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County board takes issue with staffing comments made by sheriff

Sheriff Dave Daniel's position that Josephine County commissioners are responsible for reduced staffing levels in Illinois Valley and at the county jail

has come under fire.

"To be clear, the board has the responsibility and authority to set the total number of employees in each county office and de-

partment -- the sheriff has the same number of approved positions this year as he had last year," Commissioners Jim Riddle, Dwight Ellis and Jim Raffenburg

said in a prepared statement.

Again included are one under-sheriff and one lieutenant, the board said.

"For the sheriff's office current 2005-2006 fiscal year budget," it continued, "the board of commissioners approved \$683,000 additional (new) dollars, and rolled back the sheriff's operating and payroll roll-up

expenses by another \$500,000.

"Sheriff Daniel now has the discretion on how to spend more than \$1,200,000 more this year than last year."

Commissioners also chastised the sheriff saying, "It is truly unfortunate when our sheriff makes misleading statements to citizens,

giving the appearance that (we) are responsible for the consequences of his decisions.

"Elected officials are accountable to the citizens they represent.

"It is important for citizens to know the facts so they can hold the appropriate elected officials respon-

(Continued on page 13)



Illinois Valley emergency personnel assisted the driver of a car that collided with a school bus on Hwy. 199 near Kerby. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

Driver injured in car vs. bus wreck

A car that turned in front of a school bus with only its driver aboard was demolished, and the car driver was injured Wednesday, July 13 on Hwy. 199 near Kerby, said Oregon State Police.

The crash, with OSP and Josephine County Sheriff's Office responding, was reported at approximately 12:10 p.m. on Sauer's Flat, a short distance south of Reeves Creek Road.

Reported injured was Kerby resident Diane M. Sheldon, 18. She was aided by American Medical Response and Illinois Valley Fire District personnel. She was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass.

OSP said that she had no insurance.

The driver of the Laidlaw Transit Co. bus was identified as Selma resident Ernest C. Crawford, 57. He

was not reported injured, but appeared shaken.

OSP said that the bus was southbound at approximately 55 mph. The bus was on the inside lane.

The car was traveling at around 5 mph on the outside lane closest to the shoulder, and turned left across the inside lane into the path of the bus, said OSP.

The bus incurred some damage to its front. No citations were issued.

Night splash at pool set

A reduced-price evening swim, courtesy of Dr. Tom Housel, a Cave Junction dentist, will be held Wednesday, July 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cave Junction Swimming Pool.

Admission will be reduced to \$2 per person. Patrons with season passes will get in free.

Children's beginner and intermediate swim lessons began Tuesday, July 19. To sign up, phone 592-3990.

Pool usage has averaged 70 persons per day, said manager Cynthia Hobbins. The facility is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, with an admission price of \$4, which includes a free lunch. Refreshments also are available for sale.

Water aerobics began Monday, July 11. Classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 1 p.m.

Additional sponsors for pool sessions beyond the regular hours are sought. Phone Hobbins at 592-3990.

O'Brien man has his version of 'Veggie Tale' programming

O'Brien resident Tony Armida finds good reception from vegetables he's planted in old-style large satellite antenna TV dishes.

Armida, 85, said that he's been satellite farming for seven years, with excellent success. He wonders why more people haven't caught on to the potential, especially because of the number of old dishes that seem to be available.

"These dishes are great

for growing," said Armida, a valley resident with his wife, Helen, since February 1988. They moved to Illinois Valley from the Los Angeles area.

"The dishes are easy to weed, because you have to bend over less, and they use less water than a traditional in-the-ground garden," said Armida.

Armida, born in Bisbee, Ariz., and raised in Douglas,

(Continued on page 3)



Satellite farmer Tony Armida. (Photo by 'I.V. News')



Shortly after this photo was taken in Downtown CJ, the temperature reached 105, and the photographer melted. Temperatures in Illinois Valley have continued past 100 degrees for several days.

