

Cougar hoop boys to benefit from farm Haunted Corn Maze

The Kerbyville Farm Haunted Corn Maze will be open, with proceeds benefiting the boys basketball team at Illinois Valley High School.

The maze will be open from Friday, Oct. 28 to Monday, Oct. 31, which is Halloween Day. Hours will be 7 to 10 p.m.

Those wearing costumes will get a \$1 reduction in the admission price.

The 1.5-acre maze is intended for young adults and older. Hot apple cider, coffee, cocoa and Halloween treats also will be available.

Chamber auction set Nov. 18

Friday, Nov. 18 is set for the annual Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce auction with wine- and beer-tasting.

The fund-raiser for the chamber's relocation and visitor information efforts will be held at Wild River

Brewing & Pizza Co. in Cave Junction.

Donations of merchandise and gift certificates are sought by the chamber. To donate, or for more information, phone 592-3326.

Watch the "Noose" next week for additional details.

Jobless rate declines

(Continued from page 1)

average among Oregon's 34 labor market areas.

Josephine County's manufacturing average wage was approximately 66 percent of the statewide average during 2004.

Trade, transportation and utilities employment in the county added 40 during September, partly due to hiring by school bus transportation companies. Private educational services employment rose by 30, but is down 20 from a year ago.

With the travel and tourism season beginning to wind down, employment in the leisure and hospitality sector fell by 130.

A local education employment gain of 280 comprised most of the total

monthly employment in the county, said OED. Local government education employment is up by 150 from a year ago.

During the past 12 months, other industries with notable employment gains include construction (+190), wholesale trade (+90), retail trade (+130), professional and business services (+80), and health care and social assistance (+70).

Residential building permits increased from 58 a year during September to 87 last month, said OED.

Josephine's August unemployment rate was 7.2 percent, and it was 7.4 percent in September 2004. Jackson County's rate last month was 5.2 percent.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted rate is 5.1.

Community development

(Continued from page 1)

Oregon Caves National Monument.

Social ventures allow innovative nonprofits like the IVCDO to venture into commercial activities that support their mission and help fund their economic and business development projects.

The Chateau effort has proven that these social ventures work.

"The lodge provides 40 positions for the community and has contributed around a quarter million dollars in payroll this year," said Schumacher.

The Chateau serves local artisans as well by showcasing their crafts and wares, providing them \$35,000 in additional income.

Also as concessionaire, IVCDO purchased \$32,000 worth of merchandise from valley vintners, meat companies, and farmers by offering locally produced wines, meat, and produce in The Chateau dining room and coffee shop.

"We are looking to extend and improve the season up there," added Schumacher. "We are remodeling a meeting room and are looking to book groups like one we had last January that rented the entire lodge."

The IVCDO also gained two more social ventures during the past year when it entered an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to manage Grayback and Cave Creek campgrounds.

Schumacher and his crew also have been instrumental in enacting the Thompson Creek Fire Fuel Reduction Project this past year.

Funded by a National Fire Plan Grant through the Bureau of Land Management, the wildland interface

project helped land owners reduce brush and small-diameter trees from property and driveways.

"Overall, 34 home sites were treated for defensible space, doing strategic fuels reduction on approximately 156 acres and thinning about 5 miles of roadways," said Schumacher.

Serving the valley as director or executive director for the last three years, Schumacher has helped the IVCDO to continue to fulfill the vision of his progenitors.

"The organization started in 1970 as a grassroots operation of people who collectively shared a vision for the valley," said Schumacher.

Known then as the Illinois Valley Economic Committee, the vision included an outline of what members believed the community would look like in 2010.

Schumacher looks toward 2010 with anticipation. Then he will be able to compare what the founders foresaw with what has come to fruition in the community and he can look at the list and say:

"Yes, we were able to accomplish this."



SAFE HOUSE ALLIANCE ANNIVERSARY - A special dinner at PJ's Restaurant in Cave Junction Friday night, Oct. 21, marked the fifth anniversary of Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA). The event also noted October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Among those attending (and helping serve) were (from left) Ken Ogden, building campaign co-chairman and project architect; Lynne Atteberry, cam-

paign co-chairman; Chris Mallette, IVSHA executive director; and Josiah Dean, treasurer. The organization is working to assist women and children in crisis and has offices at the I.V. Family Coalition Center. Building plans for an IVSHA safe house were reviewed. Mallette said that she is "anticipating project realization in 2007." Watch next week's issue for more details. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

Judge rules to lift forest product harvesting ban

Mushroom collecting, Christmas tree-cutting and similar activities in national forests should not have been halted by the U.S. Forest Service as it did earlier this month, a federal judge said in a clarification Wednesday, Oct. 19.

It was believed that the directive, which affected areas including the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, would prompt the swift reopening of several Oregon and Washington forests to the popular pursuits, offering relief to businesses across the state that depend on the forest goods.

The court action was seen as vindicating environmental groups and some Western lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield), who said that the forest service and Bush administration had unnecessarily halted long-time forest activities from firewood gathering to river rafting.

The administration, the groups alleged, was trying to cause a backlash against environmental regulations and litigation. Administration officials blamed the groups for pursuing litigation with unintended consequences.

Top forest service officials had suspended the activities in an across-the-board interpretation of a federal court ruling, although the ruling focused on logging and did not mention the less-contentious pursuits.

The ruling came from a lawsuit by environmental

groups in California led by the Illinois organization Heartwood. The intent was to stop the Bush administration from eliminating public comments and appeals on certain logging projects and prescribed burning.

Activities such as mushroom gathering were not challenged.

U.S. District Judge James K. Singleton said that the administration could not eliminate public comments and appeals. He also noted that not every minor move had to be opened to appeals.

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- Smiley Blanton -

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or sat upon a chair.
Perhaps you sent us
beautiful flowers,
If so, we saw them there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
that any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much,
whatever your part.



Do I want to have a baby?
Yeah...maybe someday
But not now!



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