

Inside:

IVHS X-Country

Four runners head for state meet

Page 14

Dia de los Muertos

I.V. Arts Council brings Mexican traditions

Page 16

Football champs

Cougars of 1950 won J.D.J. League

Page 13

Wreckstravaganza

Responders busy

Pages 10 & 13

Book Exchange

Tomes and tea at Western Plaza

Page 5

Kate's place

Come on in, the burgers are fine

Page 7

CJ's mayor sees crime as big issue

By **WALLY AIKEN**

For IVN

"Crime."

That one word expresses what Mayor Tony Paulson feels is the most pressing problem for the city of Cave Junction.

Paulson went on to say that he feels voter rejection of any tax to fund increases in police protection is proof that the community feels it is adequately served. He added that he has noticed an increase in petty crimes and harassment, usually involving young people.

"People don't seem to understand that you get what you pay for," is the way the mayor expresses his frustration for the financial situation faced by the city.

Mayor since January 2005, he said that his experience has been an eye-opener. Initially he attempted to balance full-time, night-shift employment with his duties as mayor, but found too many minor problems slipping through the cracks.

He quit his job with Fire Mountain Gems because of the conflict to devote his full attention to the unpaid job of mayor of the city of some 1,600 persons.

His primary complaint seems to center on what he believes to be public misconception as to the role of the city council.

"It's not about our opinion," said Paulson, referring to the limitations of the council's role. He sees the council as an "overseer of regulations," namely the Oregon Revised Statutes.

The example he used was his vote to approve the opening of a topless bar last year. He said that he had no basis legally to oppose the operation, and was required to vote in favor of a business opposed by the community-at-large.

The business never opened, and the location now is occupied by Hometown Interiors behind Bi-

(Continued on page 4)



Three vehicles collided in Downtown Cave Junction, and drivers were treated for minor injuries. One vehicle was a BLM pickup truck driven by a contract deputy from Josephine County Sheriff's Office. Story on page 9. (Photos by Jennifer Newsted, IVN)

Illinois Valley gains Skyline football championship

Cougars cement first Skyline title with 9-0 overall record; 4-0 in regular season after 46-8 victory

It's official!

Illinois Valley's varsity

football team has achieved the high school's first Sky-

line Conference league title. The team took its over-



Eric McConico (above) carries for a long gainer against Rogue River with Doug

Hoskins blocking (Photo by Ward Winter for *Illinois Valley News*).



Jacob Nichols (#20) is stopped by Rogue River; as **Tim Mackey (#23)** and **Matthew Cortez (#43)** converge. **Jesse Swift, (#10)**



looks for running room while **Lukas Reynolds** looks for a block. (Photos by Jennifer Newsted, *Illinois Valley News*).

all season record to 9-0 (4-0 in the Skyline) with a decisive 46-8 victory vs. Rogue River on the Chieftains' field Friday night, Oct. 26.

The IVHS Cougars -- now the conference No. 1 seed for the Class 4-A state playoffs -- will face North Valley in the final game of the regular season. That contest will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2 on the IVHS field.

Against the Chieftains, the fourth-ranked Cougars achieved 34 of their points in the first half. Led by seniors Jesse Swift and Larry Ragsdale, who each were good for two TDs, I.V. had 501 offensive yards, and 441 in rushing on 49 efforts.

Ragsdale led all rushers: 90 yards on seven shots. Swift turned in 67 yards on seven carries.

Swift found paydirt on runs of 6 and 3 yards. Ragsdale ran in a 48-yarder, and snagged a 10-yard scoring pass from senior Doug Hoskins.

As the number one seed, IVHS will open the 4-A playoffs with a bye. They'll then compete against the Sky-Em League's number two team. The mid-November game date will be announced.

After the contests Oct. 26, Hidden Valley and North Valley had records of 2-2 in the Skyline; Rogue River is at 0-4, and Henley is 3-1.

Battle set pitting tax vs. timber

By **MICHELLE BINKER**
IVN Staff Writer

Battle lines are being drawn in what's been framed as a debate over "timber vs. taxes" and the future of county funding.

Advocating "good stewardship" of timberlands, and laying the blame for reduced timber receipts squarely at the feet of environmentalist groups, the nonprofit Southern Oregon Resource Alliance (SORA) has threatened a lawsuit against the federal government for "breach of contract" with Western Oregon counties under the 1937 O&C Act.

Some 40 people attended an informational meeting Wednesday evening, Oct. 24 in Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass. Following a summary of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions, delivered by Tim Reuwsaat, of Medford BLM, those who would like to see a return to the hey-day of timber revenues in Oregon spoke of the need to force the federal government to "obey the law" with respect to O&C lands management.

Commissioner Jim Raffenburg, chairman of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, said that the federal government must be compelled, through lawsuits if necessary, to produce more timber or turn the 2.1 million acres of O&C land over to counties to manage. The "do-nothing" alternative, Raffenburg said, would require counties to increase property taxes and leave unmanaged forests susceptible to catastrophic wildfire.

"I don't want to raise taxes," Raffenburg said. "Harvesting timber is the next best thing to money growing on trees."

Raffenburg is adamant
(Continued on page 14)

Raffenburg delegate for forest meet

"At the Crossroads," a conference addressing the future of forests and timber harvesting in Oregon, will be attended by Commissioner Jim Raffenburg, chairman of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The conference at Oregon State University (OSU) at Corvallis, will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 6 and 7. One of the principal speakers will be Gail Kimbell, chief of the USDA/U.S. Forest Service.

During the conference, participants will explore the benefits of Oregon forests in the context of regional, national and global changes, said OSU. The goal, it added, is "to engage a broad spectrum of political, social and economic stakeholders and decision-makers in Oregon's forests."

Raffenburg's attendance is sponsored by the Association of O&C Counties. The conference is led by the OSU Institute for Natural Resources with support from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and the Pacific Forest Trust.

Minimum wage rise not detrimental to business, says OCPP

In connection with Oregon's minimum wage increase by 15-cents next year, the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCP) has issued an analysis showing that minimum wage cost-of-living adjustments have not led to the dire consequences predicted by the farm and restaurant industries that opposed pegging the mini-

um wage to inflation.

Oregon's minimum wage will increase from \$7.80 to \$7.95 per hour on Jan. 1, 2008, announced the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. The increase means an extra \$312 a year and a total annual income of \$16,536 for a family with one full-time minimum-wage worker, OCPP said.

The increase reflects the rise of the cost-of-living as defined by the August Consumer Price Index. The annual adjustment is mandated by Ballot Measure 25, approved by voters in 2002.

Since enactment of Measure 25, Oregon has created jobs at a faster clip than most other states. OCPP's numbers show that

Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment growth was 12th-fastest in the nation from 2002 to 2007.

Employment in the restaurant industry -- a vocal opponent of the measure and an industry with a relatively large share of minimum wage workers -- grew 19 percent during the 2002 to 2007 period.