

# Sports

## Cougar hoopsters moving in the right direction

Ray Brown

IVN Contributing Writer

### Girls' basketball

The Cougars took on the La Pine Hawks Wednesday, Dec. 21 at home in a hard-fought, well-played game where Tori Johnson led the scoring in the first quarter with five points. La Pine beat the buzzer with a 3-pointer at the end of the period to take the lead at 9-11. The Hawks seemed to hit shots when they really needed them and stayed ahead at the half at 17-25. Aarika Brooks led the scoring in the second and third periods with 10 points, with

La Pine still leading at the end of the third quarter, with the score being 25-36. Johnson found her range in the final period and hit three 3-pointers to help bring the Cougars within one point. With time running out, foul strategy came into play and the Hawks hit the free throws they needed to pull out the win, 41-45. Johnson led scoring with 14; Brooks - 12; Courtney Scott - seven; Aundrea Miller - six, and Diamond Murphy - two.

The Lady Cougars did squeak one out against Pleasant Hill the previous night with a 38-39 win, and won their game at Eagle Point Thursday, Dec. 22, with a score of 46-44. This

week, they have a three-day tournament at Hidden Valley,

### Boys' basketball

The Cougars basketball team put together good defense along with points and sharp offence Wednesday, Dec. 21, against La Pine at the Ken Mann Gym. After trailing 9-15 at the end of the first stanza, the boys got with it, taking the lead in the second quarter at the 4:25 mark, and kept the lead through the rest of the game, with the half ending at 25-19. The Cougars did not let down in the third and added 2 more points to the lead at 40-32. The

Hawks could only pull to within six points with 4:51 left in the game, and the Cougars kept their scoring up to win at 53-44. Skylar McLanahan led the scoring with 19 points; Bryce Brunner - six; Elijah Polk - five; Cody Box - five; Caleb Hess - two; Tanner Davis - two, and Chase Nelson - two.

The Pleasant Hill game Tuesday, Dec. 20, was a close loss for the Cougars at 37-34. This week the Cougars will be playing in a tournament at Hidden Valley, Dec. 28 - Dec. 30, and then host Gold Beach Tuesday, Jan. 3 at home.

## Hard to write this headline, but you should read this

### Gonorrhea on rise in Josephine

Jason McMillen

IVN Contributing Writer

Public health officials have noticed a rise in infections caused by

gonorrhea throughout Josephine County with 77 confirmed cases so far in 2016.

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) which can infect both men and women. The infection is most common among young people aged 15-24. In addition, the infection can also be passed from a pregnant woman to their child during child birth.

Some men experience no symptoms from this infection and most women with gonorrhea will not exhibit any symptoms at all, or, if they do, they could be easily mistaken for a

urinary tract infection (UTI). However, that does not mean it is free of any consequence because it has the potential to do permanent damage to a person's body including, according to Cat Metz, a nurse at the Josephine County Department of Health, infertility in women and a host of other types of health problems. Whether or not people develop symptoms is based on the individual's bodily reaction so if the person shows no symptoms there's no way of telling if they are infected short of an easy urine test.

Most of the infections this year

have occurred in the past few months according to Metz and Jackson County has unusually high numbers as well. The incubation period, meaning how long it takes for someone to become contagious or show symptoms, is very short and has the potential to escalate quickly within a community. "There are infections out there that are undiagnosed for sure," Metz said before continuing on, "I can tell you from doing these cases that there is a small percentage of people who don't go back and get treatment after they've found out that they're positive. Why, I can't

tell you."

However, and despite the seriousness of this outbreak, gonorrhea can be cured with the right treatment. Namely with antibiotics since it's a bacterial infection. "Don't take a chance, get tested. That's the best bet," Metz urges, to those who have been sexually active with new partners or are otherwise at risk. Please call the Public Health Department if you have questions or want to make an appointment at 541-474-2254.

## WOOD . . .

Continued from A-1

The \$20 permit is considered a personal use permit but an individual can cut up to six cords per calendar year after a total of three permits and there

is no restriction as to what an individual can do with it once in their possession. "I have to say that, on regular basis, I would see a truck or two at Shop Smart and I haven't seen that for a while. I don't know what's changed," Moore said in as a closing remark on the subject. "We've got thousands of

miles of road systems just in the Valley alone and there is constantly wood everywhere. We've opened up all the forest roads so that people can go out and harvest wood that is 50 feet on either side of the road that is either 'dead standing' or can be on the ground." After saying this, Moore also went on to

mention that this new system is a great way for the fire roads to be cleaned up of hazard trees. "What we have has been, as far as regulations and things, has been pretty consistent for the last four or five years. Prior to that there were differences so it was harder to get permits and areas were difficult to get at. I think

what we have now it a lot better. It's a lot easier for folks to go out and get the wood that they need."

