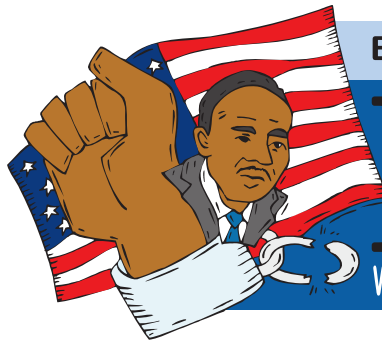




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Closures set for MLK Day

City, state, county and federal offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Besides a day off for postal, DMV and other agency employees, banks and schools will be closed.

As usual, the "Illinois Valley News" will be open, as will businesses generally.

O&C funding renewal plan put forward

Introduction of H.R. 17, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007 -- legislation that would reauthorize the successful "county payments" law for seven more years -- was made last week by U.S. Congressmen Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Greg Walden (R-Ore.).

Of Oregon's 36 counties, 32 received payments through the program totaling more than \$273 million last year. Because of the large volume of timber historically harvested from federal land in Oregon, Oregon counties have received significant payments from the funding formula, with the Fourth and Second Districts receiving the most federal investment respectively.

"When we introduced this idea several years ago, the biggest obstacle to the passage of county payments legislation was opposition from the timber industry and environmental groups," DeFazio said. "We sure have come a long way."

"Organizations from the farthest ends of the spectrum have come together to support this program in a model partnership among local, state and federal interests. Today, the biggest obstacles we face are ever-tightening

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C of C slates honor event

A dinner dance is on tap for Feb. 10 when Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce recognizes its top business and citizen of 2006.

Meanwhile, nominations for the outstanding business and citizen will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 26. Achievements must have been accomplished during 2006.

Nomination forms are available from the chamber office in the I.V. Visitor Center. Or send the nominee's name and address with specific examples of their contributions to P.O. Box 312 in Cave Junction.

Information is available at 592-3326.

The awards ceremony will be part of a dinner dance at the Junction Inn's Boswell Room beginning at 5 p.m. The dinner menu has a choice of prime rib, chicken, or vegetarian entrée. There will be a no-host bar.

Reservations at \$20 per person must be made by Feb. 2 through the chamber office. Businesses can sponsor a table for \$120. The semiformal event is open to everyone.

Mayor Paulson aims toward city police department

Cave Junction leader also eyeing fire prevention sprinkler installations in all new homes

Mandatory in-house sprinkler systems, and the possibility of a city police department are among ideas put forth by Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson.

And he announced that a major roadway realignment and expansion project at Hwy. 199 and Laurel Road likely will begin in July.

Paulson's remarks were made in his State of the City Address during the city council meeting Monday night, Jan. 8 in city hall. Re-elected to a second two-year term on Nov. 7, he was sworn in with new Councilman Lynne Atteberry, and re-elected Councilman Dr. Dan Fiske, a veterinarian.

Regarding "a few important items the council needs to implement," the mayor said, "First and foremost, I, like many of you, believe we need to begin the process of bringing back our own police department."

"It will be challenging, and I am sure we will be met with some obstacles. But I am confident that we can overcome them. Once an officer has been established, we could implement an ordinance that would allow us to have code enforcement of our current laws and codes."

"There would actually be some teeth behind our growl. I believe," said Paulson, "that this would send

Cave Junction in the right direction to a better city and community for us all."

The city has been contracting with Josephine County Sheriff's Office. The current cost of \$96,000 per year for having a deputy 40 hours a week will rise to an estimated \$102,000 for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1.

Some 25 years ago the city had its own police force. It was funded through the federal Comprehensive Employment & Training Act. When funding was discontinued, among other factors, the force was disbanded in 1981. The uniforms and badges are stored at city hall.

Speaking to another matter, the mayor said that he "would like to develop a new building code that would focus on the safety of our citizens."

"A simple code requiring that all new-home construction have residential sprinkler systems installed. New home buyers are paying good dollars to keep their lawns green with sprinkler systems," said the mayor, "and nothing for the safety of our elderly and the very young."

"We have a great group of volunteer firefighters," Paulson noted, "however, they cannot respond to a fire fast enough to stop the over-

whelming damage caused by fire," he said.

The mayor also said that there may be price increases for services offered by the city. "New mandated testing and rulings are going to affect our budget in a negative manner," he stated.

Paulson expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve as mayor.

"This has been a year of years and challenges," he said, "as we have experienced some of the growing pains."

"Yet, through dedication, we are a strong and committed community -- one that I am thankful to live and participate in."

Query into Kim search advancing

A report to Gov. Kulon-goski outlining the facts and timelines surrounding the efforts undertaken by state agencies to assist in the search for the Kim Family last month in Southwestern Oregon was delivered last week by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

The governor called for the report on Dec. 22, and charged OEM to lead the compilation of a chronology of steps taken by the primary state agencies participating in the search. They were the Office of Emergency Management, Oregon National Guard and Oregon State Police.

The chronological report includes information from these three state agencies from Nov. 30 through Dec. 7. Data relate to their efforts assisting local responders in the areas of public affairs, investigation, search, and coordination with public and private entities.

"This report provides the first round of facts relating to the state's support of the local search effort for the Kim Family, which is necessary in order to move forward with a broader assessment of search-and-rescue in Oregon," according to the governor.

The report delivered to the governor is not an account of official actions taken by various sheriffs' offices, local police departments, private agencies, or individual citizens during the Kim search. It is available at governor.oregon.gov/pdf/letters/kimchrono.pdf

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association is still in the process of compiling information from the numerous local agencies and private individuals involved in this search, as requested by officials in Josephine County.

