Cougars and Lady Cougars selected to All-League teams

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The soccer season is done and for a quartet of Illinois Valley High soccer players -two Cougars and two Lady Cougars- the road ends with some Special District 5 All-League recognition.

Cougars Joshua Merrill, a senior, and sophomore Hezekiah Schalk were named to the All-League first team last week. Lady Cougars senior Aarika Brooks and sophomore Alyvia Miller were all named to the girls All-League team.

"I am very impressed with the players making All-League," said Illinois Valley High School athletic director Bruce Reece. "Our teams have worked hard and the wins and losses have not shown how prepared we were."

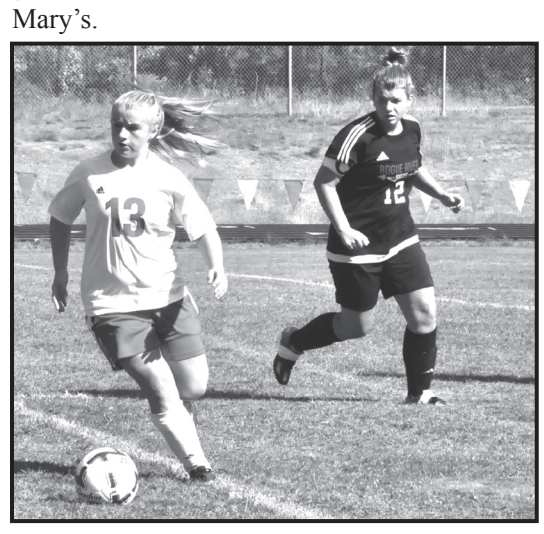
Brooks, also a star track and field athlete, scored a team-high 16 goals this season to go along with five assists. Miller led the team in assists with 13 while adding five goals of her own this season.

"These players are our best and deserve the recognition they received," added Reece.

Special District 5 Notes:

The boys Special District Golden Ball award was awarded to Jonathan McCoy of Cascade Christian. The Coach of the Year award went to his coach Ralph Van Delden.

The girls Special District 5 Golden Ball award went to a pair of St. Mary's players; Meghan Michels and Maddie Wheelock. The girls' Coach of the Year is Dave Potter of St. Mary's.



(File photo, *Illinois Valley News*)

No. 13 Alyvia Miller (left) and No. 20 Aarika Brooks (above).

The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus: by Grand Sublime Bill Wensrich

Sailor's Diggings

The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus—Umpqua Joe No. 1859
&Humbug Chapter No. 73
The 41st in a continuing series of articles prepared
by Bill Wensrich
"If you ain't plaque'n, then you ain't Clampin'"

Oregon's brand new E Clampus Vitus Chapter, Umpqua Joe 1859, finished celebrating their chartering with 300 fellow redshirts in June 2011. Continuing a strong beginning, they held another Doin's party in October near Whaleback Campground on the way to the Oregon Caves. Located near the old gold mining town of Waldo, Oregon, it provided the opportunity to replace the stolen Sailor's Diggings plaque. Gold was discovered at Sailor's Diggings in April 1851, about the same time as the Josephine Creek discovery in the Illinois River Valley. These two strikes are recognized at the first gold discoveries in the state of Oregon. The first locale was named Sailor's Diggings for a party of sailors who likely jumped ship at Trinidad Bay to search for gold insouthern Oregon. Thought at the time to be in California, the name was changed to Waldo in honor of William Waldo, a California politician whose brother, Daniel, held court there while serving as district Judge.

Because the original bronze plaque at the Waldo town site had been stolen, Umpqua Joe members wanted to have a new granite plaque engraved and mounted on the original historical monument located on Waldo Road.

Matt Perkins, an original Umpqua Joe member and Chapter Gold Dust Receiver at the time, came up with the idea to replace the stolen plaque. Matt and fellow Cave Junction citizen, Kim Saunders, presented their idea to the Chapter, and it was approved. Vice Noble Grand Humbug Robby "Fosdick" Robinson obtained information from the Josephine County Historical Society and proposed a slightly different wording for the replacement plaque.

Noble Grand Humbug Keith "Longhorn" Long had the sheet of granite engraved by Grants Pass Recognition Specialties. Then Glenn Hearrell, founding father of the Umpqua Joe Chapter, had his redshirt team of historical monument erection specialists secure the new granite plaque with 6-inch chrome bolts and epoxy to the original rock monument. Using a mortar mix, they sealed the granite sheet edges. Glenn, Matt and Dave Waslin finished the plaque installation.

The old Civilian Conservation Core Chinquapin Campground hosted Chapter Clampers camping that second Oregon October weekend. It was Oct. 8, 2011, and turned out to be a terrific day for old Waldo and area residents. The Chapter dedicated the plaque and heard from a local historian and longtime resident about what it was like living in the area a hundred years ago. Keith and Robby provided official dedication remarks that were followed up with a hearty "Satisfactory" by the 35 redshirts attending the dedication.

From the plaque location looking across the road one can see where the town once stood and where the buildings were located.

