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Cheer for the Cure



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

The Illinois Valley High School Cheerleaders showed their true colors last Friday night at the home football game against Cascade Christian. The players, coaches and many in attendance wore pink in support of Breast Cancer awareness month.

One arrested, others sought in ATV thefts

A Cave Junction man has been arrested under suspicion of stealing several all-terrain vehicles and police say they have reason to believe that he had at least two accomplices.

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office says that employees at Dave's Outdoor Power Equipment, which sells a variety of outdoor gear, discovered at about 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, that nine ATVs were missing from the business's locked compound at 287 Hamilton Ave. in Cave Junction.

Investigators soon found five of the ATVs hidden in a wooded area near Glendon Drive. With information from the investigation, officers got a search warrant for the June Drive home of Jasen Robert Lewis, 29.

While executing the search warrant, offi-

cers found another of the missing ATVs from Dave's and a motorcycle that had been reported stolen in Grants Pass in early September.

Deputies subsequently arrested Lewis on seven counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle and one count of aggravated first-degree theft.

Investigators suspect that at least two other men were involved in the thefts, but they haven't identified them yet and the investigation is continuing.

Police are asking anyone with information about the thefts and those involved to contact Detective Howard Lewelling of the Major Crimes Unit at the sheriff's office by calling 541-474-5153 ext. 3514, or the department's confidential tip line at 541-474-5160.

Robber meets bad end of a broomstick

A 75-year-old gas station attendant used a broomstick to fight off an armed robber last week in Cave Junction.

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office reports that a man in a black hooded sweatshirt and black mask attempted to rob the Oregon Caves Chevron in Cave Junction early this past Wednesday, Oct. 6.

The robber, though, met his match early that morning when he came across 75-year-old Dan McLeod who was opening the station when the incident occurred just after 5 a.m.

Police said the suspect walked up behind McLeod and demanded cash. When McLeod refused, the suspect reached into his pocket and brandished a tire iron and threatened to kill McLeod.

That's when, police said, McLeod grabbed a "broomstick handle and struck the suspect several times until the suspect fled the scene" on foot in an unknown direction.

Police said that no cash or property was taken during the incident.

The suspect is described as a white male between 20 to 25 years of age. The suspect was last seen wearing a black hooded jacket, black mask, baggie light colored shorts and tennis shoes.

Anyone with information about the suspect or the attempted robbery is encouraged to contact Deputy Cory Krauss at the Josephine County Sheriff's Office tip line by calling 541-474-5160.

Crossing a major threshold at Rough & Ready Lumber Co.

Cross celebrates 40 years

By KEVAN MOORE
IVN Staff Writer

Ivan Cross has been a logger for a long time. The way he remembers it, he first started learning the trade from his father when he was just 4- or 5-years-old in Selma.

And this month, on the verge of his 61st birthday, Cross was celebrated as the longest-serving employee of the Rough & Ready Lumber Company. He started working at the company on October 7, 1970; right about the same time he moved south from Selma to town.

When he was first hired at the Cave Junction outfit, Cross told his new employers that he "planned on making a career out of it."

"I told them I'd stay there as long as I had a job and, By Golly, I think I've done that," he said.

Getting hired, though, wasn't all that easy at first. Cross first approached Louie Krauss Jr. and his brother, Fred. He told the brothers that after a few

years "in the logging woods" he wanted a job in the industry that was a little more steady and closer to home. The brothers, though, were skeptical and wouldn't hire him, figuring that Cross would leave the mill and return back to the woods after the winter.

That's when Cross took matters into his own hands. He camped out in front of the mill for a week or so until one day when Lou Krauss, himself, showed up.

"Old Grandpa Lou came by one morning and I asked him for a job," Cross recalled. "He asked if I knew how to be a chain puller and I said, 'No.' Then, he said, 'Have you got an apron and a pair of gloves?' and I said, 'Yes, and I'm willing to learn how to do anything you need me to do.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.

Cross worked for about three months on the plainer chain, pulling lumber off of the chain and stacking it in piles, before moving over to "the big mill" for the rest of the winter.

"I've been there ever since," Cross added.

Not only that, but Cross has been a log-yard supervisor for some 32 years now. That's about two years longer than the next longest-lasting employee, a man whom Cross actually hired, has been with Rough & Ready.

"I work right along the rest of the guys running loaders and whatever else needs to be done," Cross said. "I enjoy the whole thing, really, but I'm a lot happier when I'm running equipment than anything else. I like to get out there with the crew and run with the guys — hustle and go right along with them."

Ironically enough, Cross' affinity for running equipment these days, is the same thing he loved about working out in the woods when he first started his career between his junior and senior years of high school.

"At that age, you could get a permit to work, but you couldn't run equipment," he said. "Of course, that's the first thing I did — skidding logs and loading logs."

Cross said that he has, indeed, seen a lot of changes

since starting work at the mill. The company has expanded dramatically, adding a small log mill, kilns and rebuilding the sorting mill to

name a few.

The best change for Cross, though, came on his first day at Rough & Ready.

"Five minutes from

work and five minutes from home," he said. "I made the right decision that's for sure."



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Ivan Cross breaks into a big grin upon seeing his cake for the 40th anniversary. (left to right) Jennifer Krauss Phillippi, Ivan, Kathy and MaryKay Krauss share the moment.