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BLAIR BIRCHFIELD (Photo by Matthew Connell)

Adventures for all aim of I.V. Extreme in park

By MATTHEW CONNELL

"I like to get air because it feels like I'm flying," says Blair Birchfield, sharpening his skills for the coming skate competition at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction.

"I'm excited about the competition because I've never been in one before," he said. "I've been practicing a lot."

Races, sports competition, and family fun will be featured during the "I.V. Extreme Sports Festival" on Saturday, June 11.

Spectators can watch free, but there are entry fees for racing and paintball competition.

Racers have been gearing up for what may prove to be a grueling challenge in the WAC (Wilderness Adventure Challenge).

Coed teams of four will vie for positions in a race that combines mountain biking, trail running, paddling, orienteering, and "mystery events." Other featured races will include a triathlon, mountain challenge fun, team relay, and mountain bike race.

For those with different tastes in adventure, a paintball tournament will be hosted off-site, while skate and BMX competition will occur at the park. A free lunch and dinner will be offered to all.

Family oriented fun is a main thrust of "I.V. Extreme." A Kids Carnival Alley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will feature a fun bounce room, free snow cones and cotton candy, and face-painting.

There also will be a performance by "Heart of David," a tambourine dance team. There will be water games, a pie-eating contest, and more.

Christian bands will entertain throughout the day, until 9 p.m.

Adding to the excitement will be Jeremy Van Schoonhoven, performing pro-trials bicycle demonstrations; and "Duane of Power One Ministries" performing "feats of strength such as breaking bricks and bending steel bars."

Youth from 12 to 20 may enter a raffle to win one of 11 airplane flights. Winners will be whisked away (with required parental consent) to I.V. Airport, and flown around the valley on race day.

"I.V. Extreme" is hosted by Cross Quest Expeditions, "an adventure and extreme sports ministry existing to boldly pursue and proclaim Jesus Christ."

For more information, and for event registration, go to crossquest.com or telephone 592-3329.

Chamber gathering at SOFCU

SOFCU will host an Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce "mixer" Friday, June 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The informal "meet-and-greet" gathering is open to members and guests, and prospective members. Information about the chamber will be available.

Desserts, coffee and punch will be provided, said Vicki Gill, manager of SOFCU's Illinois Valley Branch in Cave Junction. She also serves as treasurer of the chamber.

Gill also said that the chamber will sponsor its second annual golf tournament Aug. 27 at the I.V. course. Sign-up details will be announced in the "Illinois Valley News."

Help sought for hungry in county

Some people, including more than 6,000 children in Josephine County, are not getting enough to eat.

To help solve that situation, Josephine County Food Bank -- which helps supply two pantries in Illinois Valley -- urges residents to donate food, host a food drive, or provide financial support.

In Illinois Valley, the food bank, a program of Community Action, gives food to The Open Door in Selma, and the Dorcas Society food site at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, said Gayle Daniel, director of the county food bank.

"In our county," she said, "some of our friends and neighbors need help with food. One out of every six people in Josephine County receives an emergency food box, and at least half of those are children."

"Although the statistics

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Following are the high and low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.
*Mon., May 30: 80-53
*Tues., May 31: 77-53
*Wed., June 1: 72-46
*Thurs., June 2: 73-48
*Fri., June 3: 81-41
*Sat., June 4: 76-44
*Sun., June 5: 60-45, .12

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, June 8
Partly cloudy
High--70, Low--48

Thursday, June 9
Rain possible
High--68, Low--48

Friday, June 10
Sunny and windy
High--74, Low--46

Saturday, June 11
Sunny and windy
High--75, Low--43

Sunday, June 12
Cloudy
High--77, Low--45

Monday, June 13
Lots o' sun
High--83, Low--45

Tuesday, June 14
Generally sunny
High--78, Low--43



Illinois Valley emergency personnel responded to a two-vehicle crash involving a school bus, which resulted in the arrest (bottom photo) of the driver of a pickup truck. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/I. V. Fire District photographers).



Driver cited in accident with bus

Following a collision with a Laidlaw Transit Inc. school bus, a Cave Junction resident was arrested on charges including misdemeanor hit-and-run, said Oregon State Police Sr. Trooper Randall Hoxsie.

Arrested Wednesday, June 1 and taken to Josephine County Jail, following the 4 p.m. crash on Hwy. 199 a short distance south of Laurel Road, was Stephen E. Evans, 43.

Besides hit-and-run he was charged with misdemeanor driving while suspended, and driving under the influence of an intoxicant, Hoxsie said.

At county jail, Evans refused the intoxilyzer, the officer reported. He has no insurance, Hoxsie said.

Evans was apprehended approximately 30 minutes after the accident on Laurel, a short distance off 199, with assistance from Deputy Ray Webb of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Hoxsie stated.

No injuries were reported as a result of the crash. Hoxsie said that the bus was driven by Selma resident Kenneth R. Vansant, 63. His only passenger was listed as Joshua Mason, 13, also of Selma.

From the damage to the vehicles, it appeared that Evans was southbound on 199, and made a left turn, toward the east, toward an unimproved road in front of the northbound bus.

The 1984 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Evans incurred damage to the passenger side. Damage to the bus was on the right-front portion.

CJ pool afloat for season

A life buoy has been thrown to the Cave Junction Swimming Pool.

Because of individuals and businesses in the Illinois Valley community, enough money has been donated to open the pool on a limited basis. More donations will be welcome.

Checks can be made out to the Cave Junction Pool Committee. There is a tax-exempt number for those who want to claim their donations as deductions. Other information about donations is available from Rita Dyer

at 660-2151.

Up until early last week it appeared doubtful that the pool, owned by the city of Cave Junction, would be able to open this season due to funding. But Mayor Tony Paulson announced Thursday, June 2 that the pool will be open with limited hours.

The projected date for opening the pool to the community is Saturday, June 18.

Schedules, season passes, and daily fees still are being developed. Watch next week's "Illinois Valley News" for details.



Among those wondering and hoping for the opening of the CJ Swimming Pool are (from left) Ashley Webb, Taylor Harris and Kara Faye Tyler.

Flag Day is June 14



NEW IN O'BRIEN - Jimmy and Salena Su, formerly of Sacramento, are the new co-owners of O'Brien Country Store in the heart of Downtown O'Brien. They began operating the business Saturday, June 4. Gary and Ethel Moore, the former owners for nearly 23 years, plan to stay in the area.