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H1N1 flu clinic set Oct. 29 at JoCo Bldg.

The Josephine County Public Health Dept. will hold an H1N1 flu clinic at the County Building in Cave Junction from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29.

When the clinic was originally scheduled, it was assumed that Public Health Nurses would be providing both vaccines. However, since production of the Seasonal Flu vaccine has been delayed, the only vaccine available for administration during the clinic will be the H1N1 vaccination.

Since this will be an H1N1 Flu Clinic, vaccinations will only be administered to priority groups.

They include pregnant women; household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age; healthcare and emergency medical services personnel; all persons from 6 months through 24 years of age; persons ages 25 through 64 with health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza; front line state and local law enforcement officers and firefighters who are likely to have recurring physical contact with the public as a routine part of their usual work; correctional personnel in state prisons, local jails and juvenile correctional facilities who come in physical contact with adult and juvenile offenders; public safety emergency tele-communicators, including 911 and line dispatchers; and active service members in the Oregon National Guard.

Public Health will have limited doses available at this time. More doses will be available in the future, and additional clinics will be scheduled as supplies allow.

Once a vaccine becomes available for the Seasonal Flu, the Public Health Dept. will schedule an additional flu clinic to provide those vaccinations.

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Family home consumed by early morning blaze

An early morning fire on Monday, Oct. 19 drove an Illinois Valley family from their home and resulted in the total loss of the structure, contents and one vehicle.

An account has been established at the Cave Junction branch of Home Valley Bank to assist Keith & Michelle Binker and their sons, Paul, 11 and Ian, 7.

The fire was discovered at 3 a.m. by Michelle Binker, who awoke to the sound of venting propane tanks and a crash of breaking glass.

"I sat up in bed and saw the flames coming in through the utility room door," Binker said. "I yelled 'Fire' and my husband and I rushed to get

the boys out of their bedroom, which was close to the ignition point of the fire."

The home, a timber-framed, stuccoed straw-bale structure, quickly filled with smoke and flame as the family fled to the safety of a nearby outbuilding.

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) responded in force to fight the blaze, which was made difficult due to the durability of the concrete stucco. Smoldering straw bales within the walls were practically impossible to extinguish. At daybreak, a track hoe was brought in to demolish the structure as firefighters saturated the flaming debris.

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The fire resulted in the total loss of the structure and one vehicle; firefighters grappled with the burning straw bales, pulling the house apart with a track hoe. Firefighters fought the fierce blaze for several hours. (Photos by Michelle Binker, and Dale & Elaine Sandberg, IVFD)



The rain-soaked field made ball handling difficult. (Photo by Michelle Binker, I.V. News)

Cougars meet pair of tough foes

By KENNY HIX
For IVN

The Cougar girls soccer team met two tough adversaries on Tuesday, Oct. 13 in Cave Junction -- St. Mary's and Mother Nature.

However, in soccer you have no rain-outs, so the Cougars played the Crusaders in swamp-like conditions. It was so bad that when the ball was kicked 100 mph and finally made contact with the two inches of rain on the field, it stopped on a dime.

Sometimes it seemed as if the ball went backward as players from both teams, in soaking wet uniforms, went splashing past. I.V. weathered the storm, played extremely hard and had a lot of fun.

In fact, both teams had the times of their lives in a game to remember. St. Mary's scored 7 in the first half and 4 more in the second half.

Laurissa Tausaga and Jessyka Smith played in net for the Cougars and had five and four saves respectively.

"We had some good passes on offense and stayed aggressive on defense even though we played in soup," said coach Annette Skidmore. "But the girls loved it."

On Saturday the 17th, also at home in Cave Junction, the Lady Cougars played the Rogue River Chieftains, who with Illinois Valley will be a part of the new 3-A/2-A Special District in fall 2010.

The Cougars, led by Tausaga, came out fired up. The Chieftains were in trouble early, and they knew it. RR finally adjusted to the fact that the Cougars came to play and worked the ball down the field and scored first at the six-minute mark.

