the work of nine students from IVHS for the "Connecting Global Villages" project.

The Sister Cities International Program for young artists is providing this opportunity. Awards were presented during a special reception March 15.

The artwork of Roman Mercado received a first-

place award and will be sent to Russia as part of the Sister City Exchange. Sarah Rossiter received a second-place award, and Joseph Escalona a third-place honor.

All three students received gift certificates for art supplies and a gift from Russia. This show will be displayed through the end of this week.

Also, Mercado is the recipient of a \$1,000 renewable scholarship to Western Oregon University at Monmouth through the art work submitted in his portfolio.

(Right photo, rear from left) 'Students With Artwork,' Sarah Rossiter, Nichole Froderman, Roman Mercado, Ariella Hubbard and Donald 'Donnie' Dillard; (front from left) Tami Sheldon, Ashly Wissler, Chelsea Cavin, Tahryn Skiles and Joseph Escalona. (Not shown in this photo) Chris Mulhall, Sabrina Wilson, Joy Messerli, Megan Wilkinson, Shanti Birmingham and Amanda Withers.

(Photo by Elaine Barker)



(Left photo, from left rear) 'Hide' students Morgan Dudley and Sabrina Wilson, (front) Ariella Hubbard and Joy Messerli. (Right photo) 'Art Awards' students Ashly Wissler, Chris Mulhall and Hubbard. (Photos by Elaine Barker)



## EquiFair set Saturday at fairgrounds

Illinois Valley High School's equestrian team and the valley's TV star, potty-trained celebrity horse, "Francisco," will be among attractions Saturday, April 9 at the first EquiFair.

The free and public equestrian event, said to be the first in this area, will be held at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a can of food for a drive to help the needy.

There will be free pony rides for "the kids," and a Parade of Stallions. Numerous other equine attractions also will be featured during the daylong EquiFair.

For a complete schedule of the Josephine County Equestrian Coalition-sponsored events and attractions, use jccc.org.

(See the ad on page 9.)

## Alarming time on weekend

Three incidents involving medical rescue situations were among 11 alarms handled by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) personnel, with American Medical Response (AMR) medics, during the April 2-3 weekend.

IVFD Battalion Chief Ken Gavlik said that one involved a medical evacuation from Takilma via a Mercy Flights helicopter on Saturday, April 2. A man at Sun Star, near Takilma, suffered a heart attack. He was taken by AMR to a field near Dome School, where a

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