

# Illinois Valley News

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## IVHS Class of 2007 bids farewell

**EMOTIONS RAN HIGH** as the Illinois Valley High School Class of 2007 received diplomas Tuesday evening, June 5. The ceremony was held in Ken Mann Memorial Gym instead of at the athletic field due to rain. Emily Harris was valedictorian; and salutations were Ian Barker-Cortrecht, Nick Greener and Austin Hocker. Faculty speakers included Elaine Barker, Gary Enoch, and Steve Morgan. The IVHS band was directed by Kevin Soon; and incoming student body president Steven Paul was master of ceremonies. (Photos by Michelle Binker / Illinois Valley News)



## Measure 37 reforms to be on ballot

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Last week, the Oregon House and Senate voted to refer a series of Measure 37 reforms to the Nov. 6 ballot.

Measure 37 was approved by 61 percent of voters in the 2004 election. The measure states that government entities must either pay compensation for zoning regulations that devalue private property or waive them.

However, much controversy has arisen since the passage of Measure 37, with very clear divisions emerging between property rights advocates and defenders of Oregon's 30-year-old land use system.

Those divisions have also become apparent during Oregon's 2007 Legislative session, as Democrats and Republicans have spent months battling over proposed changes to Measure 37.

The attempted legislative remedy came in the form of House Bill 3540, a 24-page bill that would establish an "express lane" approach for smaller claims, create the position of Land Use Ombudsman to oversee the process, and put a 20-home cap on Measure 37 claims.

But the bill won't be passed into law unless voters decide to approve it Nov. 6.

HB 3540 passed the Senate Tuesday, June 5 on a 19-11, party-line vote, with all Democrats voting in favor and all Republicans opposed. The following day, it passed the House on a 31-26 party-line vote.

Rep. Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) said that HB 3540 addresses the concerns about Measure 37 in an even-handed manner.

"We attempted to find middle ground and fairness for small property owners so they can add a house or two on their property for family members," Buckley said. "We streamlined the process to make it work for people. Larger claims, we broadened it out so the impact on neighbors could be considered."

Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point) characterized the passage of HB 3540 as "arrogance run amok."

"I think is a terrible injustice to the voters of Oregon," Atkinson said. "This government, especially the executive

branch, has succeeded now in overturning the will of Oregon voters."

Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) described HB 3540 as a "lawyer's bill," and said that it was deliberately written in complicated legal terminology that few will be able to understand.

"It was intentionally designed to create a double-negative effect, which is confusing," Maurer said. "I just don't believe that most people are going to be able to read this legislation and interpret its meaning and be able to take part in a rational debate."

Atkinson said that HB 3540 favors the interests of big government at the expense of small land owners, and uses bureaucrat-friendly language to do so.

He added, "Measure 37, as it was written, had 1,000 words. This one took out 852 words and replaces it with volumes and volumes and volumes of words that undo the will of the people."

"This is government and power gone to the head of people who are now saying, (Continued on page 4)

## Some electricity bills to rise 13% due to suit

Some Pacific Power residential customers soon will see a 13 percent increase on their monthly bills.

Pacific Power (PacPow) said that the rise will affect residential customers who use 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month.

The change is due to a court case challenging the BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) Residential Exchange, said PacPow. On bills from the utility, there is an item listed as "BPA Energy Discount" that applies the credit.

The program has no effect on PacPow revenues or income; benefits flow directly to its customers, said the utility. Because of the challenge, upheld in court:

"This means that the credit will be reduced for bills issued in June and is suspended for bills issued in July and after until litigation is resolved or other federal action occurs," said PacPow.

The credit received by customers is affected because of a lawsuit filed by Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU), a special interest group, said PacPow. It added that ICNU represents large electricity users, the Public Power Council and several public utilities, which were parties to the suit in federal court.

Energy-saving tips can be found at pacificpower.net or by phoning (888) 221-7070. Meanwhile, said PacPow, "We will continue to work hard on your behalf and keep you informed of our progress in seeking a remedy to this (court) decision."

"It's about fairness, common sense and fighting for what's right for all consumers in the Northwest," PacPow concluded.

## Safe House secures new site

Alliance will relocate to current CJ Home Valley Bank

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA) has purchased the current Home Valley Bank building in Cave Junction and will move its operations there from quarters at I.V. Resource Center.

