

Here, There, & Everywhere

OREGON FI GOOD - Fitch Ratings announced that it is raising its grade for Oregon general obligation bonds from AA- to AA. The credit rating agency cited "sustained revenue performance" and growth in the state's reserve funds as reasons for the upgrade.

PARK IT JULY 10 - Concerts in the Park, sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, will take a break for Thursday, July 3. The next concert will be presented by *Broadway Phil & The Shouters* on Thursday, July 10. Each concert in the series in Jubilee Park in Cave Junction runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Soft drinks, barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs are available. Concert-goers should bring their own chairs. Spectators also can participate in the 50-50 drawing, which the chamber uses to pay for the musicians, thanks to ticket seller Harold Hill, who otherwise keeps busy at his Cave Junction business, Antique Alley Custom Rod Shop.

FIREWORKS NO-NO - Fire service managers are reminding people to not use fireworks of any kind on national forest lands as people enjoy overnight camping or picnics this Fourth of July. For fire prevention and safety reasons, all types of fireworks are prohibited in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and BLM Medford District, even sparklers and smoke bombs. "Fireworks are a huge risk for starting an unintentional fire," said the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Violators found guilty of starting a forest fire will be assessed for fire suppression costs and can be subject to a fine. USFS also urges campfire safety including never leaving a fire unattended, and making positively sure that they are out before leaving them.

FLOAT & FLY - Radio-controlled model boats and airplanes will be featured at Lake Selmac on Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13. The annual event is sponsored by Rogue Valley Flyers AMA 1408. Watch the *Noose* for details or contact Alan_Littlewood@Charter.net.

CRIME FIGHTER - Detective Jim Brissette of Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety recently was recognized by Crime Stoppers of Southern Oregon (CSSO) for his years of support and service in helping Crime Stoppers. Brissette has been a member of CSSO since 2000. In 2004 he was elected as vice president of the organization. He served in that capacity until his retirement from law enforcement, which occurred on June 20.

CSSO is a nonprofit organization underwritten by Sonitrol of Southern Oregon. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 cash for any information leading to the arrest and fulfillment of charges on any crime. Caller's names are kept confidential. Those with information can phone (800) 3DETECT.

NOTEPAD - Texas Hold 'Em time will be held Friday, July 4 beginning at 6 p.m. by I.V. Wrestling Club at the Illinois Valley Lions Club Den at I.V. Airport. To sign up, phone Jay Miller at 597-2325 or Suzie Culver at 596-2202 ... **The National Guard Band** of The N.W./560th Air Force Band will perform Tuesday, July 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Riverside Park during a free concert sponsored by Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce ... **Libby Goines Trio** will be the opening act for *It's a Beautiful Day* on Friday, July 11 at Rogue Theater in Grants Pass. She'll perform with bassist John Trujillo, and percussionist Abe Perea ... **Fur & Feathers in the Garden** is the title of an OSU Extension class that will be given Tuesday, July 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Grants Pass. Encouraging/discouraging critters, depending on their demeanor, is the general topic. Phone 476-6613 ...

A wild pig carcass found off Thompson Creek Road in Selma reportedly was identified as such by wildlife biologists. The beast was described as black and hairy with a very long snout ... **Restaurant signboard:** Cheapest gas in the county. Bean burritos \$2.50 ... **Church signboard:** Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

LAST WORDS - It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion. (Archbishop William Temple)

In three words I can sum up everything
I've learned about life: It goes on.

~ Robert Frost ~

The beat goes on.
~ Sonny and Cher ~

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DEADLINES:

News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAYS

(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be
accepted until Noon, Fridays with an additional charge.)

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are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using
complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be
published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Generally,
one letter per person per month at publishers' discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the
publishers. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be
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County accepts \$3.2 million plus via grants

Josephine County commissioners voted 3-0 to accept numerous "pass-through" monies, and 2-1 to choose a newspaper of record for the annual list of tax foreclosures Wednesday morning, June 25.

The board met in Anne G. Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass. Josephine County Treasurer John Harelson addressed the board regarding publication of foreclosures.

Harelson said that publication is an effective collection tool. Last year, he said, *Illinois Valley News* was not included for publishing. At the time, Commissioner Dave Toler said it was simply a matter of cutting costs.

The treasurer and Commissioner Jim Raffenburg had an exchange Wednesday regarding whether the re-

quirement of publishing in a newspaper of record meant that only one newspaper could be chosen. Eventually, the board voted 2-1 to designate the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* as the official newspaper of record. Raffenburg voted "No" because, he said, choosing only one newspaper seems like favoritism.

However, Harelson said that he hopes to include *Illinois Valley News* for publishing the annual tax foreclosure list. He said that the valley publication has been a big help to the county in various ways, including the fact that the county has collected some of its taxes when residents see that they are in arrears.

He also indicated that the *I.V. News* circulation is an important factor. Commissioner Dwight Ellis noted that

it serves a third of the county population.

