## Natural tree harvest demo set in Selma

**By ROGER BRANDT**
**Special to 'I.V. News'**

It may sound inconceivable that a logging project would be generally accepted by environmental groups.

But this may be what is unfolding as a small group of residents in Selma work with the Bureau of Land Management on plans for the community to manage a 7,000-acre plot of government land called the South Deer Project.

The proposal is compelling and promises to produce a steady stream of timber, as well as a variety of economic products, some of which are entirely overlooked by conventional forest management practices.

An open house will be held Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m. at Camp Forest, located at 2100 Thompson Creek Road. For more information phone 597-4313.

The central concept of the project is a "natural selection" approach to timber harvesting. In this scenario, a forester goes through the woods and looks for trees not competing well with others and which are likely to die of natural causes. These are cut and shipped, and the competitive trees are left to continue growing.

The amount of wood retrieved with this approach depends on the condition of the forest when the program

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Following are high and low temperatures, rainfall and snowfall recorded by Cheryl & Harry Johnson in O'Brien.
*Mon., April 11: 57-39, .08 inches rain, .5 inches snow
*Tues., April 12: 54-35, .83, .5
*Wed., April 13: 44-32, .55, 1.0
*Thurs., April 14: 62-30
*Fri., April 15: 67-31
*Sat., April 16: 58-44, .12
*Sun., April 17: 56-34, .08

## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

**Wednesday, April 20**
Mostly sunny,
Evening cooling
High--65, Low--38.

**Thursday, April 21**
Partly cloudy,
Mild evening
High--66, Low--40.

**Friday, April 22**
Variable sunshine,
Clouds increasing late
High--68, Low--43.

**Saturday, April 23**
Scattered showers,
Clouds decreasing late
High--66, Low--43.

**Sunday, April 24**
Mild precipitation,
Continuing late
High--63, Low--42.

**Monday, April 25**
Scattered showers,
Evening precipitation
High--63, Low--42.

**Tuesday, April 26**
Partly sunny,
Overnight clearing
High--64, Low--42.

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# $1.8 million grant to boost county law enforcement

Two grants totaling $1.8 million will benefit lawmen of Josephine County Sheriff's Office and Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety with state-of-the-art improvements.

The announcement was made by Sara Nicholson, emergency manager/search-and-rescue coordinator for the sheriff's office.

Some $277,540 is from the State Homeland Security Grant Program for the two law enforcement agencies.

In addition, Josephine and Jackson counties have been awarded a $1,540,000 regional grant for a two-county microwave radio system.

"This equipment," said Nicholson, "will replace our outdated radio equipment and allow for countrywide interoperability."

Regarding the other grant, she said:

*$170,661 will be used to purchase 25 mobile data terminals for the sheriff's office.

"This will enable all county law enforcement personnel to communicate with Dispatch and other deputies on the road," said Nicholson.

"This system," she said, "will allow photos and data to be sent directly to each deputy's vehicle, and allow deputies to access the Internet while in the field, if necessary."

*$96,492 will be used to upgrade Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety's current mobile data terminal system. It consists of laptop computers in each officer's vehicle that allow them to communicate with Dispatch and officers in the field, Nicholson explained.

*$10,387, provided under the Citizen Corps Program of Homeland Security, will be used in three areas.

They are Citizen Corps groups in the county; Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), including the one in Illinois Valley; and the Student Emergency Response Team at Grants Pass High School.

Nicholson said that the money will "fund training manuals, booth rentals at the county fair, and some much-needed equipment for the teams."



**FIRE AT SELMA SELECT** - Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) firefighters responded at 10:50 p.m. Monday, April 18 to an RV fire on the north side of Selma Select Market. The unoccupied vehicle was completely destroyed. The fire was so hot that it melted a mercury light fixture on the market. No injuries were reported. No other information was available in time for this issue. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD)

## JoCo installs emergency phone notifying system

An emergency notification system that can automatically contact residents by telephone has been installed in the Josephine County Emergency Operations Center in Grants Pass.

The system will be used only for emergencies, said Sara Nicholson, emergency manager/search-and-rescue coordinator for Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

She noted that a good example of how the system could have been used occurred during the 2002 Biscuit Fire that nearly caused evacuation of Illinois Valley's approximately 17,000 residents.

"The county simply did not have the manpower to personally notify all 17,000 citizens of pending evacuation," said Nicholson.

