

50 cents

Weather

Showers on way

Expect scattered showers on Saturday and Sunday. The sun should return after that. See Page 2A.



Overnight low 49
Saturday's high 72

What's inside

Big Wednesday



"Better With You" has joined the Wednesday night lineup of ABC family comedies, "The Middle," "Cougar Town" and "Modern Family."

WEEKSWORTH / Inside



The eyes have it

Rogue River High's Christian Reyes is one of the best running backs in all of Southern Oregon, and possibly the most focused.

SPORTS / Page 1B

Local network



As the local Adventist TV station, Better Life, celebrates 20 years, it also becomes a network reaching three states.

Page 4B

Wiseman trio

Three artists are featured at Rogue Community College's Wiseman Gallery this month.



ENTERTAINMENT / Page 7B

What's online

Forum video

See local county and state candidates face off at a Courier-sponsored forum in one of four new videos at ...

thedailycourier.com

A look ahead

Centenarian



Grants Pass resident Fran McCormick will turn 100 on Sunday — that's 10/10/10.

SATURDAY

Where to find it

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Sheriff candidates clash over discipline

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson on Thursday defended his record of disciplining several deputies during his first term, while his challenger, corrections Deputy Don Allaire, said the personnel actions were heavy-handed and hurt morale.

The two men vying to serve a four-year term as head of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office were asked during a candidates' forum about the disciplinary actions — more than 20 in Gilbertson's first two

years of office.

"We had to elevate our level of professionalism," Gilbertson said to a standing-room-only crowd at the Anne Basker Auditorium. "The only way to do that is to hold people accountable."

The sheriff said there were 16 internal investigations leading to 22 disciplinary actions.

"I inherited a lot of baggage," he said after the forum, also attended

by candidates for county commissioner and the Oregon Legislature.

Allaire, the subject of some of Gilbertson's actions, said the

See Page 3A for commissioner debate, Page 5A for state rep debate.

Watch Video »
at www.thedailycourier.com



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Candidate Don Allaire, left, and incumbent Sheriff Gil Gilbertson are seen during Thursday night's debate.

sheriff's actions amounted to "fear-based management." After the forum, Allaire said

he would prefer to sit down with erring deputies face-to-face.

See them on TV

Tuesday's City Council forum and Thursday's forum for county commissioner, sheriff and state representative will be rebroadcast on Rogue Valley Television, cable channel 14, on the following dates and times: Oct. 13, 9 p.m.; Oct. 15, 8 p.m.; Oct. 16, 9 a.m.; Oct. 18, 6 p.m.; Oct. 19, 11 p.m.; Oct. 20, 2 p.m.; Oct. 21, 4 p.m.; Oct. 22, 5 p.m.; Oct. 23, 9 a.m.

"You want them to have a heart-felt commitment for their jobs," Allaire told the crowd, which stayed for about two hours listening to questions and answers.

Turn to SHERIFF, Page 3A

Firefighters, cops bail on toy run after Vagos appear

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

City police and fire personnel abandoned plans to participate in a charity motorcycle-related "toy run" last Sunday through Grants Pass, because Vagos motorcycle club members showed up.



ALLEN

They do every year. They said they couldn't participate."

Allen said he was told the city pulled out because the Vagos were viewed as a criminal gang.

"I'm caught in the middle between two groups," he said. "I kind of understand both groups' feelings. I'm not mad at them, just a little disappointed."

We don't participate with criminal organizations.

Bill Landis
GP Department of Public Safety

The toy run was a motorcycle and vehicle procession through Grants Pass, ending with a gathering at the Fruitdale Grange. Toys, money donations and food are part of the event. The public had been invited to participate in the procession. About 70 or 80 motorcycles showed up Sunday.

"I can't pick and choose who's going to be there," Allen said. "The Vagos came, they spent a lot of money, they brought a lot of toys. They acted like normal people. They've supported the toy run every year."

"When I talked to the Vagos, they understood," Allen added. "They didn't want to hang out with police, either."

A Vagos member who attended the run declined to comment for publication, and a representative of the Vagos national organization did not return a message requesting comment.

Vagos members and local lawmen have had run-ins in recent years, including on Thursday, when officers arrested two reported Vagos members on charges connected to a Sept. 30 assault outside a Grants Pass bar.

Earlier this year, the last of several Vagos members were convicted in a 2007 high-profile kidnapping and coercion case involving crimes they committed against their own members. The group's former local president was sent to prison for two years.

And in 2006, Vagos members sued the city and other agencies after Vagos members and others were cited for numerous traffic offenses during a Vagos gathering at Schroeder Park in 2005.