Also during the meeting, the board approved pass-through monies through inter-governmental agreements. Raffenburg included "swallowing hard" in his "Yes" vote because of what he feels smacks of socialism.

*A maximum \$18,216 for HIV prevention services through June 30, 2009 from HIV Resource Center.

*The sum of \$838,182 from Oregon Dept. of Human Services (ODHS) for financing the county Public Health Dept. through June 30, 2009.

*Revenue not to exceed \$1,267,000 through June 30, 2013 from ODHS for Medicaid administrative billing.

*Revenue not to exceed \$65,500 through June 30, 2009 from Health Care Coal-

tion of Southern Oregon to provide case management services for maternal-child care.

*Monies not to surpass \$853,705 through June 30, 2011 from ODHS for the county Juvenile Division to provide behavior rehabilitation services to youth through shelter placement.

*Through ODHS, the sum of \$129.94 per child-care day by the Juvenile Division through June 30, 2011.

*Revenue of \$216,545 for public transit from Oregon Dept. of Transportation for Josephine County Transit (JCT), which has routes that include Cave Junction and Wolf Creek. A match of \$169,591 is required.

*Income of \$30,000 from Rogue Community College as a partner with JCT.

JoCo leaders challenged on I.V. Ranch ruling

By approving inclusion of I.V. Ranch on Holland Loop for aggregate removal, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners has violated an Oregon state statute.

The accusation, and a demand for a written answer as to how the action is justified, were made by Holland Loop resident Joel Perkins. He addressed the county

Hearing set for planned fire district

A proposal to form the Mid-Rogue Rural Fire Protection District to cover areas of Josephine County now lacking a fire protection district was approved 2-1 by county commissioners.

The vote came Wednesday, June 25 during a meeting in Anne G. Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass.

It appears that the proposal will be on the Nov. 4 ballot, and that there could be a vote on funding the district in March if it is approved. Indications also are that a slate of board of director candidates also will be on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Areas including Illinois Valley and others in the county that already have rural fire protection districts will not be in the proposed district. The cities of Cave Junction and Grants Pass also would not be included.

The final public hearing on the proposal is set for July 16 at 6 p.m. in Basker Auditorium. The public hearing June 25 lasted approximately 30 minutes with 13 citizens making comments. Among those speaking was Charles Chase, a deputy state fire marshal for the S.W. Oregon region.

Chase said that the proposed district is important from several perspectives, not the least of which involves

(Continued on page 5)

Corrections

The bonehead editor allowed at least two errors to creep into last week's issue.

One -- A page 1 headline incorrectly stated: Walden aims at major forest restoration. Actually, it was U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who proposed "an expansive overhaul of federal forest practices throughout Oregon."

Two -- A page 5 story incorrectly noted that sponsors and the amount raised were by The Pregnancy Center of Illinois Valley. Actually, the information applies to the Illinois Valley team that participated in the American Cancer Society Walk for Life in Grants Pass.

Apparently, the editor-in-chief needs a vacation.

board during its meeting in Grants Pass on Wednesday, June 25.

Perkins referred to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 215.296, "Standards for approval of certain uses in exclusive farm use zones; violation of standards; complaint; penalties; exceptions to standards."

Asked Perkins, who had to speak rapidly, as Chairman Dave Toler had reduced public comment time to two minutes because of the length of the meeting, "How can the board of county commissioners sign into law Ordinance 2006 that violates the intent of ORS 215? We have farms and vineyards that will suffer economically if you permit mining on the I.V. Ranch."

He quoted the ordinance

in part: "The mining of significant aggregate sites pursuant to this subsection shall not be subject to the basic aggregate policies applying OAR (Oregon Administrative Rules) 660-023-180 requirements for minimizing or resolving existing and new conflicting uses or obtaining an Impact Area Agreement, but shall be subject to the operating standards implemented through Article 91 of the Rural Land Development Code."

Perkins then cited Article 91 in part: "Conflicts due to noise, dust or other discharges with regard to existing and approved uses which are sensitive to such discharges shall be minimized to ensure conformance to the

applicable local, state or federal standards."

He asked, "How does the county propose to verify and enforce this, given current lack of resources? Who gets to decide what 'minimize' means, or how these standards are met?"

He added, "Does anyone on the board understand how intrusive mining is to adjoining properties, including a vineyard that has customers on site? Why would you put the I.V. Ranch into the county's inventory of Significant Aggregate Sites, given that it will economically harm the adjoining agriculture-based properties?"

"This," said Perkins, "is in direct contradiction to ORS 215-296."

Stevereno's

Continuing to Serve You !

I would like to personally thank the community of the Illinois Valley for allowing my family 12 years of serving you. We've had so many blessings in the Valley, we thank you.

As many of you know, life has a way of changing directions. We love Josephine County and will be starting a new beginning in Grants Pass.

I will be joining a new family at Roe Motors and would personally like to invite all of you to drop in and see me. I gladly join a team where honesty and family traditions remain.

Thank you,

Stevereno
Steve Anderson



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476-7701

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