

Deadlines early for July 4

Because the Fourth of July will fall on a Wednesday, the normal publication day for *Illinois Valley News*, a deadline of 5 p.m. Thursday, June 28 will be observed.

The community newspaper will go to press on Monday, July 2, and be distributed, Tuesday, July 3.

County chairman plan for budgeting denied

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

In the face of an allocation dispute, Josephine County residents packed Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass on Wednesday evening, June 13 to provide input to members of the county Budget Committee.

The committee had met on June 7 to consider the 2007-08 fiscal year, which will begin July 1. A "Service Level 1" budget had been passed by the committee on May 17, but the last-minute infusion of approximately \$12 million in federal funds prompted the committee to reconvene on June 7.

Dave Toler, vice chairman of the county board of commissioners, had said that the county would put \$6 million of the federal dollars toward its criminal justice system, with the rest going to a reserve fund.

However, Jim Raffenburg, county commission chairman, presented his own budget plan during the June 7 meeting.

Raffenburg's proposal involved combining the \$12 million in federal funding with a previously approved \$4.8 million general fund transfer for a combined two-year budget of \$16.8 million. Under that plan, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) would have been budgeted at \$7.6 million for the '07-'08 fiscal year, rather than the \$9.8 million under the alternate plan.

During the June 13 meeting, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson characterized Raffenburg's proposal as "reckless."

Under that budget, Gilbertson said, JCSO would be unable to deal with property crimes or provide patrols, and would have 10 fewer jail deputies. As such, the jail would be limited to housing 30 local offenders, down from the current level of 100.

Raffenburg defended his plan, saying that if all the federal money was spent this year, the county would have to ask for a tax increase to make up the difference if those dol-

(Continued on page 12)

Extended federal money pursued by Sen. Wyden

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Legislation for extended county payments legislation, the Iraq War and other pressing issues were discussed during a Monday, June 18 conference call with reporters by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

The senator said that he will pursue a five-year, \$1.1 billion extension of a program to fund rural counties in lieu of declining timber receipts. That legislation will be considered in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Wyden said.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) heads that committee. And he is a co-sponsor of Wyden's legislation, with Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

As such, Wyden said, the proposal has a good chance of making its way to the House. Wyden said that the differences between the Senate and House versions of the legislation then would be reconciled in committee.

"The key negotiators this time will be very sympathetic to Oregon and the rural west," Wyden said.

The Real ID Act of 2005 also was discussed during the

conference call. Many state legislatures have passed laws rejecting provisions of the Real ID Act, citing privacy concerns and the expenses associated with implementing it at the state level.

Wyden said that the Real ID Act will be examined as part of the continuing debate regarding immigration issues, and that a balance must be struck between personal freedoms and national security.

"The challenge in this country in these areas has always been something of a Constitutional teeter-totter," Wyden said. "We want to protect collective security, but we also want to protect individual privacy."

He said that he would prefer a "biometric" national ID system, and that such an approach also would remedy continuing problems with identity theft crimes.

"I personally think biometric systems look like the best approach, where you use fingerprints, thumbprints or something like that," Wyden said.

The increasingly unpopular Iraq War remains a hot-button issue in the Senate, Wyden said. Democrats plan to use a coming defense au-

(Continued on page 10)



A FAMILY IN SELMA was burned out of its rented home. See page 3. (Photos by 'IVN')



FOUR PERSONS suffered injuries in a two-vehicle crash that snarled traffic on Redwood Hwy. in Kerby on Sunday, June 17. See page 3. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

Evergreen, Foris partner for Chateau

A project that began last year to benefit Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Center is being expanded this year to include restoration of Oregon Caves Chateau.

Foris Vineyards Winery, of Cave Junction, and Al Devine, vice president of marketing for Evergreen Federal Bank, are working together for the second year.

Said Devine, "When I first approached Ted Gerber, owner of Foris Vineyards Winery, about an idea we had at Evergreen about doing a special wine and label that would feature wildlife art and benefit Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Center, he and his staff and his distributor took the idea and made it happen."