The federal suit, claiming violation of rights, later was dismissed.

Turn to VAGOS, Page 2A



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Down-home cooking

Above, Taste Of Home chef Cristy Larson had a helper from the audience when Jenna Barton, a student at Manzanita Elementary School, volunteered to assist her in making a snack mix created from a recipe book provided to participants. About 800 people turned out for the popular cooking school, held at the Grants Pass High Performing Arts Center and sponsored by the Grants Pass chapter of Soroptimist International, Albertsons and the Grants Pass Daily Courier. Right, Nancy Tapio, a director with the local Soroptimist chapter, scans one of the cookbooks the club sold at the event. For video and more pictures from the event, see thedailycourier.com.



Dudley: Nothing wrong in taking \$350,000 tax deduction for letting house be burned

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Republican Chris Dudley, a former professional basketball player now running for governor in Oregon, acknowledges he allowed firefighters to burn his house in 2004 in a posh Portland suburb as part of a training exercise for the local fire department and took a \$350,000 tax deduction for it.

Dudley's campaign also says there was nothing wrong with it.

"He's allowed under the law to take a deduction and he did everything by the books," campaign manager Josh Ginsberg said Thursday in a statement. "It was legal, ethical and proper and any suggestion otherwise is completely unfair to Chris Dudley."

But Oregon Democrats are using the revelation — first reported this week by the Willamette Week newspaper

— as ammunition against Dudley in his tight race against John Kitzhaber, a former governor.

"Dudley seems to have no problem using public resources for his own gain while finding creative ways to get out of paying for them," said Democratic Party of Oregon spokeswoman Amy Wojcicki in a statement.

The Internal Revenue Service would not comment on whether it would investigate.

It's the second time in the gubernatorial campaign that Dudley has become a political target over a house.

Dudley moved to Camas, Wash., in the 1990s, while playing for the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers, and has admitted he did so to avoid paying some Oregon taxes. Democrats have called for an



DUDLEY

Oregon Revenue Department investigation into whether Dudley cheated on his taxes by actually living in Oregon while claiming the Washington residence. Dudley did pay Oregon income taxes on his Trail Blazers' salary.

The latest controversy involves a home in Lake Oswego, an affluent Portland suburb.

After retiring from the Trail Blazers, Dudley donated the 4,500-square-foot house to the Lake Oswego Fire Department to use in a live fire drill.

Dudley campaign spokesman Jake Suski said Dudley consulted with his accountants about taking a tax deduction, but didn't check with the IRS. Suski said Dudley didn't face an audit or inquiry from the IRS after he claimed the \$350,000 write-off.

Ginsberg said the Lake Oswego Fire Department wrote a note of thanks to Dudley in which they said the drill helps them train and is good for the community.

"Chris Dudley provided a qualified appraisal of the property," Ginsberg said. "His property met the safety and environmental standards for qualification and Chris paid for the removal of the debris following the training."

Dudley replaced the burned house with one nearly twice as large, where he now lives.

Oregon Democrats claim the tax deduction amounts to tax evasion, and have suggested it could be tax fraud.

"The Dudley tax scandal has evolved from an admission of dodging Oregon taxes 13 years ago to evidence of tax evasion and now evidence of tax fraud," said Democratic Party of Oregon consultant Josh Kardon.

95,000 more jobs lost in September

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A wave of government layoffs in September outpaced weak hiring in the private sector, pushing down the nation's payrolls by a net total of 95,000 jobs.

The unemployment rate held at 9.6 percent last month, the Labor Department said today. The jobless rate has now topped 9.5 percent for 14 straight months, the longest stretch since the 1930s.

The report is the final one before the November elections, which means members of Congress will face voters next month with an economy that is struggling to create jobs.

The private sector added 64,000 jobs, the weakest showing since June.

A net total of 159,000 government jobs were lost in September. Local governments cut 76,000 jobs last month, most of them teachers. That's the largest cut by local governments in 28 years. About 77,000 temporary federal census jobs ended and state governments shed 7,000 jobs.

Nearly 14.8 million people were unemployed last month. That's almost 100,000 fewer than in August.

The weak job market also makes it more likely that the Federal Reserve will take additional steps to boost the economy. Most economists expect the Fed to decide at its meeting next month to buy government debt in an effort to lower interest rates and spur more borrowing.

Even areas that were strong are starting to weaken.

Manufacturers cut 6,000 jobs, the second straight month of losses. The sector drove job growth earlier this year, adding 134,000 positions in the first five months of 2010, but factory employment has been flat since then.

Construction firms cut another 21,000 jobs, hampered by weakness in commercial real estate development.

Information services lost 5,000 positions.