

# Illinois Valley News

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## Little Cougs



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

The junior cheerleaders performed for the crowd during the Lady Cougars basketball game against Rogue River Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Illinois Valley High School. Read about results of the game on A-3.

## Augustino wins awards in San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

*“Our syrah, which was produced with fruit from the Applegate, won Best of Class,” said Reggie Boltz, owner of Augustino Estate. “And the pinot noir, which contains fruit from right here in the Illinois Valley, was awarded a silver medal.”*

Reggie Boltz, owner Auginstino Estate

**Tristan Stocker**  
IVN Contributing Writer

The second week of January marked the *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition - the largest competition of American wines in the world - in which local winery and vineyard Augustino Estate won two awards for their 2014 syrah and 2014 pinot noir.

“Our syrah, which was produced with fruit from the Applegate, won Best of Class,” said Reggie Boltz, owner of Augustino Estate. “And the pinot noir, which contains fruit from right here in the Illinois Valley, was awarded a silver medal.”

Over the course of three days, 67 judges gathered at the Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds in Sonoma County to taste 6,960 wines from a total of 35 states in order to determine the best wines in the country. A complete list of the winners can be viewed at [winejudging.com](http://winejudging.com).

And then in the second part of the process, the public is invited to taste the wines alongside the winners in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition’s Public Tasting event. The celebration is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Feb. 17 - President’s Day Weekend - from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Mason Center’s Festival Pavilion in San Francisco. Ticket prices range from \$55 - \$95 and may be purchased at [winejudging.com](http://winejudging.com).



Augustino Estate’s O’Brien tasting room.

## LBMS Viking Students of the Month honored.

See more on A-12

## Marijuana’s murky cash multiplier

**Anita R. Savio**  
IVN Contributing Writer

In the context of changing Oregon state regulations on medical marijuana and new Josephine County zoning restrictions on where recreational marijuana can be grown, the local marijuana economy is in a state of flux and uncertainty.

Then, add to the mix, a steep drop in wholesale marijuana prices due to market saturation, and any conclusions about the effect of marijuana legalization on Josephine County and Illinois Valley economies, this industry is hedged with *maybes* and *mights*.

But economists do have a framework for understanding how an industry interacts with the economy. That framework is called a multiplier. For instance, in an October 2016 report, the Colorado-based Marijuana Policy Group concluded that every dollar spent on retail marijuana in that state generates \$2.40 in economic benefit. The report stated: “Because the industry is wholly confined within Colorado, spending on marijuana creates more output and employment per dollar spent than 90 percent of Colorado industries.”

**But what exactly is a multiplier?**

Bret Anderson, assistant professor of economics at Southern Oregon University explained, “Where most people get tunnel vision is when they think of somebody they know who maybe went from living in the back of their car to owning a home and feeling quite wealthy. What they’re talking about are the direct income effects of sales. But multipliers are capturing the indirect, or spillover effects that trickle over, say, to the suppliers of the industry, or when the owners or the workers in that industry go out and spend that increased income on their rent or their groceries.”

**How relevant is a statewide multiplier to a local economy?**

Anderson pointed out that the size of the region you’re looking at is one big factor in the size of the multiplier, as is local economic diversity. Typically an industry cannot source all of its inputs in a smaller region, like a county. However in Josephine County and, indeed, the Illinois Valley, we have several businesses that sell soil, additives and other supplies used in marijuana production.

SEE CASH ON A-5

## The Smith River gets protection

**Iris Chinook**  
IVN Contributing Writer

The North Fork of the Smith River and its tributaries, long an area of contention between conservation efforts and mining interests, received special protection in 2017.

On Dec. 7 of last year the Oregon Water Resources Commission unanimously voted to reserve these waters and their associated wetlands under a little employed provision of the Clean Water Act known as the “Outstanding National Resource Water” designation. This designation is a first, not only for Oregon, but for the whole of the Pacific Northwest. Only two waters in California carry the designation - Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake.

This decision protects the rugged country, 99.9 percent of which is public land that gives rise to abundant and diverse populations of winter steelhead, fall Chinook, resident rainbow trout and both resident and sea-run cutthroat trout, all of which play a central role in the region’s local tourism economy. With no grazing allotments or commercial timber harvest, Anglers come to these pristine waters from around the world to try their luck.

The designated waters also offer world-

class whitewater boating opportunities and provide drinking water for several small cities down-stream. The pristine conditions of the region also provide valuable habitat for several rare plant species.

A coalition of local, statewide and national groups and businesses has been working since 2015 to provide the groundwork for the decision. The North Fork Smith River begins in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in southern Oregon and already boasts a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River classification. A 28 mile tributary of the Smith River, it flows from Oregon into California and on into the Pacific Ocean. The Oregon portion of the Smith River watershed is located in Curry County and at just under 60,000 acres, includes the North Fork Smith River, Rowdy Creek, Horse Creek, Chrome Creek and Packsaddle Creek.

According to Gordon Lyford, the original petitioner for the designation, “There are no water rights on the Oregon side. There’s no industrial development. There are two roadless areas in there.

SEE SMITH ON A-5