



A SNOW SHOW at higher elevations in and around Illinois Valley has resulted during the past several days. At Page Mountain Sno Park (left), the snow-fall has attracted winter aficionados and encouraged others to enjoy the park for snowboarding or skiing. (Photo by Mike Rodriguez)

At Oregon Caves National Monument, the historic Chateau (top photo) sports a white coat, as 18 inches of snow was recorded. (Photo by Joe Latva)

Incumbent Riddle seeks to hold own seat

Josephine County Commissioner Jim Riddle has filed to seek re-election in the May 16 primary.

“My experiences in the private sector and as a small-business owner have been valuable assets in analyzing budget requests and finding solutions to the difficult issues our county faces,” said Riddle.

“Our recent negotiations with management and unions resulted in a savings of more than \$2 million a year. This is the kind of balanced and fair leadership the county will continue to need

in the years to come.

“With the potential loss of federal dollars,” said Riddle, “the county needs steady, experienced leadership willing to make difficult decisions. If federal dollars are lost and our tax base is to remain low, we must find ways to ensure that essential services continue to be provided.”

Riddle added, “While public safety is one of the most important functions of government, it is not and should not be the sole concern of a county commissioner. Through privatiza-

tion and partnerships, I and the other commissioners have preserved the food share program, community action programs, and are working toward solutions for mental health services and other county programs.”

The incumbent said that his “background, broad knowledge and leadership skills” set him apart as the most-qualified candidate.

“There is still work to be done to make sure the county continues as a wonderful place to live,” Riddle said, “and I can be counted on to get the job done.”

DeFazio urges preparations for flu pandemic

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) was invited to the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. to participate in “Global Tempest,” a pandemic influenza war game.

The exercise provided a forum to assess the range of policy options available to the United States in re-

sponding to an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

DeFazio, a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, returned with a sobering view of the nation’s preparedness for a pandemic.

“Just like protecting against the nuclear threat from the Soviet Union, we

need to be prepared for this crisis,” said DeFazio.

“We need state-of-the-art vaccine and antiviral production capacity to produce and stockpile antiviral medication, and we can’t wait on the pharmaceutical industry to do it when it is in their interest,” according to DeFazio.

Seasonal changes decrease jobs

Unemployment in Josephine County rose to 7.1 percent during January, as a result of 490 jobs being lost, leaving 32,822 persons employed, said Oregon Employment Dept. (OED).

The December rate was 6.1 percent, but the January 2005 rate was 8.3 percent.

OED said that January employment declined “universally across the county’s industry sectors. Typical seasonal declines, with very inhospitable weather, conspired to drive job counts lower.”

Job growth has been strong and widespread in Josephine County during the past year across many sectors, the agency noted, with overall job tallies up 4.9 percent from January 2005.

Declines during January this year, said OED, were posted in the natural resources and mining, and

construction sectors. Manufacturing shed 80 jobs, despite a gain of 20 in the wood products sector.

Retail trade employment fell by 130 with post-holiday shopping curtailments. Professional and business services, and “other” services each lost 40 jobs during January.

Wholesale trade and wood products manufacturing were the only published private sector industries that gained jobs during January, each adding 20, said OED.

OED also noted that building permits for 74 residential units in the county were issued during January, up from 48 a year ago.

Added OED, “Since January ‘05, nearly all published industry sectors added work, totaling 1,200 payroll jobs. However, the following exceptions for the county were listed:

Natural resources and mining (-30), state government (-40), and local government, excluding educational services (-40).

OED said that industries gaining the most new jobs during ‘05 were construction (+120), manufacturing (+170), wholesale trade (+160), retail trade (+230), financial activities (+80), health care and social assistance (+140), leisure and hospitality (+100), and local education (+150).

“These broad-based gains can foster a degree of economic stability,” observed OED, “with the economic development analogy that of not having all your eggs in one basket.”

Jackson County’s jobless rate during January was 6.4 percent. The Oregon seasonally adjusted rate was 5.3; the U.S. seasonally adjusted rate 4.7 percent.

JOINT seizes cash; meth with \$32,200 value

In connection with a traffic stop, officers seized \$4,470 cash and methamphetamine with a potential street value of \$32,200, said Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT).

JOINT said that David E. Spradley, 29, was arrested Thursday, March 2.

He was charged under Schedule II of manufacturing, delivery and possession of a controlled substance. A charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm was referred to the district attorney’s office.

Spradley initially was stopped by a patrol officer on suspicion of switched license plates, JOINT said.

Besides meth and user paraphernalia, officers seized 9mm semiautomatic pistol with a full magazine.

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Questionnaire January - February 2006

CSR Name - Bud Lorentz

ForeCourt	
✓1 - Forecourt and landscaped areas properly maintained	8/8
✓2 - Dispensers (pumps) and nozzle handles clean	8/8
✓3 - Clean waste containers available and not full/overflowing	4/4
✓4 - Window-washing unit properly stocked	4/4
✓5 - Paper towel dispenser properly stocked	4/4
✓6 - Air and water were available	2/2
	30/30
Store & Restrooms	
✓7 - Store clean and orderly	8/8
✓8 - Restroom clean and orderly	10/10
✓9 - Restroom appropriately stocked	7/7
	25/25
Customer Service	
✓10 - CSR offered a polite greeting	10/10
✓11 - CSR attempted to determine if anything else was needed	5/5
The CSR asked, “Is that all?”	
✓12 - CSR verbally confirmed the transaction	2/2
✓13 - CSR was attentive and prompt in serving	5/5
✓14 - CSR offered a friendly parting remark	10/10
✓15 - CSR had an authorized name tag or sewn-on name badge	2/2
✓16 - CSR in proper uniform and neat and tidy in appearance	6/6
	40/40
Country	
✓17 - Station free of unprofessional and unauthorized signage	2/2
✓18 - Obtained a Chevron / Texaco credit card application	3/3
	5/5
General	
✗19 - Was there anything else that affected your experience	
✗20 - Experience made customer feel appreciated	
✓21 - Correct National Point-of-Purchase posted	

Overall Performance
100%

Forecourt
100%

Store & Restrooms
100%

Customer Service
100%

Country
100%

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