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DICK GEORGE FAMILY DISPLACED - Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) firefighters had to respond twice to the same residence in the Holland Loop area. Investi-

gations into why the later alarm occurred are being conducted by IVFD and Pacific Power, said IVFD. See page 12. (Photo by Dale Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)

Statewide insurance for school districts draws fire

Three Rivers among those noting much higher costs that would be caused if SB 426 is passed; political payback indicated by some regarding appointments by governor

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

A bill being considered in the Oregon Senate to establish a state-run mandatory insurance pool for school employees statewide has district administrators aghast because of higher costs they see involved.

Proponents of the legislation, Senate Bill 426, claim that school districts would benefit from the increased purchasing power that such a plan might provide. However, local school

officials, legislators and the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) are expressing consternation.

According to SB 426 sponsor Ryan Deckert (D-Beaverton), the proposed legislation is intended to mitigate concerns about rising health-care costs.

"We had to do something to get some downward pressure on insurance rates," Deckert said.

If passed into law, SB 426 would establish the Oregon Educators Benefit

Board, modeled after the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB). Deckert said that the board would be able to negotiate cheaper insurance rates for school districts.

"Ultimately, we know pools work," Deckert said. "You won't find anyone who disagrees that just by pooling purchasing power, you're able to negotiate better rates and have better leverage."

But OSBA President-elect Craig Prewitt does disagree. He said that the pooling plan is "very misguided"

and that the cost savings touted by its supporters are "based on assumptions." He added that:

"SB 426 does nothing to address the true cost-driver of health care.

"The true cost-drivers in health care are skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs, an aging population and overutilization of high-tech procedures, not the size of the pool. The size of the pool has almost nothing to do with what the premium is."

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Republicans support Bush for additional troops in Iraq

Oregon delegates attend annual Dorchester confab

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

SEASIDE -- Republicans from throughout Oregon converged in this coastal town Friday through Sunday, March 2 to 4, for the 43rd annual Dorchester Convention.

During a series of floor debates, delegates discussed a variety of issues and made policy recommendations for state leaders.

Saturday morning's first topic involved Measure 37. Delegates had to decide whether or not to recommend referring the matter back to voters for further clarification. Ross Day, of the property rights group Oregonians In Action (OIA), disputed claims by the measure's opponents that voters did not understand its implications when passing it in 2004.

"The voters of Oregon understood exactly what Measure 37 (requiring compensation for land owners whose property values diminish due to land-use restrictions) was all about," Day said. "Measure 37 is all about fairness."

Day said that the measure affects less than 1 percent of the state's land mass. Prior to its passage, 98 percent of the state was eligible for development, Day said, and that figure now stands at 97 percent. Approximately 75 percent of Measure 37 claims statewide are for 10 or fewer houses, he said.

Gov. Kulongoski has supported a temporary sus-

pension of the measure, but Day said that such a policy is unnecessary.

"A moratorium or suspension is not a legitimate resolution," Day said.

"There is no problem with Measure 37."

OIA Board Chairman Frank Nims said that voters already have spoken clearly on the matter.

"Voters have twice voted on this issue," Nims said. "They passed it both times." Delegates overwhelmingly rejected referring the matter to voters, on a 210-25 vote.

A later discussion centered on President Bush's proposal to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq.

State Rep. Brian Boquist (R-Dallas), a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army Reserve, said that he opposes the president's plan.

"A surge is not going to have any impact on the future victory of Iraq," Boquist said.

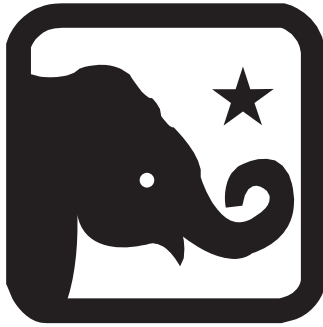
He said that the emphasis should be on training Iraqi security forces; withdrawing civilian contractors; and reducing combat troops. Deploying eight heavy combat brigades won't help the security situation, he said, as tanks have little effectiveness in street combat.

Several delegates expressed support for President Bush, including District 2 Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point).

"I support the president on this vote," Atkinson said.

