



Payroll jobs in Josephine County climb to 32,979

Payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 250 jobs from July to August, with the unemployment rate at 7.2 percent, little changed from the 7.1 figure from July.

So said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED) in reporting that 32,979 persons in the county had payroll jobs at the end of August.

The August 2004 rate

was 7.9 percent.

The increase last month, said OED, is due mostly to gains in manufacturing, transportation and local education employment.

So far this year, payroll employment in Josephine County rose by 1,000 jobs -- a gain of 4.1 percent. The county job growth rate was slightly faster than statewide during that time, said OED.

During August, the construction sector gained 20 jobs, bringing the increase since the same month last year to 210. Wholesale trade gained 20, while employment in retail trade fell by 10 during the month.

During the past 12 months, retail and wholesale trade employment rose by 80 jobs each, said OED. Gains were noted in furni-

ture and home furnishing stores, as well as building material and garden supply stores.

Manufacturing employment rose by 50 during August, with wood products accounting for 30. Through the year, manufacturing employment rose by 170 jobs.

Professional and business services employment has added 90 jobs this year;

financial activities employment gained 30. Leisure-and-hospitality employment added 20 jobs; 120 so far this year, OED said.

Government employment during August rose by 110, the agency said.

The jobless rate in Jackson County last month was 6.3 percent. Oregon's seasonally adjusted rate was 6.7; the country's 4.9.

Selma blaze review, tips meeting topic

A community wildfire meeting regarding the Deer Creek Conflagration will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28 at Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) Station 2 in Selma.

There will be an open house at 5:30 p.m., followed from 6:30 to 8 p.m. by presentations and a question-and-answer session.

The open house will continue until 9 p.m., said IVFD, which is co-sponsoring the program with Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Josephine County, and Bureau of Land Management.

The purpose of the meeting "is to reflect on lessons learned from the Deer Creek Fire and identify opportunities to reduce future wildfire risk."

FBI warrant served at Kerby home

FBI agents, assisted by officers from several agencies, served a federal search warrant in connection with a continuing robbery investigation Thursday morning, Sept. 15, said Josephine County Undersheriff Brian Anderson.

The warrant was served in the 24000 block of Redwood Highway, and no arrests were made. There have been five armed bank holdups in the Rogue Valley during the past two weeks.

FBI agents were assisted by officers from Josephine and Jackson County Sheriff's offices, and Grants Pass and Medford Police departments, said Anderson. He added that the warrant service was aided by JoCo patrol deputies and the Grants Pass Police SWAT Team.

The investigation involves multi-jurisdictional boundary lines, according to Anderson.

Here's the weather report from Cheryl & Harry Johnson in O'Brien.

- *Fri., Sept. 9: 73-52
- *Sat., Sept. 10: 65-49
- *Sun., Sept. 11: 71-39
- *Mon., Sept. 12: 78-41
- *Tues., Sept. 13: 81-41
- *Wed., Sept. 14: 84-46
- *Thurs., Sept. 15: 82-47

Weather Watch

Illinois Valley

- Wednesday, September 21**
Sunny & Clear
High--81 Low--42
- Thursday, September 22**
Mostly Sunny
High--76 Low--37
- Friday, September 23**
Plenty of Sunshine
High--76 Low--37
- Saturday, September 24**
Sunny & Nice
High--79 Low--39
- Sunday, September 25**
Partly Cloudy
High--84 Low--44
- Monday, September 26**
Sunny
High--80 Low--42
- Tuesday, September 27**
Sunny & Warm
High--88 Low--51

'Katrina' evacuee staying afloat

New Orleans resident finds safe harbor in Takilma

Christine Pacheco was in El Salvador when civil war erupted, and she was forced to flee in 1967.

As a New Orleans resident, she was temporarily displaced by flooding due to 16 inches of rain in 1995.

She celebrated her birthday last week. On 9-11.

And she is among emergency evacuees from recent flooding in New Orleans in connection with Hurricane "Katrina."

With those experiences, she's beginning to wonder, "So what's next?"

Now staying in Takilma with her brother and sister-in-law, Jim & Teri Dougherty, the 25-year resident of New Orleans is biding her time until early in October, when she'll be allowed back to her suburban, flooded apartment in Jefferson Parish.

She was able to return to her ground-floor residence in a three-story building shortly

after "Katrina," but only for an hour.

"We had to use flashlights," she said, as the power was out. "Everything was soggy, -- I could see by the water mark that there'd been a foot of water inside -- and mold already was forming," she recalled. "I was able to retrieve some of my medicine, some documents and some clothing."

