Here, There & Everywhere

BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL -- A Blackberry Festival meeting will be held on Friday, June 13 at 6 p.m. at the Josephine County Bldg. in Downtown Cave Junction. A bingo fund-raiser for the festival will be held at I.V. Grange on Friday, June 20 at 6 p.m. There will be door prizes and food.

LEAGUE CUSINE -- I.V. Little Leaguers are selling cookbooks as their fund-raiser this year. Proceeds will help send several area teams to the all-stars competition in Brookings. To buy a copy, phone Janet Ewing at 592-4389.

ACADEMY ACTIVITY -- The Josephine County Sheriff's Patrol Search and Rescue Unit will hold its first "Citizen's Academy" on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15 and June 21 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Grants Pass High School. There is room for 50 students. Phone (541) 474-5300 for more information and to register.

REBIRTH RECORD -- The Illinois River Valley Arts Council is sponsoring a youth photo project, "The Rebirth of the Wilderness," open to first through 12th-graders. As part of the project, 10 young artists will be selected to photograph the rebirth of the Kalmiopsis burned in the Biscuit Fire. Applications are available at Bebe's Art for Everyone. The deadline is Friday, June 20.

PLUMP PUMPKINS -- Family Tree Garden Center is sponsoring a pumpkin-growing contest. The registration deadline is Monday, June 30. Phone 592-3799.

JR. GOLF -- Sign-ups for junior golf will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at I.V. Golf Course. The six-week instruction for children ages 5-15 will begin on Thursday, June 19. Adult assistance during classes is needed. Phone 592-3151.

NOTEPAD: The deadline to submit comments regarding the formal planning process for the Non-Chemical Treatments of Invasive Plants Project for sites on the Illinois Valley, Chetco, Gold Beach, Powers and Galice Ranger Districts is Friday, June 13. Send comments to Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests, P.O. Box 520, Medford, OR 97501...Stardust Repertory Theatre in Grants Pass will open its summer season on Friday, June 13 with a melodrama, "Egad! The Woman in White." It will run until Sunday, June 29. Phone (541) 472-9614 for tickets...Several hikes in the area are planned on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. For more information, phone (541) 482-1964 and 592-4459.

Oregon DMVs will get ATMs installed soon

Soon customers at more than 75 percent of Oregon's Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) field offices will be able to use automated teller machines, according to DMV officials.

The State Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division has reached an agreement with Peregrin Technologies of Portland to install ATMs in 49 DMV field offices throughout Oregon.

The availability of ATMs will make doing business at DMV field offices more convenient for customers because DMV does not accept credit or debit card payments.

DMV will provide the space for the ATMs, but Peregrin will assume responsibility for the installation and operation of the machines.

"Customers have appreciated the availability of the ATMs in the pilot sites," Ward said. "It has saved customers a lot of time in many cases in which they otherwise would have had to go out to find an ATM and return to DMV."

The first of the 47 offices to receive ATMs will be the Medford Drive Test Center, at 1174 Progress Drive.

Although an exact installation date for each office has not yet been determined, DMV and Peregrin expect installation statewide to take approximately two months.

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WALKING FOR AWARENESS-Andy Mandell, 58, also known as 'Mr. Diabetes,' traveled Redwood Hwy. through Cave Junction on Tuesday, June 3 during the 'Wake up and Walk Tour,' to raise awareness about diabetes. His journey began in Florida more than one year ago. By the time he completes his trip, Mandell will have walked approximately 10,000 across the nation over three years. Mandell, who has diabetes, hopes to draw attention to the warning signs of the disease and the importance of getting tested. Accompanying Mandell on the trip is tour manager Bob Brooks, who plans the travel routes and handles public relations.

(Photo by Britt Fairchild)



Ore. doctors refer tough cases, says OMA

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) released the professional liability information gathered from a statewide workforce assessment of Oregon's physicians conducted earlier.

Survey results show Oregon's physicians are increasing referrals of complex cases (22.3 percent), increasing diagnostic testing (20 percent) and stopping providing highrisk services (17.5 percent).

The most frequently reported services physicians have stopped providing or say they will consider not providing are obstetrics, surgery, high-risk or complex cases, hospital services and emergency department coverage.

"The OMA undertook the survey to obtain an objective measurement of the effect of the increasing cost of professional liability insurance on access to care," said OMA President Colin Cave, M.D. "The survey documents loss of access to health care at crisis levels on a statewide scale. The situation is bad right now but it also appears it will be worse two years from now.

"And although rural areas are now suffering the most, there clearly are serious access problems affecting health care in urban areas as well."

The report stated that in Southern Oregon almost 31 percent of the physicians practicing report they had increased referrals of complex cases (such as brain surgery) or plan to do so. Almost one in four report they have stopped, or will stop, providing certain services.

Twenty-five percent of the obstetricians said they have

stopped, or will stop, providing certain services; 31 percent report they will increase referral of complex cases. A whopping 60 percent of the area's neurosurgeons report they have stopped, or will stop, providing certain services; 80 percent say they have increased, or will increase, referrals of complex cases.

In Southwest Oregon, almost 30 percent of physicians report they have stopped providing, or will stop providing, certain services.

One in five report they are increasing referrals of complex cases or plan do so. Almost 11 percent report they had already sold or closed their practices.

More than one third plan to retire within the next five years.

