

Illinois Valley News

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‘Operation Boo’ grabs ghouls

Oct. 28 the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office conducted a saturation patrol for four hours. “We had some money from a vacant position we are in the process of hiring for,” Sheriff Daniel said. “We made multiple arrests,” he added.

The list of arrests included one for possession of a controlled substance (PCS meth); unlawful possession of a firearm; felony elude arrest; plus five warrants that included: interfering with police, carrying a concealed firearm and false information to police. Also, two people were detained on probation violations and one included the seizure of a firearm and cocaine.

Fifty-one traffic stops were initiated resulting in - one driving under the influence of intoxicants; 38 warnings and eight citations; four subjects were arrested on a total of nine warrants; and five bars were checked in the area that led to multiple infractions.

End of daylight savings highlights bus safety

Judy Hoyle

IVN Contributing Writer

A couple weeks ago in the Illinois Valley, a school bus was stopped to load a kindergartener. The child and her mother needed to cross the road to get to the bus.

As is her routine, the bus driver signaled them to wait while she double checked to make sure that no traffic was moving.

At that moment, an impatient driver made a highly illegal maneuver and passed the bus on the shoulder. Were it not for the school bus driver’s vigilance, the car could have hit the child as she was attempting to enter the bus.

This is just one of many stories “First Student Driver” coordinator Christina Churchill has heard and seen. “All it takes is one driver and you have a tragedy,” said Churchill.

Daylight savings time ends Nov. 6 and children will be going to school in the dark.

Churchill recommends a flashlight for students to carry, especially those who have long driveways.

“If I can see their flashlight, I’ll know to wait for them,” she said. “We hate to leave kids behind. Sometimes, if they’re late, and you go, they have no way to get to school.”

Churchill also recommended reflective tape be placed on a student’s backpack and jacket sleeves. Inexpensive reflective bands can also be purchased and slipped over a student’s arm.

There are school bus traffic laws in every state in the union, most of them similar to Oregon’s statutes.

Drivers may not pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing – even when the bus is coming from the other direction. Once the amber lights are flashing, no vehicle may proceed until they are turned off.

There is one exception to this law. If you are on a divided highway with two sides separated by an unpaved median strip or barrier, like Redwood Highway near Rogue Community College, you must stop only if you are on the same side as the bus.

School bus drivers will turn on flashing amber lights 100 to 300 feet in advance of a stop to warn traffic that they will be loading or unloading children. More information and diagrams are available in the current Oregon Driver Manual, published by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Churchill said a vehicle owner can be cited when the driver of a car passes a school bus illegally.

“Fines can be very high for illegally passing a school bus, but the risk of hitting someone is even higher,” she said.

Oregon drivers are also expected to slow down in school zones.

Five sided yellow signs with pedestrian silhouettes mark school zones and school crossings.

SEE BUS ON A-12

Rough and Ready auction marks the end of an era



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

A sign posted across from the Rough and Ready Lumber Company brings home the reality that the mill is not going to get a last minute reprieve.

Jason McMillen

IVN Contributing Writer

Rough and Ready Lumber Company, a mill that has been running in the Illinois Valley for 93 years, has closed its doors for the third and final time recently. Management is set to run an auction over the coming days to liquidate the remainder of their on-site assets by selling them off to person’s both private and corporate.

Rough and Ready was first established in Selma in 1922 but was relocated to Cave Junction in 1943. Its facilities have served as a major employer in the area for workers over four generations and were run by the Krauss family which has run the business since its inception.

Jennifer Krauss Phillippi, third generation family owner, stated that ongoing litigation has caused the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to “flip flop” on their timber sale program which created an unstable climate for business. According to Phillippi, there was a court ruling that required the BLM to sell a minimum amount which prompted them to rebuild their business but sooner rather than later the whole program was virtually shut down.

“Any business would have trouble if they couldn’t count on their raw material... We’ve just given up, we just can’t count on these erratic federal management plans,” Phillippi lamented.

With regards to future timber harvesting Phillippi continued, “Eventually the ON&C (Oregon and California Revested Lands) Act will force the BLM to sell a regular timber program but we just can’t wait that long.”

Reportedly this measure will linger two or three more years in courts before any action is taken. Around 80 percent of local land is controlled by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service so without their support Rough and Ready was set up for their inevitable end.

At the time of its final closure there were around 85 people employed at the mill.