Delegates voted 204-36

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THE ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY held by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) was conducted at I.V. High School Saturday night, March 3. Among those honored were Capt. Tom Zulliger, Station 3, who gained recognition for his 25 years service as a volunteer. He and Firefighter Pearlene Gavlik, Station 2, (above) received sustained standing ovations. Mrs. Gavlik was recognized as Firefighter of the Year. IVFD Chief Harry Rich presented the award. And she and her husband, Station 2 Battalion Chief Ken Gavlik, were cited for 10 years volunteer service to the district. Additional photos on page 16. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)



JoCo jail inmate count means free arrestees

Because of a policy change, persons caught hunting in a cemetery, fighting in public, making unnecessary noise, and transporting fish without a license will be in line for a "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

Being arrested for such offenses does not mean the suspects will not initially go to Josephine County Jail.

But it does mean that they will be among the first released from county jail if suspects charged with more severe offenses arrive.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson and the county commissioners have ordered that no more than 170 prisoners can be housed in county jail. The order also was OK'd by District Attorney Stephen Campbell and Steve Rich, county legal counsel.

If the jail reaches capacity, persons can be cited for a large number of offenses, rather than being taken to jail. Jail space is in essence being reserved for the more heinous crimes.

There are 18 of them. They range from second-

degree assault, first-degree attempted arson and first-degree robbery, to 10 first- and second-degree sex crimes. Kidnapping, assault, attempted escape and custodial interference also are on the "go-to-jail" or "stay-in-jail" list.

There are approximately 250 crimes on the "get-out-of-jail" list. They include second-degree abuse of a corpse, fourth-degree assault, first-degree attempted intimidation, second-degree attempted arson, felony contempt of court, manufacture of a controlled substance, and possession of a destructive device.

Also: stalking, theft by extortion, unlawful possession of a firearm, restraining order violation, false accident report, reckless driving, prostitution, theft by receiving, and unlawful use of food stamps.

Additionally: resisting arrest, menacing, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, participating in dog fighting, fireworks offense, and inhaling toxic vapors.

Daylight-saving upon us

Spring forward.

Fall back.

The simple reminders tell everyone that twice a year, clocks are advanced or reversed one hour.

But the "spring forward" -- formerly the first Sunday in April -- is now to be done the second Sunday in March (March 11). And clocks will be set back one hour the last Sunday in November, formerly October.

President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which has a provision to basically add two months to the existing DST.

Reasons cited for creating it include energy conservation, travel safety, and crime prevention. Just how much having daylight extended one hour in the evening is actually leading to safer travel and less crime is debatable, ODA said.

However, studies have shown that energy use and the demand for electricity for lighting homes is directly connected to bedtime.

When people go to bed, they turn off lights, televisions, and other appliances, which account for approximately one-fourth of the daily total use of electricity in the United States. If bed-

time remains the same but there is an extra hour of daylight, the need for artificial light is reduced.

A report by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation in the 1970s estimated that America's electricity usage is reduced by approximately 1 percent while DST is in effect, said ODA.

Contrary to popular belief, daylight-saving time (DST) was not created to benefit agriculture nor does it necessarily work in favor of farmers and ranchers.

"Whether daylight-savings time helps or hinders agricultural operations depends on who you talk to and what they produce," said Brent Searle, special assistant to the director of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA).

"For some producers, having more light at the end of the day is beneficial. For others, it may create some inconvenience," he said. "For the rest, it doesn't make that much difference."

By some accounts, Benjamin Franklin reportedly first considered DST in his 1784 essay, "An Economical Project." But it wasn't until 1918 that Congress

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Tree-plantings rescheduled

By **SUZANNE VAUTIER**

FAC Tree Planting Project Coordinator

For the first time in 15 years the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) Volunteer Tree Planting Day, (scheduled for Feb. 24 this year,) had to be canceled due to a winter storm.

We already have the trees, and the riparian areas still need planting, so FAC is scheduling two smaller tree-planting events to get those trees in the ground and to provide local youth groups opportunities to raise some money.

The dates of these two new tree-planting events are Saturday, March 10 and Saturday, March 17. We will meet at the lower compound of the U.S. Forest Service in Cave Junction at 9 a.m. both days.

Food will be provided for volunteers in the Butler Bldg. of the compound after a morning of planting trees. So when this snow melts, and you have a case of cabin fever, come join this fun community project.

For more information, phone 592-4098.

* I.V. Senior Center flooded, Page 4

* Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest celebrates centennial, Page 13

* Special equipment clears Caves Hwy., Page 15

* 'I.V. News' marks 70th, Page 16