



JoCo job rate looking good

Total payroll employment rose by nearly 400 jobs during May, dropping the Josephine County unemployment rate to 6.8 percent. It was 7.4 percent in April; 7.5 percent in May 2004, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED). During May 32,401 persons were employed in payroll jobs, said OED. During the past 12 months, payroll employment in the county has increased by 550 jobs, a gain of 2.3 percent.

Map indicates highway work

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation is distributing the Summer 2005 Road Projects map so that motorists can plan ahead and be prepared. With 110 projects listed on the map, this is one of the busiest construction seasons in recent history. The increase is fueled in part by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA). The Oregon Legislature passed a series of funding packages that raise \$2.96 billion for highway and bridge construction work during the next several years. OTIA funding is contributing to 23 projects scheduled for this construction season. More road projects also means drivers are more likely to encounter a work zone. When driving through one, remember to slow down.

The construction map is a helpful guide for general information about construction. For current road conditions, including construction activity, motorists can log on to TripCheck.com or phone 511.

The Summer 2005 Road Projects map is available at locations around the state, including DMV offices, truck stops, welcome centers and ODOT offices.

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.
*Mon., June 13: 86-52
*Tues., June 14: 76-54
*Wed., June 15: 82-43
*Th., June 16: 59-48, .24
*Fri., June 17: 58-47, .51
*Sat., June 18: 61-48, .20
*Sun., June 19: 70-51, .08

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, June 22

Mostly Sunny
Clouds at times
High--82, Low--48



Thursday, June 23

Mostly Sunny
High--83, Low--49



Friday, June 24

Sunny and warm
High--84, Low--50



Saturday, June 25

Sunny & Windy
High--86, Low50



Sunday, June 26

Sunny and cloudy
High--76 Low--47



Monday, June 27

Sunny & cooler
High--73 Low--42



Tuesday, June 28

Partly sunny
High-78 Low-45



HISTORY RECALLED - Sharon Clouser (above) placed an emblem designating an historic building at Illinois Valley Airport, the old Siskiyou Smokejumper base. Among former smokejumpers who attended a tour Saturday, June 18, were (below, front from left) Wes Brown and Gary Buck; (rear from left) Bob Nolan and Phil Clarke. The tour, which included what is believed to be the oldest remaining parachute loft in the Western United States, was led by Roger Brandt. He and members of the I.V. Airport Advisory Board are working to preserve the historical value of the site. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg)



Public Land Corps plan stems from Rep. Walden

The Public Land Corps, a program in which young adults could gain experience in forestland management while helping to implement-fuels-reduction components of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), has been introduced.

U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.), chairman of the House Subcommittee of Forests and Forest Health, introduced the bipartisan Public Lands Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005, to establish the program.

Walden co-authored HFRA and it became law in 2003. Similar legislation introduced by Walden was passed by the House of Representatives last session, but the Senate did not take action prior to Congress' adjournment. The bill is co-sponsored by Congressman Tom Udall (D-N.M.).

"Through the Public Lands Corps, our young people, especially those disadvantaged, would be able to gain valuable education about and a sense of ownership in our public lands," said Walden. "They would receive hands-on training that can better position them for future careers in forest management while taking proactive measures to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

"Most importantly, we would be teaching future generations about the importance of responsible stewardship of our forests."

Walden introduced the act to give young adults 16 to 25 the opportunity to obtain skills and valuable education in forestland management while conducting work in fuels reduction projects on federal forestlands.

Projects would be directed at efforts to prevent catastrophic fire and rehabilitate public land affected by fires.

Most notable, he said, work would be performed in accordance with HFRA plans to reduce hazardous fuels.

Participants in the Corps would be managed by the agency in charge of the given public land under the jurisdiction of either the Dept. of the Interior or the Dept. of Agriculture.

The managing agency could contract directly with youth, or they could enter into contracts with state-level departments of natural resources, agriculture or forestry.

In February, Walden received the "Congressional Champion" award from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps for his work on this issue

Walden represents the 2nd Congressional District of Oregon, comprised of 20 counties in southern, central and eastern Oregon. He is a deputy whip in the House leadership structure and a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resources..

I.V. deputy staffing doubtful

Sheriff feels commission reducing officers with budget

By **CHRISTINA HILL**
Correspondent

When Josephine County Sheriff's Office Lt. Lee Harmon retires June 30, it's unlikely that his position at the Illinois Valley Substation in Cave Junction will be replaced.

According to Sheriff Dave Daniel, the substation will remain open because it's staffed primarily with volunteers. However, a paid, on-duty officer will not necessarily on-site. Emergency calls will be answered by deputies from Grants Pass, 30 miles away.