"In addition," she said, "the system can direct residents to different evacuation routes, thereby helping minimize potential traffic problems. Other examples of activation could be a flood, hostage situation or a hazardous materials spill."

She stressed that the system will be used only for emergency situations by Emergency Management. "This means that it will not be used for solicitation, census or other county-type questions," she said.

The system has the ability to ask for responses.

"For example," said Nicholson, "if the message is that your home could be in danger from a wildfire -- so get ready to leave -- and you need assistance; you might be prompted to 'press 1' if you need help due to a medical problem; 'press 2' if do not have a vehicle; or 'press 3' if you understand the message and will act.

"The system has the ability to dial telephone numbers in a certain area, or any other means of sorting, and relay up to 960 emergency messages per hour."

In addition, the system can be programmed to phone primary and secondary telephone numbers; leave messages on answering machines after so many rings; and redial for a given length of time.

Nicholson continued:

"A tiered degree-of-urgency message format is being looked at as a general method of disseminating information in the event of an emergency.

"For example, if there were a wildfire threatening homes in Applegate, those in the immediate area would receive a call with a Tier 1 message to leave within 15 minutes on Hwy. 238 in either direction.

"If the wind were pushing a wildfire south toward Thompson Creek (the one closest to Jackson County), folks up the first mile or so would receive a Tier 2 message to immediately pack and be prepared to leave within 30 minutes. And so forth, as a situation required.

"Anyone who has used telephone trees for a neighborhood situation," said Nicholson, "knows that this call-down system does not replace them. Emergency fire personnel and county leaders also know this.

"Neighborhood phone trees allow localized situations -- such as a lost child, a loose horse or a cougar sighting -- to be communicated quickly to exactly those residents who need to know the information. So we need both systems.

"Jackson County purchased this same call-down system several years ago. Both counties will work together, with similar types of messages and terminology whenever the system needs to be activated, so that all emergency personnel know exactly what citizens are being told," Nicholson concluded.

## Job situation improvements continue

With 120 payroll jobs added in Josephine County during March, the unemployment rate declined to 7.7 percent, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

The rate was 8.4 percent for February this year; and in March 2004 it was 9.3 percent.

OED said that since March last year, the county has gained nearly 800 payroll jobs. During March this year, 31,863 persons out of a civilian labor force of 34,532 were working at payroll jobs.

Employment changes in most industries during March were small, OED said, with construction adding 20 jobs. The industry has increased by 140 jobs since March '04.

The agency cited the fact that residential building permits show continued strength in the county's construction sector. The Census Bureau reports that permits for 113 residential units were issued during February, up from 89 in February last year, OED said.

### Nearly 800 payroll jobs added during past 12 months

Other industries adding jobs during March this year include manufacturing (+40), leisure and hospitality (+30), other services (+30), and local education (+20).

Slight job declines occurred in retail trade (-20), educational and health services (-20), and wholesale trade (-10).

OED said that since March '04, Josephine County added jobs in the majority of published industry sectors. Those with notable employment growth include:

Manufacturing (+180); wholesale trade (+70); transportation, warehousing and utilities (+50); information (+40); finance (+70); professional and business services (+70); ambulatory healthcare services (+40); and leisure and hospitality (+120).

Local government education employment, including kindergarten through 12th grade, fell by 50. State government employment dropped by 20 jobs during the past 12 months, OED reported.

The Oregon seasonally adjusted unemployment rate during March was 6.2 percent, down from 6.5 percent during February. It was 7.6 percent during March '04.

## IVFD shows rise in responses

Emergency responses are rising rapidly, with 435 from January through last week, said Chief Harry Rich of Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District.

And there is a 28 percent increase from January through March, he told the board of directors during a regular meeting Thursday night, April 14 at administrative headquarters.

The rise in responses is resulting in higher personnel and equipment costs, he said. In a related matter, the board OK'd transferring $59,100 from the contingency fund to the personal services, and materials & services areas.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from the chief that the district is working on an intergovernmental

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**ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL** sponsors and conducts the Learning Through Arts program, which it instituted three years ago, at Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS). The credit incorrectly was attributed in last week's issue to Southern Oregon Guild. Kathy Kelley, (third from left, front) vice president of the Arts Council, is working with LBMS eighth-graders on various after-school art projects that expand their art experiences in many aspects. The efforts by the Arts Council are included in the Lights On After School program at LBMS, and next week's issue will have additional information and photos about that program.