Dave Paulsen, owner of Dave's Outdoor Power Equipment, also shed some light on the problem. "We know people who sell firewood and sometimes we give out

their names," he said before continuing on, "This year I've only got one that I've had from last year and the year before. In years past we've had people come in and put a note on the window and so they come and go. Sometimes they get a job and they don't cut firewood anymore."

## Year in Review: January

•The Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) sought new candidates. As an incentive to boost volunteer firefighters' numbers, the IVFD offered a "full ride" to a two-year college. The district would pay 100 percent of tuition, books and a few other fees for participating volunteers - who can study anything they want - and in exchange, they'll be required to work 10 volunteer firefighter shifts a month while in school.

•Trisha Myers took over as JoCo's Clerk after longtime clerk Art Harvey accepted a new position with Jackson County in December. Myers, who's worked in the clerk's office since 2006, was appointed by the county board to serve out the remainder of Harvey's term, which ends in December 2016. Then, in January 2017, whoever is elected to the office will take over. Harvey heartily endorsed Myers for the job: "We've worked together for a number of years and she has extensive elections and recording experience. She really knows the job," he said.

•Ron Smith announced his candidacy for Josephine County Commissioner Position 3 (that was occupied by Cheryl Walker). Smith, a Josephine County native

and political activist, hoped to exercise "principals and ideas of past generations that continue to produce a better quality of life, liberty and happiness for today's citizens and future generations" The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce recognized Smith as the "Citizen of the Year" for his leadership role with People for the USA, a property rights organization.

•Lily Morgan also filed for a seat on the Josephine County Board Position 3. Currently the Parole and Probation Program Supervisor at JoCo Community Corrections and twice elected to the Grants Pass City Council, Morgan takes public service seriously. She uses three words to describe why she's the one to back: "experience, teamwork and integrity."

•Effort to recall Hare launched last week. The Josephine County Clerk's Office approved a petition to recall Jo Co Commissioner Simon Hare. The chief petitioner, Mark Kelsey launched the recall effort after Hare was arrested last Dec. 10 for drunken driving. Hare, 37, was in Eugene to attend a two-day gathering of the Association of O&C Counties. After the first day of meetings, Hare spent time

in a local strip club, and when he left, pulled out into traffic and almost hit a police car.

•At Dutch Bros. an armed gunman demanded cash, Jan. 11 around 6 p.m. According to the incident report provided by the Josephine County Sheriff's Department, the masked man had the three employees that were on-site, lay on the ground while he completed the robbery.

•The Illinois Valley Watershed Council looked for a few community members to volunteer with them. The jobs would include presentations at area schools, the annual poster contest, assisting with social media and website content, streamside plantings, plant sales, brochure development, grant writing, newspaper articles, and staffing information booths at area events.

•I.V. Airport Advisory Board (IVAAB) met Jan. 4. Josephine County Airports Manager Larry Graves read a letter from Erickson, the helicopter business which had proposed building a landing pad at Illinois Valley Airport. The letter detailed Erickson's decision to locate their training facility in another community.

•Downtown Cave

Junction businesses were under siege from what appeared to be a coordinated string of break-ins and burglaries, in addition to already routine vandalism. During the last two weeks of December several businesses were hit. Wild Bill's was burglarized and Wright's

World Emporium's glass front door was smashed. The perpetrator's blood was left at the scene, but police were unable to investigate, telling the owners it was beyond available resources (BAR). Hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise were taken in these two attacks alone. On

the other side of Redwood Highway, the handle of Radio Shack's backdoor was broken off, but the thieves weren't able to pry it open. Shoplifting had become so commonplace at the business that staffers were routinely wearing holstered guns.



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

A young girl looks longingly at a Barbie Doll Saturday, Dec. 24, at the County Building in Cave Junction.

**Art's Red Garter**

**Pool Tourney**  
Tuesdays @ 6:30

**KARAOKE**  
Wednesdays @ 9 p.m.

**guppy**

**Friday, Dec. 30**  
5:30 PM

from  
**Taylor's Country Store**

**Wild River**  
HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE

**Happy New Year!**  
(no music Saturday night)

**Every Wednesday**  
**Open MIC Night**  
6 - 8 p.m.

**J Barley**  
Fridays @ 6 p.m

**KARAOKE**  
w/ Steve - OH  
Friday, Dec. 30 @ 9 p.m

**Saturday Pool Tourney @ 7**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Sportsman Tavern**

The **SPOT**

**Happy New Year!**

**Closed from**  
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 11**

Wishing you a safe and healthy  
HOLIDAY SEASON!

**Closed until**  
**New Year's Eve**

**Fire Your Boss**  
**"Time Warp"**  
Dec. 31, 9 PM, \$5

from  
**McGrew's!**