That didn't faze the Cougars as they continued to stymie Rogue River for 15 minutes more before the Chieftains found the corner of the Cougar net at the 21-minute mark to take a 2-0 lead.

Again the Cougars were not fazed, and 30 seconds after kickoff they made three passes through the defense and found Marisol "Smiley" Sanchez and her "Golden Toe" for Illinois Valley's first goal of the season. It was a sight for sore eyes.

I.V. and its fans erupted in jubilation. The inspired Cougs then held RR scoreless for the remaining 18 minutes of the first half with a 2-1 score in Rogue River's favor.

The second half began with I.V. applying pressure at both ends of the field for the first five minutes. However, you could see that RR was applying a different offensive attack, thus confusing the Cougars on matchups and who to mark up with.

Before the dust cleared, the Chieftains had a 7-1 lead, scoring six times in 10 minutes.

"It was the worst 10 minutes we have played all year. It was as if they weren't even there," said Skidmore. The Cougs came back to Earth, buckled down and were re-inspired by Xenia Velasco and her spectacular block, diving high and to the right to deflect a point-blank Chieftain shot over the top of the goal.

For the next 25 minutes the Cougs played great team soccer as they held Rogue River to end the match 7-1.

"The first half was amazing; it was a total team effort," observed Skidmore. "Everyone played well. But that 10 minutes of the second half killed us."

Velasco had 21 saves.

Gov calls for mining ban in Siskiyou Wild Rivers area

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

"If it can't be grown, it must be mined."

That's the Southwest Oregon Mining Association motto, which Vice President Ron Gibson has printed on his business card.

But Gibson and his fellow miners soon may be with fewer places to engage in their livelihood, as Gov. Kulongoski last week called for greater protections of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area.

In a Thursday, Oct. 15 press release, Kulongoski announced that he sent letters to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar urging the reinstatement of mining withdrawal for the million-acre space, which spans Bureau of Land Management and national forest land in Josephine and Curry counties.

President Clinton first proposed the withdrawal in January 2001, shortly before leaving office, but it never was finalized by George W. Bush during his two terms.

"The Siskiyou Wild Rivers area is the most unique and biologically diverse region of our state, and without greater protections, we could lose what makes this area so special," Kulongoski said in the press release. "The first step should be to withdraw mining, and the second should be a wilderness designation -- the greatest protection federal law provides."

Gibson said that there is "no lawful authority" for the governor to make such a request. He added that he thinks Kulongoski is essentially asking the federal agencies to trample on miners' rights.

"That's exactly what he's trying to do," Gibson said. "But there's no provision in law for it."

According to Gibson and other mining advocates, their rights are codified by an 1866 mineral grant, which cannot

be trumped by any subsequent legislation or administrative rule changes.

"It never ceases to amaze me that regulatory agencies or the state as a whole or the federal government thinks it can just come and walk all over anybody they want to promote their agenda. That's incredibly naïve on their part," Gibson said.

"There are some instances where they can get by with it and people don't raise enough resistance to it. The mining community is not one of those."

Kulongoski has been among the politicians calling for changes to existing mining laws, some of which were enacted in 1872. In the Oct. 15 press release, Kulongoski raised the issue yet again.

"Without the withdrawal, the area is subject to the 1872 federal mining law, which does not reflect modern environmental protections or assure adequate royalties to public coffers," the release states.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently banned the use of suction dredge mining in that state, which has caused Kulongoski to be concerned that those miners may try to move their operations to Oregon.

Gibson acknowledges that may be the case, but adds that lawsuits already have been filed challenging California's suction dredge ban. Kulongoski also has raised concerns about reports of increased mining in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region. However, Gibson said that miners are coming under increased harassment from agency representatives.

"We are under attack from all sides," Gibson said.

A mining withdrawal for the area would not affect valid mining claims, Kulongoski wrote in his letter to Salazar and Vilsack.

"It would give the man-

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