Not limited to the production of high quality timber products, Rough and Ready also hosted a co-gen steam power plant which created renewable energy and has been serving the community since 2007. This power plant worked by burning material that was deemed a fire hazard from local forests to generate steam to dry lumber while also adding power back to the grid.

“Ecologically it’s a real loss to have a manufacturing facility go away from an area that needs so much work done in the woods to keep it healthy and from burning up. Unfortunately, without a manufacturer present there is little incentive to clear out the excess biomass accumulating in the forest.”

When asked about their final closure Phillippi stated, “It breaks our hearts to go in this direction but we’ll add to our timberland base, continue to manage our existing forest lands, and sell logs to other manufacturers which will help support jobs.” She continued by saying that her family was proud to have supported the community for nearly a century and she will continue that tradition to the best of her ability.

Ivan Cross, a former employee of 43 years who worked his way up to log yard supervisor, stated, “It was just like a big family, a second home...”

you knew everybody and you worked together and got along good together. Without hesitation he continued by saying its closure will be a big shock to the Valley. In his position as supervisor he oversaw the work of around 20 workers and recalled around 200 workers being employed in total during its heyday in the late ‘80s.

Mike Arnett, a second generation employee of 30 years, with his father having spent the majority of his working life there as well, held a similar outlook. “It was family. I miss it. Going in and working with everybody. I’m sad it’s gone. It was a legacy.” Before being old enough to work at the mill Mike recalled that he did yardwork for “the old man Krauss” and considers them to be an extension of his own family.

Randy Hansen, yet another long time employee of 42 years in shipping and sales also held that the closure of the mill is a big loss to the Valley. “It was one of the better paying jobs for living around here and was a close knit community ... There isn’t that much industry here in the Valley and a lot of people who had a home and stuff might have to relocate. That’s tough for people with a family.”

It is beyond a shadow of a doubt that things have gotten difficult for the employees and families serving at Rough and Ready during its final closure.

Times are changing quickly in the Illinois Valley. It is a plain and simple fact. Although nobody knows for sure whether these changes will be for the better or for the worse it is safe to say that Rough and Ready was an integral part of the Illinois Valley’s history and will likely be remembered for many years to come.

‘Illinois Valley Naturally!’ reaches out to youth

By Laura Mancuso

IVN Staff

“Illinois Valley Naturally!” is a new slogan aimed at uplifting the perception about the Valley and to remind the residents what a great place they live in.

The slogan originated out of a focus group for the Illinois Valley 20/20 Community Vision and Strategic Plan that was hosted by the Oregon Rural Development Council. During a strategic planning meeting, participants were concerned about the Valley’s youth feeling abandoned by their community.

According to Jean Ann Miles, community volunteer and activist, she heard students from the I.V. High School Leadership class say, “Nobody would care if we dropped out of school next week and stood on a street corner and sold weed.”

“I was just appalled by the concept that

they said nobody cared,” said Miles.

After this meeting the I.V. Pride focus group was formed and includes John and Jean Ann Miles, John Gardiner, Joyce Abrams, Kent Fisher, Patty Downing, Orville and Mary Camp, and Sarah NightBear.

The Illinois Valley 20/20 Community Vision and Strategic Plan now has a visionary goal statement for community pride that states: “Residents have realistic, positive perceptions about the Illinois Valley. Volunteerism is collaborative, widespread and growing. Participation in events and institutions is strong.”

The Strategic Plan also has desired outcomes that state: “Improved positive attitudes and perceptions about the I.V. Expand the commitment to optimism, competence, and collaborative participation of residents. Increased engagement of organizations with youth, families and seniors. Increased options

for youth to stay or return to live in the I.V. Increased volunteer base and communication systems. More effective outreach to get broader participation in community activities and raise awareness of positive accomplishments.”

The I.V. Pride focus group came together and hired an artist to design the inspiring logo which represents someone reaching up in joy and celebrating the Valley and then I.V. Pride member Kent Fisher came up with the slogan “Illinois Valley Naturally!”

The group also came up with some special taglines to promote the Valley such as: Paradise Found; Creativity Zone; Open Spaces, Happy Faces; Family Matters; and Gateway to Discovery.

The focus group would like to see the “Illinois Valley Naturally!” design and slogan be used for bumper stickers, posters in store fronts, buttons to wear and positive messages

on social media.

“We want everyone to know this is a good place to be,” said Miles.

SEE NATURALLY ON A-12