The new facility will be named the Home Valley Center for Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support (CARES), it was announced Wednesday, June 13.

IVSHA Executive Director Chris Mallette said that the existing bank structure will be remodeled and turned into an advocacy center, and that a safe house will be constructed elsewhere on the 1.27-acre property at Lister Street and Kerby Avenue.

Home Valley will vacate its current location there later this year. It will relocate to a new building under construction on Redwood Hwy. in CJ at the former site of Select Market, next to Caves Pharmacy.

The DMV office will stay in its portion of the building, continuing to pay rent.

Mallette said that she's been working on securing a site since she began her position in October 2001, and that

services and give a whole lot of support that we weren't able to do because we were restricted by the size and location of our building," she said. "This is a monumental achievement."

The new site was appraised at \$717,000, Mallette said. Home Valley contributed \$147,000 toward the total, and IVSHA will pick up the remaining



(From left) IVSHA Board Chairman Beth Williams, Home Valley Bank CEO Robert Ward, and IVSHA Executive Director Chris Mallette. (Photo by 'I.V. News')

\$570,000. IVSHA has come a long way during the past few years. The Home Valley acquisition has been in the works for a year.

"We've taken some pretty big steps when you think that our first staff person was hired at the end of 2001 and we're now in the process of hiring our sixth person," Mallette said. "We've worked with over 2,400 adult and child survivors since then and built a whole program."

Securing a permanent location will make it easier for IVSHA to achieve its goal of helping survivors of domestic abuse, Mallette said.

"This is taking us to a whole new level so we'll be able to provide a whole lot of

approximately \$591,000 toward the purchase price and remodeling costs of the existing building, Mallette said.

"The cost of the whole project, in phase one, is \$1,066,000," Mallette said. "We have commitments for \$475,000."

But she said that having a permanent location will make it easier to raise that money.

"We've had initial conversations with many regional foundations," she said. "They were all interested in our project, but they wouldn't act on our proposals until we had two things: proof that the community supports us and securing the site. I think (Continued on page 3)

## Approved JoCo '07-'08 budget scuttled

Raffenburg plan for allocations of fed money, says Ellis, 'like starting over'

By SCOTT JORGENSEN  
IVN Staff Writer

A last-minute budget proposal during a Thursday, June 7 meeting by Jim Raffenburg, chairman of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, stunned members of the county Budget Committee.

It subsequently rescinded a \$13 million budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year that was approved during a tense meeting on May 17 in the face of drastic budget shortfalls because of the lack of federal O&C monies.

However, the committee was reconvened after President Bush signed legislation which included a one-year extension of the county payments program for timber-dependent areas.

It's anticipated that Josephine County will receive

approximately \$12 million under the payments program.

Earlier this month, Dave Toler, vice chairman of the county board, said that the commissioners likely would place half those federal dollars in a reserve fund and allocate the other \$6 million towards its criminal justice system. The latter is comprised of the offices of the sheriff, district attorney, and juvenile justice.

However, Raffenburg was vacationing in Hawaii when the federal legislation was signed. And when he returned last week, he had his own ideas about what the budget from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 should look like.

In a prepared statement, Raffenburg said that the county should combine the \$12 million in federal funding

with the \$4.8 million general fund transfer to the public safety fund, approved on May 17, for a total two-year budget of \$16.8 million.

Approximately \$8.4 million would be allocated for the '07-'08 fiscal year, with the other half set aside as unbudgeted reserves for '08-'09.

Raffenburg said that he didn't want to announce his proposal in such an abrupt manner, but "didn't have a choice." Commissioner Dwight Ellis said that the committee would need at least one more meeting to evaluate the plan.

"This is just like starting over," Ellis said. "There is not enough information for me to go on."

Under Raffenburg's proposal, interfund transfers from the Josephine County (Continued on page 4)



## Takilma Road fatal crash, page 14



A PICKUP TRUCK driven by Christopher E. Jorgensen, 40, of Grants Pass, crashed into a Rough & Ready Lumber Co. storage building Wednesday, June 6, said Oregon State Police. The crash was reported at 6:40 a.m., and was attributed to the driver spilling hot coffee on one leg. He was cited on a charge of careless driving. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg / I.V. Fire District Media Dept.)