



Larry Ragsdale (#34) looks for a hole. (Photo by Jennifer Newsted, *Illinois Valley News*)

Cougars claw opponents; now at 5-0

Illinois Valley’s varsity football team is kickin’ A and takin’ names -- Check it out: 5-0 in preseason play and now looking for a state berth.

In Cave Junction on Friday night, Sept. 28, the Cougars again showed their skills with a 48-6 chomping of the Sutherlin Bulldogs from the Class 4-A Far West League.

The statistics tell their own story: I.V. amassed 344 yards on offense, vs. 155 by the Bulldogs. Sutherlin fumbled four times; I.V. not even once. And for rushing

yards, the Cougars turned in 286; Sutherlin 96.

Therefore, when I.V. opens Skyline Conference play Friday, Oct. 5, the 1-3 Pirates will be looking to come out as spoilers. But the Cougars have other plans.

I.V. senior Larry Ragsdale scored four touchdowns against Sutherlin, with one coming on a punt return. He ran for 96 yards, a low point for the galloping back this year, who has averaged 216 yards.

And although that “slowed down” Ragsdale, it did not deter the Cougars

from rampaging otherwise.

For example, Eric McConico on 11 attempts ran for 104 yards. Plus, quarterback Doug Hoskins, who gained high praise from head coach Bob Thornhill, threw a pair of TD passes, and ran for 6 himself.

His scoring passes were 21 yards to Ragsdale; 27 yards to Steve Paul. His run was a 12-yard bootleg. One of Ragsdale’s runs for paydirt followed an interception by McConico.

The Bulldogs only managed to score in the second period on a 39-yard pass.

Unemployment rate in county lessens to 6.8 percent with slower job growth

Josephine County total payroll employment rose by 120 in August, mostly due to seasonal hiring in local government education before the start of the school year, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

The unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, less than the 7.1 percent for July, but higher than the 6.6 percent noted in August 2006. Last month it was noted that 33,177 persons were employed in the county, out of a civilian labor force of 35,605, said OED.

Jackson County’s jobless rate during August was 5.7 percent. The Oregon seasonally adjusted rate was 5.4 percent; it was 4.6 percent for the United States.

Since August ‘06, total employment in Josephine County is up by 40 jobs, a much slower job growth rate than during the past few years, OED said. The slowdown in construction and housing is a local and national event, and is reflected in recent employment estimates, it added.

During August this

year, manufacturing rose by 30 jobs, 20 of those in wood products manufacturing. Despite the monthly upturn, manufacturing stands at 60 jobs below the year-before totals. Wood products manufacturing accounts for two-thirds of the decline in manufacturing.

Any manufacturing sectors that depend on the residential housing sector may be poised for some job losses in coming months, as the outlook for housing continues to remain poor in the near future due to a glut of unsold homes and tightening lending standards, OED said.

Health care and social assistance rose by 40 jobs during August, and has been a consistent job creation machine in Rogue Valley

for the past few years. During the year, this sector added 140 jobs in Josephine County, for a strong job growth rate of 3.7 percent.

Leisure and hospitality likely has passed its seasonal hiring peak, falling by 20 jobs during August. This tourism-dependent sector posted the fastest job growth of any published sector during the past 12 months, up by 5.1 percent and gaining 160 jobs during that time.

Government hiring totaled 80 in August, with nearly all the increase in local education. During the past year, government employment was little changed, with losses in state government (-20) countered by a gain of 30 in local government education, OED said.

OHSU gets \$2 mil cancer grant

Oregon Health & Science University Cancer Institute in Portland has received a five-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant of more than \$2 million to disseminate information and education materials to hematological cancer survivors, their families and care-givers.

The grant, awarded to nine organizations in the

first round of funding, allows the Cancer Institute to use rapid electronic communication methods to develop and distribute educational material to adolescents and young adults diagnosed with hematological cancers.

According to project team members, there is a dearth of survivorship material targeted at this age demographic.

Federal funds for counties pending ...

(Continued from page 1)

significant payments from the program, with the Fourth District of Oregon receiving the most federal investment.

Before the program was passed in 2000, DeFazio had pushed to make the program permanent. However, he said, due to objections by some in the timber industry and even some county officials, the program was modified to a six-year program.

As the program faced expiration last year, counties in Oregon such as Josephine, and across the nation, began to close libraries, lay off county employees, curtail sheriff patrols, release prisoners early, curtail search-and-rescue operations, and deny mental health services. At least one county is on the brink of declaring bankruptcy and giving up county status, DeFazio reported.

Earlier this year, DeFazio and others made numerous attempts to extend the program. They ultimately were successful in getting a one-year extension of the program attached to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Counties will receive funding under that law through June 2008.

However, given the uncertainty of continued federal assistance, many counties have continued to slash funding for vital services such as education, health care, and law enforcement.

Teacher aim to be armed lawsuit base

A lawsuit filed by an Oregon high school teacher against the Medford School District, “in a case that could have statewide, if not national implications,” is supported by The Second Amendment Foundation, of Bellevue, Wash.

According to the foundation, the teacher, identified as Jane Doe to protect her privacy, is licensed to carry a concealed firearm under Oregon state statute. “She is fearful for her safety, and that of her students, because of threats she has reportedly received from her ex-husband, against whom she has a restraining order.

“School officials, continued the founding, are refusing to allow her to bring her gun on campus, despite Oregon law which appears to allow it.”

A hearing on the case is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11 in Jackson County Court.

In July, DeFazio and Rahall introduced HR 3058, the Public Land Communities Transition Assistance Act of 2007. The bill is based on the Wyden formula originally offered earlier this year. That proposal, mirrored in H.R. 3058, is a multiyear reauthorization of the county payments program. It ramps down funding for the program 10 percent per year, while ramping up the Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program during the same four-year timeframe.

In response to testimony during a July hearing on HR 3058, DeFazio made several changes to the bill, and last week offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to address those concerns. First, the substitute made several changes in the bill to reduce the overall cost of the legislation.

Those changes include extending the Secure Rural Schools program through 2011 rather than 2012,

which will result in a cost saving of \$761 million. The substitute also ramps up PILT payments during the next three years, rather than to immediately fully fund PILT. This change will result in a cost saving of approximately \$112 million.

Finally, the substitute changed the “offsets” to pay for the bill. As introduced, the bill would have authorized the Interior secretary to raise revenue from commercial activities to offset the costs of the bill. However, during the July hearing several Republican members expressed concerns about those offsets, Defazio said.

The substitute uses the fees from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases to pay for the bill.

Total cost of the bill is estimated at \$2.7 billion during a four-year period. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the OCS fees will provide \$2.875 billion during a five-year period.

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FRIDAY, OCT 5
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MONDAY, OCT. 8
Chicken nuggets, hot dog, burrito, PB&J sandwich, cleaver club wrap, chef or garden salad.
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