



Sharon Wescott and LeRoy Clouser remove engine from Jack McCormack’s Wright Flyer for use in competition, as a Geographic crew films at Illinois Valley Airport.

Microlight aircraft heavy effort ...

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For three hectic days in the beginning of September, writer/director David Madison, cameramen Ben Nieves and Paul Foster; and soundman Spencer Palermo followed McCormack and his partners Sharon Wescott and Jacky Leggitt, around his workshop, now located in the former Siskiyou Smokejumper Base at Illinois Valley Airport.

“Part of the program is showing a little bit of the history,” said Wescott. “Jack’s got the best history of design and flight of the whole group,” she said.

“He’s got pictures and memorabilia, and they’ll work in a bit of that,” Wescott said.

The film crew also interviewed a few of I.V.’s inveterate recreational flyers and tinkerers, like Paul Block, who demonstrated his Gyrocopter for the camera; and Leroy Clouser, who flew his “trike” (a weight-shift controlled, microlight aircraft) on the first morning of shooting. Clouser also helped McCormack with “gruntwork” and securing parts.

“We told (the show’s producer) we have people in this area you have to meet,” Wescott said. “Wonderful folks who fly and do and drive and motorcycle their own creations,” Wescott told them.

“They’re just right for a show like ‘Gearhead Gladiators’,” she said.

Although the concept is fun and the results exciting, Wescott said it isn’t always easy working with a mind like McCormack’s.

“Everything is all in Jack’s head until he can divulge it and let someone else actually take some of the burden,” she said.

McCormack himself was inclined to agree.

“If I were working for someone like me I would shoot him,” he said.

McCormack’s training in aircraft design is somewhat informal, coming predominately from books, and experience.

“The only classroom instruction I’ve had in this subject was at the naval post-graduate school in Monterey,” he said.

“I was able to get into those aerodynamics and aircraft structures classes as a civilian instructor, the

theory being I was studying instructional techniques, but actually, I was studying the subject,” he added.

McCormack, who has numerous world and national championships under his belt, took last year off from competing in order to help Dave Hempy organize the national championship.

He looks forward to starching his wings in Indiana this year, though he expects stiff competition.

“Now for the first time, I am seeing competitors who are more dedicated, more skilled and more physically up to the task than I am. I see that as a good thing,” he said.

“The person I am competing with at these things is myself,” he said. “If I don’t put in a performance equal to my abilities, I’m rather disappointed in me for it.”

Be that as it may, McCormack does enjoy himself tremendously.

“It’s a weird kind of fun, the fun of accomplishing a thing of no great good or importance,” he concluded.

Storage ...

(Continued from page 1)

already in place for our use, as permitted, and we have an agreement with ODOT for our commercial access. (This requires removal of one of the two existing entrances on Hwy. 199.)

“The county (also) requires a development permit and an engineer to design the drainages to ensure that everything is done right,” said Watters.

“The next step is to find someone who can use the equipment. After that, whether or not they take the old buildings there, we will have to clear the lot. We also will have to fill the land to level it because more than half of the property is 3- to 4-feet lower than the front,” he said.

Additionally, there are two unoccupied mobile homes still on the property that will be removed once the owners have been identified and contacted. Small obstacles aside, construction “should begin in a couple of months,” said Watters.

“We hope to have it completed by late February or early March of next year.

“We’re going to inject a lot of cash into the community right away, and we’re just getting started. I have some other land out here that I am thinking about. There are a lot of things I can do with that; perhaps a lodge or something,” Watters concluded.

**Thank you,
Illinois Valley
Lions Club: You
did it again with a
great Labor Day
Festival & Parade**

Good job!



LABOR OF LOVE - To support its benevolent programs for the Illinois Valley community, and to provide family entertainment, the I.V. Lions Club presented its 32nd annual Labor Day Festival & Parade from Saturday, Sept. 4 through Monday, Sept. 6. Glenn Morrison American Legion Post 70 led the parade Monday with a color guard. A float (bottom photo) by I.V. Garden Club was among parade crowd pleasers.

(Photos by Michelle Binker)



County OKs jail levy query

Citing a lack of funding for personnel at Josephine County Jail, without which the facility cannot operate at full capacity, Josephine County Board of Commissioners agreed in a 2-1 vote to place a levy on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The levy, which if approved by voters would raise approximately \$6.8 million for jail operating expenses for the next four years, was approved by the county board at the request of Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel.

The levy’s tax rate will be 334-cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The owner of a \$150,000 home would see an approximately \$50 per year increase in property tax.

Commissioners Jim Brock and Jim Riddle voted in favor of the measure while Commissioner Harold Haugen cast the lone “no” vote.

Invasive plants object of DEIS

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addressing the “growing problems caused by invasive plants in national forests” has been released by the U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) Pacific Northwest Region.

When completed, this EIS will amend all Forest Plans to improve invasive plant prevention and pro-

vide new tools to tackle more than 420,000 acres infested with yellow star thistle, leafy spurge, and Japanese knotweed, said USFS.

Public comments on the DEIS are requested by Nov. 24, after which they will be analyzed, leading to a Final EIS and Record of Decision to be issued next spring.



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