

Team work!



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

IVHS assistant coach Dustin Henderson gives No. 12, senior defender Jacque Baty a lift to the sideline after an injury near the end of the first half of the Lakeview game Saturday, Sept. 23. The Cougars went on to dominate the Honkers with a final score of 10-1. Read more on page A-3.

Local vineyards win awards in statewide competition

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Reggie Boltz, Augustino Estate and Vineyard

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

Late last month, the 14th annual Oregon Wine Experience – formerly Southern Oregon’s World of Wines – was held in Jacksonville wherein multiple Illinois Valley vineyards were awarded an array of medals ranging from silver to double gold.

The festival, which also featured food and fun, ran Aug. 21 – 27 at the historic Brigham Knoll campus, where 103 wineries from around the state entered their best wines to be judged by a nationally renowned panel of experts – four of which are Masters of Wine – in the Oregon Wine Competition.

Among the winners was newcomer to the scene, Augustino Estate and Vineyard, which only opened its doors to the public this May. Augustino Estate earned a gold medal for their 2014 pinot noir and silver for their 2014 syrah.

“We’re new, and we’re pretty excited to come out of the gate winning some medals,” said Reggie Boltz, owner of Augustino Estate and Vineyard.

Boltz has been an Illinois Valley resident for 26 years – 16 of which have been dedicated to growing grapes. “I’m from a big Italian family. It just seemed right to carry on the Italian tradition.”

Boltz boasts two brand-new locations for both growing and tasting. The Augustino Estate Tasting Room is located at 400 Brown Rd in O’Brien and features a 1,500-square-foot treehouse built by Boltz and “The Treehouse Guys,” a TV show that aired nationally July 11, 2016, on the DIY network.

The second location is Augustino at the Big Red Barn, located at 16995 N. Applegate Rd in Grants Pass.

“It’s in a really cool spot,” said Boltz, referring to his O’Brien location. “The back of the treehouse, it overlooks the west fork of the Illinois River. We’re right over the rapids. And then the front of the treehouse overlooks our 50-acre vineyard and the Sanger Peak mountains in the background. We’re just really trying to make a nice, clean, professional place for people to come in the Valley, and visitors outside the valley; a place to host events – upscale.”

Boltz plans on taking his award winning wines down to the bay area this February for the San Francisco Chronicle’s Public Wine Tasting event – one of the largest wine competitions in the western United States.

Participation in the Oregon Wine Competition requires a \$50 entry fee and that the grapes are grown in Oregon and then 100 percent of the proceeds go to the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and other Asante health care programs. This year, the Oregon Wine Experience raised a record breaking \$1,024,525.

Other notable winners were Foris Vineyards of Cave Junction, winning a double gold medal for their 2016 pinot blanc (which means all six judges must unanimously grant it gold status), and Deer Creek Vineyards and Winery based in Selma, which won silver medals for their 2014 and 2015 pinot noirs.

The Oregon Wine Experience will be held in Jacksonville again next year, Aug. 20 – 26.

R-R pot ban no go for now

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-002 ended without approval at the Board of Commissioners Weekly Business Session Sept. 20 after general discussion and input from the newly formed cannabis committee. The ordinance will be given another first reading at a date yet to be determined.

This ordinance tactfully couples itself with changes in state law and aims to severely reduce the possibility of growing commercial cannabis in Rural Residential (RR) zones. The ordinance has been justified because of complaints filed against the medical (OMMP) and illegal cannabis industry and the two-thirds approval of measure 17-81 which asked whether or not voters would like to see recreational cannabis (OLCC) operations regulated on RR land.

“I know how many OLCC grows there are and, based on the complaints, we know OLCC is not necessarily the problem,” said Julie Schmelzer, community development director. Because of Senate Bill 1057, all commercial cannabis grow-sites with more than 12 plants will be forced over to the OLCC before the next growing season.

SEE POT ON A-10

Skate park phase 2 kicks off!

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

A skating party Sept. 22 brought teen volunteers, young athletes and community organizers back together to get the wheels rolling on Phase Two of Cave Junction’s Skate Park development.

The crowd of about 100 people watched dozens of kids skillfully launch themselves airborne: performing agile stunts on skateboards, long boards, scooters, in-line skates, bicycles and more. If it has wheels, they’re riding it at Jubilee Park.

The party coincided with community organizer Stacey Williams’ 50th birthday - and to celebrate, numerous sponsors provided pizza and cake for all, and gifts, including skateboards and hats, that were distributed to the kids.

SEE SKATE ON A-9

Oregon appeals court keeps blocking county’s GMO ban

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals has decided to keep blocking a voter-approved initiative that bans genetically engineered crops in Josephine County.

The appeals court last week affirmed a lower-court decision that said a 2013 state law forbidding local action against genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, took precedence over the county’s 2014 ban.

That ruling by Circuit Court Judge Pat Wolke came in a lawsuit from Oregon farmers Robert and Shelley White, who once grew GMO sugar beets for the Swiss corporation Syngenta.

Portland attorney John DiLorenzo Jr., who represented the Whites, said the appeals court decision made the county ordinance unenforceable. In fact, the county never tried to enforce it and did not defend it in court, the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* reported (<http://bit.ly/2xrpC1D>).

“Lots of jurisdictions have unenforceable codes on the books,” DiLorenzo said. “This is now one of them.”

SEE GMO ON A-10

Musical tribute held for Denny Hare, Celebration of Life scheduled.
Read more on A-12