However, she's uncon- (Continued on page 7)



Christine Pacheco (center), from New Orleans, with Teri & Jim Dougherty, of Takilma ('I.V. News' photo)

Officers seize explosives, firearms, drugs in Grants Pass

Explosives, firearms and drugs were seized at two Grants Pass locations, when Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS) served warrants based on investigation into kidnapping, robbery and assaults.

Seven persons were arrested or cited during search warrant service on Fruitdale Drive by the

GPDPS Special Activities & Felony Enforcement Team.

Because of the probability of encountering armed and dangerous suspects, GPDPS was assisted by Josephine County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police.

Arrested last week were Grants Pass residents:

*Amber K. Lairson, 18,

charged with two counts of menacing, and under a warrant charging unlawful use of a weapon.

*Tabitha D. McGee, 27, arrested under a warrant charging probation violation.

*Alicia A. Harrington, 26, charged with possession of a controlled substance/methamphetamine, and three counts of being a felon

in possession of a firearm.

*Jason T. Haynes, 21, and Kris L. Harrington, 20, each charged with possession of an explosive device, second-degree assault, first-degree kidnapping and first-degree robbery.

The five were jailed.

Additionally, Revis W. Hultquist, 18, a transient, was cited under a warrant

charging unlawful possession of a firearm, plus obstructing governmental administration, and failure to carry or present a driver license; and GP resident Michael Mitcheff was cited under a warrant charging three counts of menacing.

Investigation is continuing, and more arrests are anticipated, said GPDPS.

Come-from-behind win gives Cougars 3-0 tab

It was the stuff of those classic football movie clichés -- but it was real life for Illinois Valley's varsity football team.

Despite being 13 points behind in the fourth quarter; the Cougars took the score to 22-21 against the Sutherlin Bulldogs with less than three minutes remaining in Cave Junction on a chilly Friday night, Sept. 16.

The clock read 2:57, and I.V. could go for a punt to tie the score. Or it could "go for the gusto" and run the ball for a 2-point score, thereby winning 23-22.

Coach Bob Thornhill instructed his charges, and they responded, with Zach Pagnotta earning the 2-point. He had just earned 6 points for the Cougars on a 6-yard run.

As they say, "The crowd went wild," and Illinois Valley became the proud possessor of a 3-0 nonleague record, continuing to foreshadow what appears to be one of its best seasons.

I.V. will play in Winston on Friday, Sept. 23 against Douglas High School in the final non-

Skyline Conference game. The season will open officially Friday, Sept. 30 against Hidden Valley on the Mustangs' field.

Against the Bulldogs, despite their tenacity and power, the Cougars persevered and prevailed. The expression, "... where seldom is heard a discouraging word ..." comes to mind.

Among standouts Friday were Dalton Reagan and Steven Paul, who crushed the Bulldog kicker with less than five minutes left in the game, preventing his punt.

Their handy efforts gave I.V. the ball at the 50, providing the Cougs another shot of adrenalin, as they had reached 22-15 on the scoreboard and were feeling the power. Pagnotta had hit Ian Moore on a halfback pass: a 34-yard TD.

Only seven plays later, Pagnotta secured the game-winning score, followed by Moore snagging a Bulldog pass. At that point, slightly less than two minutes remained in the game.

I.V. faced a strong Sutherlin squad that was good

(Continued on page 16)

Fire restrictions cooled down

Fire and off-road vehicle use restrictions are lifted in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service announced. They had been in effect since Aug. 13 due to wildfire hazards,

Rescinded are personal-use restrictions to build, maintain, attend or use fires.

Also lifted are fire restrictions on smoking and operation of internal-combustion engines on forestland.

Restrictions on operating off-road vehicles on other than designated forest roads, trails or parking areas also are curtailed, except in those areas with signs restricting off-road traffic.



COUGAR GIRLS GO - Illinois Valley girls took 3rd place in a pre-district cross country meet Thursday, Sept. 15 at Lake Selmac. The boys team took 6th. For the I.V. girls, McKenzie Yeoman was 5th, and Michelle LaPierre 9th. For the boys, I.V.'s Graham Baker was 12th; Ben Bennett finished 19th. The Hidden Valley girls captured 1st and Phoenix girls 2nd. On the boys side, Phoenix was 1st, and Hidden Valley was 2nd. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')



FOR LAND'S SAKE - A landmark auction, the first of its extent in Southwestern Oregon, was conducted in Cave Junction Saturday, Sept. 17 by Jim Frick, of Century 21 Harris & Taylor. He conducted the auction from his promotional fire truck. The auction at Hanby Vista Estates for owner Larry Osborn resulted in the sale of 21 of 50 lots at a minimum \$60,000 each, said Frick. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

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