Following are the high and low temperatures recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.
*Fri., July 8: 79-49
*Sat., July 9: 75-57
*Sun., July 10: 78-56
*Mon., July 11: 82-57
*Tues., July 12: 95-56
*Wed., July 13: 87-58
*Thurs., July 14: 101-59

Weather Watch

Illinois Valley

Wednesday, July 20

Blazing Hot

High--103, Low--55

Thursday, July 21

More Sun & Heat

High--101, Low--56

Friday, July 22

Sunny

High--95, Low--54

Saturday, July 23

Lots O' Sunshine

High--93, Low--53

Sunday, July 24

Cooler but Sunny

High--91, Low--51

Monday, July 25

Summertime Sun

High--92, Low--48

Tuesday, July 26

Warm & Sunny

High--90, Low--44

CJ deputy pact narrowly approved

Paulson, Miller opposed, saying money should be saved for options

What has become a controversial three-year law enforcement contract with Josephine County Sheriff's Office squeaked by with a 3-2 vote by the Cave Junction City Council Monday night, July 18 in city hall.

Voting against approval were Mayor Tony Paulson and Councilman Margaret Miller. They also voted June 27 against postponing approval of the pact, saying they'd prefer to simply not approve it at all, but keep the money while other law enforcement options were pursued.

Without the contract, the city would receive law enforcement service, but there would not be an officer dedicated to 40 hours per week in city limits. The city officer is Ray Webb.

As the council reached the contract item on the agenda, Paulson commented, "One frying pan to another," as the city officials had just waded through a somewhat arduous matter

involving the Illinois River Estates development.

Sheriff Dave Daniel attended Monday's session to answer questions. He introduced Cpl. Joel Heller as new commander of the Illinois Valley Substation in Cave Junction.

The contract discussion Monday lasted approximately 12 minutes. During the June 27 council meet, the time spent was considerable. And on July 1 the council and Daniel met during an 80-minute workshop to hammer out details and concerns about the previous agreement, which ended June 30.

However, in a good-faith move based on the workshop, the sheriff has continued the city deputy schedule.

After the meeting Monday, Paulson and Miller said that they voted "no" because they still feel the city should save the contract money to have it ready for a new approach for the city.

Water supply in Selma a well issue

By CHRISTINA HILL
Correspondent

A deluge of data about water, with a notation that a good supply could indicate forthcoming development in Selma, was provided Monday night, July 18.

Approximately 50 residents gathered at Selma Community Center to gain insights on water issues ranging from water rights to water quality.

The Selma Neighborhood Association was the event sponsor. Three speakers included Kevin Gill, of Clouser Drilling.

"If you live in Selma and work in Grants Pass or Medford, then the commute isn't too bad, and you'll see more people moving here because of that," he said.

"You'll definitely see more development in Selma, because it's a desirable area. The county already has a lot of wells and a lot more coming," Gill speculated.

Gill, who has grown up in the valley, said that his

Uncle Leroy has been drilling wells since 1971. His father, Chuck, joined Leroy in 1981.

"My father's been drilling wells since '81 and has drilled at least a couple thousand wells since," said Gill, "and he always dreads drilling in Selma because it's so challenging.

"And if you do get a well, then you potentially have water quality issues," Gill said.

"I grew up on McMullen Creek Road, and we had heavy iron bacteria in our well," he said. "It was so bad that if you poured a glass of water, it looked like over-mixed orange Tang. You couldn't buy a white shirt, and if you stood in the shower and let the water hit your face, it looked like you had a fake-and-bake tan," Gill said with a laugh.

According to Gill, iron bacteria is common in wells around Selma and comes from blue clay and gravel. They are also a formation

for salt, he said.

"If you have iron in your water, you want to deal with it," he said. "Not only is it hard on your plumbing and fixtures in your house, but the build-up can become so bad that your water pressure can drop to zilch.

"Everyone wants to hear the big number when they talk about a well. But, really, any well over 5 gallons per minute is exceptional. One gallon per minute is 1,440 gallons a day, and the average family of four uses 400 gallons a day, so that's definitely adequate," Gill noted.

And, he added, most water is wasted outside, not inside homes. Average lawns need only about 1 inch of water weekly.

Gill concluded with some more advice, "Test your well once a year for bacteria, and chlorinate it once a year. And, if you're unsure about the water quality get a top 20 water test,

(Continued on page 9)



DOWNTOWN MEDICAL EVACUATION - A Mercy Flights helicopter evacuated a patient referred by Siskiyou Community Medical Center from the Junction Inn vacant lot in Cave Junction at approximately 11 a.m. Monday, July 18. Illinois Valley Fire District Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik provided landing coordinates and watered the area to keep down the dust. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')