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THUNDERBIRD 'BEST' - A 1960 customized T-Bird owned by Chuck Mathis, of Roseburg, was chosen 'Best of Show' in the Cave Junction Lions Club annual car show in Jubilee Park Saturday, June 25. The 1950s Chevy pickup truck below received an honorable mention. (Story with primary results on page 5. Additional photos on page 8.)



New deadline in effect

New deadlines are in effect because of "Illinois Valley News" being forced to find a new print shop, and it has an earlier schedule.

Effective immediately, all items -- classified ads, display ads, notices and announcements -- must be received at the valley's newspaper office by 5 p.m. Thursdays for the next week's issue.

The printer used by "I.V. News" since January 1997 no longer will handle the job, which has necessitated the weekly newspaper finding a different business with web presses.

"We will appreciate the community's understanding and cooperation," said Bob Rodriguez, editor-in-chief. "We do not change deadlines unless absolutely necessary, and we are faced with that necessity because of the change in printers."

ODOT's \$16 million work on I.V. bridges under way

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

Work is under way on Hwy. 199, the "Redwood Hwy.," as it undergoes some much-needed upgrades -- and the best part is that traffic should continue rolling with minimal delays.

During a recent open house held by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) at Cave Junction City Hall, ODOT officials shared informative displays highlighting projects already started or planned in Illinois Valley.

ODOT just completed a "small quick-hit" guardrail project in Sis's Gap near milepost 23, an area notorious for motor vehicle accidents.

Guardrails were installed from approximately Hay's Hill to a site on the north side of Cave Junction. Among those recognized as responsible for the project are I.V. residents Corey Allen and Darrell Allen, whose son, Josh, died last year in a crash near milepost 23. The conducted an awareness campaign, which spotlighted the situation.

Next on ODOT's

agenda is the \$16 million Illinois Valley Bridge Replacement Project.

Construction on the bridges over the Little West Fork of the Illinois River, and Rough and Ready Creek is scheduled to begin this month and run through May 2006.

"The bottom line," said Gary Leaming, project information specialist for ODOT, "is that travelers on the highway aren't going to be affected as far as delays.

"The structures they are going to be building are two-lane structures, so tourists, locals and interstate freight aren't going to be affected by delays."

According to Leaming, a temporary structure will be built to divert traffic away from the existing bridge covering the Little West Fork. Workers will then make the necessary repairs on the permanent bridge. Once construction is complete, traffic will be diverted back to the permanent bridge, and the temporary structure will be removed.

However, the bridge on Rough and Ready Creek

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Flaggers are hard at work, as construction on three new bridges is under way in Illinois Valley on Hwy. 199

Council dissatisfied with sheriff

Renewal of CJ law enforcement contract postponed in 3-2 vote

With a 3-2 vote following strident exchanges concerning Sheriff Dave Daniel and the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, the Cave Junction City Council delayed renewing a law enforcement contract.

"I think this is throwing our money down the toilet," said Councilman Margaret Miller about renewing the contract.

She and her fellow councilmen, with Mayor Tony Paulson, indicated displeasure with the city contract officer devoting only 20 hours per week in city limits. The current contract, which will expire Thursday, June 30, calls for

40 hours per week. The new proposed three-year contract from Daniel also states that the contract officer would be in the city 40 hours per week.

The council said that Daniel was quoted in the Grants Pass "Daily Courier" that Cave Junction will get 20 hours per week rather than 40 hours.

The 3-2 vote, with Paulson and Miller saying "no," followed considerable discussion, often heated. The motion by Councilman Dan Fiske, seconded by Councilman Rita Dyer, states that the contract will be reviewed again during the next council meeting on

July 11. It adds that during the next two weeks, options to using the sheriff's office would be examined.

Who will study the possibility of options was not made clear.

The council expressed unhappiness with slow or no response from the sheriff's office for calls. Paulson and City Recorder Jim Polk cited several instances where information was made available to help solve crimes, or to assist complaints, but said that nothing has been done.

The council also expressed displeasure with not getting the proposed contract until June 15. The city

sent its request in March, Polk told the council.

The proposal from Daniel reflects a 6 percent increase. The costs for each of the three years would be \$92,000; \$96,000; and \$98,000. The city would make quarterly payments.

"We need options," said Dyer, "but I don't want to cut off and have nothing."

"I think we have nothing now," responded Miller. "I'm not happy with the status quo," she continued. "People are unhappy, and I think we can do better."

Dyer asked several times if Miller or others on

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Cow Creek gives med clinic \$20k

Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC) in Cave Junction has been awarded a one-year \$20,000 grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation to assist with construction of SCHC's new Cave Junction medical clinic.

Ground-breaking for the new building is scheduled for Aug. 11 with completion planned for August 2006.