This does not include the 40-hour per week contract officer paid for by the city of Cave Junction.

"I want the people of

the Illinois Valley to know we're still going to strive to provide the best service we can," said Daniel. He added:

"I'll try and get one of the regular officers out there some more, but that's hard to do since I have less officers than I had before. I'll do my best, but I can't say whether that officer will be full time or not. I almost can guarantee someone out there hopefully part time, maybe 20 hours a week."

Besides being unable to replace Harmon, Daniel has to let go two jail positions, reducing the jail capacity from 140 inmates to 135.

Daniel blames these problems on the Josephine County commissioners. During a board meeting

Wednesday night, June 15 at the Anne G. Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass, Daniel spoke against them.

Daniel said, "My biggest disappointment in that order (from the commissioners) is I have two lieutenants. One, Lt. Lee Harmon, works in the valley, and having Lee out there really helps, but he's retiring at the end of the month and that's going to leave a big hole in the protection out there."

The board has pointed out that Daniel has the same amount of money as last fiscal year, using it as he wishes.

Commissioners have their own side to the story.

(Continued on page 12)

Free swim, car show Saturday

A grand reopening of the Cave Junction Swimming Pool -- with free admission -- and the Cave Junction Lions Club annual

Antique & Classic Car Show in Jubilee Park will be held Saturday, June 25.

Besides the free car show Saturday with breakfast and lunch available, the sponsoring Cave Junction

Lions Club also will have on Friday, June 24 a poker run, dinner and dance.

Additionally, the club will have in Jubilee Park Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation mobile health screening unit with free services.

Check the ad on page 3.

The pool event, with

free swimming, hot dogs and soft drinks, will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. Season passes will be sold at a 10 percent discount during the grand reopening.

After Saturday, the pool will be open Mondays through Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. for open swimming. For more information phone 592-3990.

Free Cave tours scheduled June 25

On Saturday, June 25, Oregon Caves National Monument will host its annual Community Day with free admission for the general cave tour, and an opportunity for visitors to partake of many other offerings.

Visitors can enjoy Ranger programs, tours of the historic chateau, Nature walks and other activities scheduled through the day. Tours begin at 9 a.m. with the last leaving at 5 p.m.

Oregon Caves is located approximately 20 miles from Cave Junction at an elevation of 4,000 feet. A leisurely drive will get visitors to the monument in approximately 40 minutes.

Temperatures outside the cave can be warm, but a light jacket or sweater should be carried for the 90-minute tour of the cave. The temperature in it is always 42 degrees.

It's OK to take cameras into the cave. Visitors in wheelchairs can access only the first room. Children under 42 inches cannot go on the general tour of the cave, but staff will take families

with small children into the first room.

A large visitation is anticipated for Oregon Caves Community Day so the first thing people will want to do is sign up for a cave tour at the on-site visitor center. "The visitor center is in the building you will see in front of you and above the road as you walk into the historic district from the main parking lot," said the National Park Service.

After signing up for a tour, visitors can enjoy scheduled Ranger programs and Nature walks as well as tours of the Oregon Caves chateau, a National Historic Landmark.

Youngsters who want to earn a Junior Ranger badge can pick up an activity book and pencil. Once activities are completed, the book can be handed in for a badge.

For those who would like a hike in the woods, there are three short loop trails that depart from the historic district. Kids who want to earn trail buttons can pick up activity sheets.

Lunch and dinner are

available at the chateau dining hall and coffee shop. Ice cream, coffee and snacks can also be purchased at the gift store.

There have been many changes at the Oregon Caves during the past 10 years. Staff and volunteers recently completed the largest cave restoration project of any U.S. cave.

More than 1,300 tons of rubble were removed; the trail route reconstructed, and new lighting installed.

Five years ago, fossils were discovered in the cave, and since that time the cave is recognized to have the most complete jaguar fossil in the United States, the oldest grizzly bear fossil in North America, and the largest collection of salamander fossils in the nation.

A display of fossil bones is located next to the tour route.

Other research has recently confirmed the cave to contain a large community of cave-adapted life, all of which are endemic only to this cave. The tour will include these stories.



KERBY TRUCK WRECK - A southbound semitruck and trailer driven by Ronald W. Morgan, 50, jack-knifed and hit a tree on Hwy. 199 close to Waldamar Road Thursday, June 16 near 2 p.m. Morgan declined medical aid. Unofficial reports indicated that he lost control on a curve and jack-knifed when a car in front of the chip truck slowed to turn into a driveway. Approximately 25 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from a ruptured tank toward a nearby residence. I.V. Fire District and Oregon Department of Transportation worked on the spill. Traffic was disrupted for about two hours.