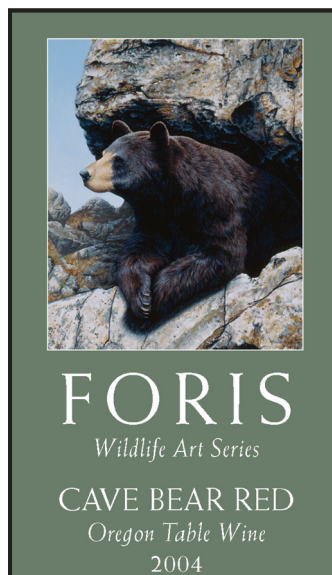
"In addition to a portion of the proceeds benefiting Wildlife Images, the project

tant cause. It says a lot about our community," said Devine.

Evergreen's marketing department has been working on a similar idea that would benefit the Chateau at Oregon Caves National Monument. The Chateau was completed in 1934 and, besides a growing need for restoration, Devine said, "The Chateau needs repairs that cannot wait until restoration funding is obtained."

He explains that Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) is doing a great job of keeping the doors open at the Chateau. It is protecting a steady flow of local jobs and tourism dollars coming into the valley, but it needs help -- right away, he stressed.

(Continued on page 10)



benefits local artists and art projects such as the annual Grants Pass Wildlife Art Show.

"It is nice to see businesses like Foris and the community come together on a project that helps an impor-

a safe environment.

"There are meeting rooms available for day or evening events, and the gym for sports or festivities such as family reunions and weddings.

"Our Farmers Market is in its third year and the more vendors, the better. Fresh vegetables and flowers, plants, fine candles and soaps, herbal potions, jewelry and a variety of other products are available Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m."

Anyone wishing to be a vendor for the season or just occasionally should contact Linda Meier at 597-2522.

City on move with projects on north side

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

It's hard not to notice the high level of construction and other related activity that's been occurring on the north side of Cave Junction.

For months, residents have been hearing about different development proposals for the Redwood Hwy. corridor. But now, those plans are quickly becoming a reality, and represent a sort of crossroads as the city grows its way towards the future.

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) currently is working on expanding the highway between River Street and Laurel Road to add a middle turn lane. And developments are popping up all around that project site. Indications are that millions of dollars are being invested in Cave Junction.

California-based developer Larry Osborn is among those betting on the city of Cave Junction's pending prosperity. His plans entail three separate subdivisions, all of which wrap around Illinois Valley Golf Course.

The Southridge Master Planned Development (MPD) will feature two golf holes, which Osborn said will be "ready to play" next spring, and 58 "premium" residential lots.

"The views off the lots are absolutely incredible,"

(Continued on page 16)

Free tours at cave June 23

Free admission to Oregon Caves National Monument, plus opportunities to enjoy other attractions, will be hosted Saturday, June 23 by the National Park Service.

Community Open House tours will start at 9 a.m., and the last will begin at 6 p.m. Besides the cave circuit, visitors will have the chance to partake of Ranger programs and Nature walks through an old-growth forest; and take in the historic lodge and its restaurants.

Youngsters also can participate in a Junior Ranger program, using an activity book. Completed books can

(Continued on page 3)

Selma Center library among offerings for entire I.V. community

"We are stocked to capacity with excellent books."

So notes Reni Schaeffer, who helps lead the free, public library operations at Selma Community Education Center, the former site of Selma Elementary School on Redwood Hwy.

"Somehow, word that we take in books is out, but fewer people actually use the library to borrow books to read," said Schaeffer. "With the public libraries being closed, one should think that we would have a constant flow of people coming through, but unfortunately, that is not the case."



Reni Schaeffer (left), a member of the Selma Ed Center board; and Joan Hardy, board president. ('IVN' photo)

The Center is open Mondays through Fridays from 1

to 4 p.m. thanks to volunteers willing to be in the office.