The new medical clinic, with 10,000 square feet of space, will be located on Hwy 199, just north of the Cave Junction city center. It will replace the clinic's current facility. It was built in the 1970s and no longer meets the needs of the clinic or community, said SCHC.

"We're really crammed into every nook and cranny in the whole clinic," said Sheila Mason, Cave Junction office manager. "To actually meet the access needs for patients to get into the building and get seen, we need more rooms."

The added space will allow Siskiyou to expand and add family medicine providers to meet the growing Illinois Valley community. A new physician, Dr. Margaret Gold, will join SCHC in August.

Besides more space, the clinic will offer full-service laboratory and X-ray services, provided by Three

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'Cougarpalooza!' set this weekend

Of nine graduating classes that will gather for Reunion '05 during the July 4 holiday period, the Illinois Valley High School Class of '90 has coined the theme: "Cougarpalooza!"

Hundreds of alumni, friends and relatives will converge on Illinois Valley from Friday, July 1 through Sunday, July 3 as "Reunionmania" is conducted.

Reunion '05 involves the classes of 1950, '55, '60, '65, '75, '80, '85, '90 and '95.

The annual reunion fest is sponsored by The Association of IVHS Alumni and KUHS Alumni Inc. Kerby Union High School (KUHS)

was located in what's now the RCC Kerby Belt Bldg. from 1924 to 1949. Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) began in 1949 in what's now Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS). The current IVHS opened in 1975.

Many events are planned for the reunion, including individual gatherings by classes at homes and restaurants.

Group activities:

*A Prowlers vs. Growlers softball game at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Jubilee Park.

*Dedication of a plaque, honoring KUHS students and teachers, Saturday at noon at KUHS Park in Kerby, adjacent to the

former high school.

*A Saturday dance with DJ music from the '50s through '80s in the Junction Inn from 8 p.m. to midnight.

*The annual alumni tournament at I.V. Golf Course Saturday starting at 8:30 a.m.

*A 1 p.m. LBMS tour.

*A Kerbyville Museum tour at 2 p.m.

*The full "all-you-can-eat" breakfast in Jubilee Park from 8 a.m. to noon by "Cave Junction Cares," which donates 10 percent of proceeds to the association scholarship fund.

*A silent auction during breakfast.

(See the ad on page 9)

Sherier gains his high school diploma after WWII pre-empted his graduation

Becoming a combat paratrooper got in the way of high school graduation for 80-year-old Illinois Valley resident Luther C. Sherier.

The rural Cave Junction resident planned to earn his diploma from the former Kerby Union High School (KUHS), but was drafted when he was 17.

Long unrecognized for defending his country and not being able to graduate, Sherier was awarded his diploma from Illinois Valley High School (IVHS), which replaced KUHS.

Although unable to attend IVHS commencement exercises June 7, Sherier now has his diploma, and feels good about it.

"It's quite a deal," he said. "I'm pleased."

He received the diploma from IVHS through Operation Recognition for veterans of WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Sherier applied to the State of Wyoming Military Dept./Wyoming Veterans Commission, and was found qualified for the honor.

Sherier served in the U.S. Army's 511th Parachute Infantry of the 11th Airborne Division from Sept. 6, 1943 to Feb. 17, 1946. He made eight jumps, three of them under combat conditions in the Philippine Islands.

He also recalls being ashore in Japan, and watching the surrender of the Japanese government to the United States. "It was on a battleship," said Sherier, "and I was able to watch it



LUTHER C. SHERIER

from shore with binoculars. That was quite an event."

He was born June 15, 1925 in Glendale, Calif., where his parents had a dry cleaning shop. They moved to Illinois Valley in 1931.

The still-active Sherier graduated from eighth-grade at the former Rockydale School before enrolling at KUHS.

He recalls that his parents, Luther & Pauline, had a dry cleaning business in the space now occupied by Darn Near Everything for many years.

He helped build the structure, learning construction; and then learned the dry cleaning business, with his final high school year taking a rear seat.

Seven months out of the military he married Goldie Shillabarger in September 1946, and this year they'll

celebrate their 59th anniversary. They had their first child, Vicki Lee, in 1948; and 4 1/2 years later their twins, Tom and Geri.

These days, Sherier enjoys using a metal detector he received for his most recent birthday. He also enjoys hunting, fishing and horseback riding.

Plus he works summers for Rough & Ready Lumber Co. as a fire watchman.

Sherier likes reminiscing and notes that he no doubt would have been a KUHS graduate, except that his third-grade teacher held him back a year.

"She said I wasn't a good enough reader," he said, "but it was because I needed glasses."

"Otherwise I'd be a KUHS graduate, but it all worked out anyway," he concluded.