"It must be understood," said OEM, "that the timeline released last week is only one component of the facts of the entire search and bigger picture. It is likely that the report that is forthcoming from the sheriffs' association will fill in many areas in this timeline."

"After we have all of the facts from both the state and local levels, I will convene a task force of federal, state, local and private sec-

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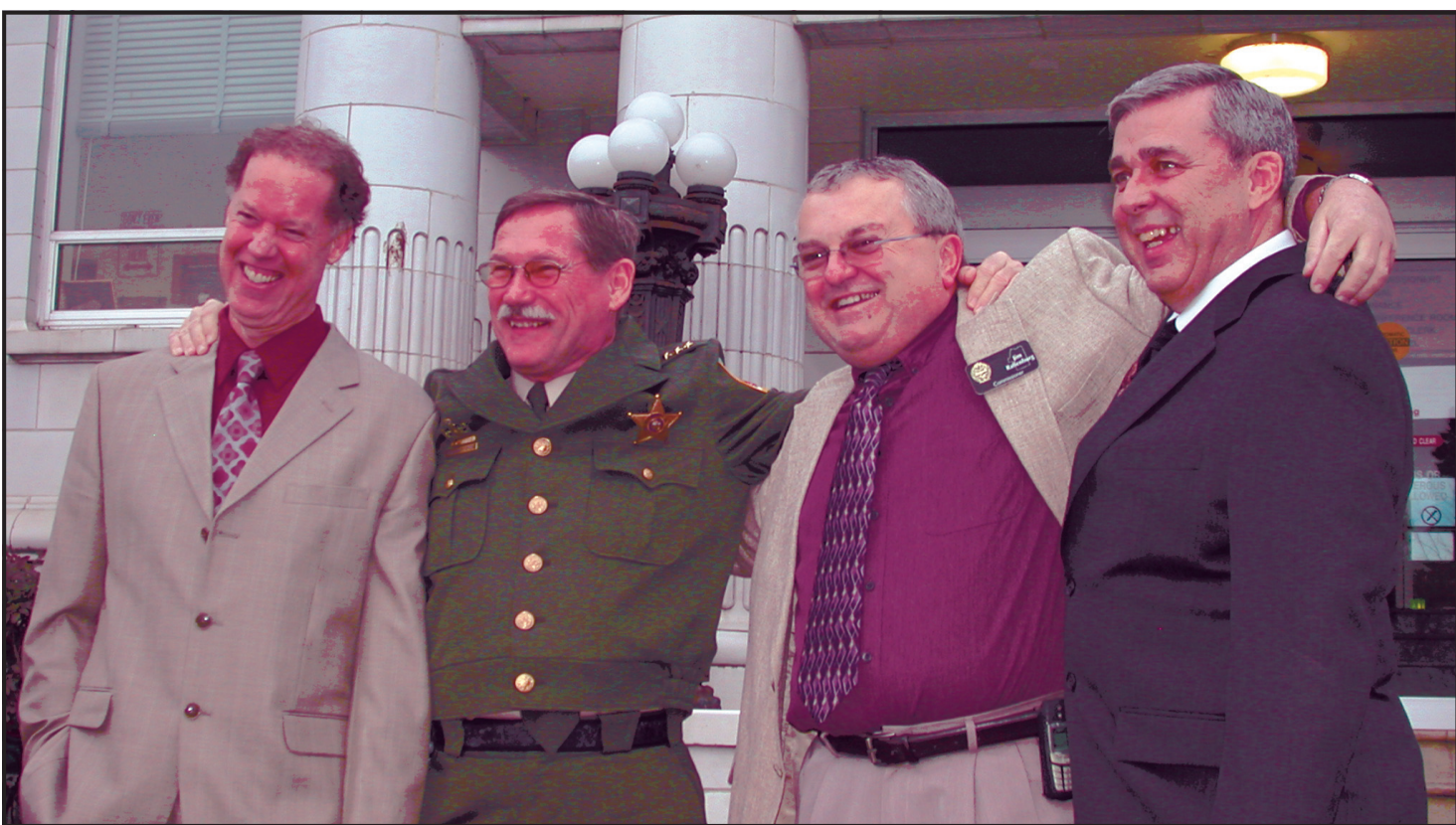
VALLEY ACCIDENTS ABOUND -- Two motor vehicle accidents occurred Tuesday night, Jan. 2 in Illinois Valley, keeping Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), American Medi-

cal Response (AMR), and lawmen busy. One crash was reported near 5:30 on Redwood Hwy. near Eight Dollar Road when a camper-type van on a dolly, being towed by



a pickup truck, swerved and then rolled, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office. No injuries were reported, and there was no notation of a citation. The pickup was driven by Selma resident Garry Kinney, 49. Approximately 30 minutes later, a man identified as Chaz Lindsay, 22, of Cave Junction and Medford, was struck at Redwood Hwy. and Lister Street by a car driven by Leonard Holland, 58. Holland was not cited. Witnesses said that Lindsay darted in front of the car. He was taken by AMR to a hospital, and treated and released.

(Top photo by Michelle Binker/IVN; other photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)



NEW JOSEPHINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER Dave Toler (from left) and new Sheriff Gil Gilbertson recited oaths of office Monday, Jan. 8 at the county court-

house: incumbent commissioners Jim Raffenburg and Dwight Ellis were among well-wishers. Story and another photo on page 3. (Photo by Scott Jorgensen/IVN)