To view this plaque drive to Cave Junction, Oregon. West of Cave Junction adjacent to the town of O'Brien take Waldo Road to a location 1 mile southwest of Rockdale Road. The historical monument is about 3 ½ miles from the Highway 199 intersection with Waldo Road.

In 2017 I led 160 Clampers to Waldo from Paragon Bay (Crescent City) along the old Gasquet and Wimer Toll Roads where the group experienced the history of Sailor's Diggins.

Sailor's Diggings

In 1852, English sailors jumped ship in Crescent City to go east in search of rumored gold strikes, and found "color" here at what became known as Sailor's Diggins. By Jan. 22, 1856, this had become the town of Waldo, the first Territorial seat of Josephine County, with the Post Office established the same year. The town was named for William Waldo, brother of California Judge Daniel Waldo. With its stores, saloons, billiard halls, boarding houses and hotels, a skating rink and bowling alley, Waldo reached a population of 3000, and 600 were "Celestials."Chinese who could not become citizens or own gold claims or other property. Oregon's first water rights were established here, making Waldo the hub of Oregon's first hydraulic mining industry.

As the gold played out, many of Waldo's residents drifted away. In 1919, a land development company sold speculation housing lots and began building a home, which was never completed. 1n 1927, Waldo was leveled by the giant hydraulic mining water cannons of the placer mines.

The dreams of its residents now gone, only the occupants of the hilltop cemetery remain to watch over the once thriving community of Waldo, Oregon.

This plaque was placed October 8, 2011 by
Umpqua Joe Chapter 1859 of the Ancient and
Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus
In Cooperation with the Josephine County Historical Society

Bill Wensrich serves on the E Clampus Vitus Board of Directors. His recently published guide book for the ECV Transierra Roisterous Alliance of Senior Humbugs titled "The Trail to Sailors' Diggins from Paragon Bay" is available for purchase from the nonprofit Del Norte County Historical

OMMP ...

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"It takes a minimum of 10-12 hours to access basic functionality of the system," Gendron continued. "I don't know a single person who is completely proficient. It's not an easy system to use. You can't really expect a 70-year-old to navigate it."

Gendron expects the number of registered medical marijuana growers to continue to drop. He himself has stopped growing for others, saying he doesn't have the time. He previously supplied eight patients, allowing him to grow 48 plants, or six mature plants per client.

Gendron said the situation for patients is made all the more difficult if they are low income — as are more than half of OMMP patients.

"They don't have the money to go to the corner dispensary," he said.

That might lead some to return to pills to treat their conditions, he said.

Gendron also blamed the drop in the number of growers on the county's ongoing attempts to restrict commercial marijuana operations in rural residential zones, although he mostly blamed new state regulations.

"The county shares a minority of the blame," he said. "It's really the state Legislature which has done the absolute most damage. When they changed reporting rules for the OMMP, they put into place barriers that destroyed patient-grower relationships."

Sheriff Dave Daniel guessed that the number of growers has dropped because of price drops associated with oversupply of marijuana. The state never set limit on licenses or production.

"I think it's economics," Daniel said. "You saw a green rush. It took a year to hit home. Everybody came in and started growing. I think they found it difficult to get rid of the product, especially legally.

"I think there was an overabundance of marijuana and the market was full. That's my guess."

Calvert, of River City, said dispensaries are paying about $1,600 per pound for the best product, and as little as $200 per pound for lesser quality product. Just a couple years ago, pot prices below $1,000 per pound were unheard of.

Doyle, who now sells hemp products, said enforcement actions have caused some medical marijuana growers to leave the OMMP program.

"The medical industry thrived on the black market," Doyle said. "They're shutting that down."

He also said that people are able to buy marijuana online or through social media connections, which may be more convenient and doesn't require OMMP cards.

Like Gendron, Doyle worries that some patients, having lost their grower, might be returning to "their other medication," including prescription pills. Some patients also might be buying marijuana informally from someone in the neighborhood who is selling excess product.

"It's such a tragedy," Doyle said. "What it's doing is pushing the medical back underground."

And some growers are moving, he added.

"A lot of people are going to other states that are just building a medical program," he said.

Some medical marijuana growers have left the OMMP and converted to supplying the retail market, which is regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, he said.

State Rep. Carl Wilson, a Grants Pass Republican who helped write the new rules, agreed that former medical marijuana patients are leaving the OMMP and are instead buying from retail outlets.

"I think a lot of people say, 'Let's cut my overhead and go to the rec side,'" Wilson said.

Wilson, who has been deeply involved in state marijuana issues, also said that some growers have switched from medical to recreational because they want a better financial return.

"They think they can do better," he said.

Oregon Health Authority spokesman Jonathan Modie said the advent of retail outlets coupled with complex new regulations may have led people out of the OMMP. He said a survey was going out toward the end of the year to former patients asking them why they left and current patients why they stayed.

"Marijuana is legal in Oregon," Modie said. "You don't need a medical card.

"We're not surprised we've seen a drop."