

Illinois Valley News

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Projects at I.V. Airport 'thwarted'

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Political obstructions are contended among reasons why developments rarely get off the runway at Illinois Valley Airport.

On June 20, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 to dissolve the county's Airports Advisory Commission, citing a lack of productivity.

However, several former members of the county's airport advisory boards dispute that assertion, and claim that the board's decision is politically motivated.

In years past there was a combined advisory group for the Illinois Valley Airport and the Grants Pass Airport in Merlin. Eventually the county agreed to separate commissions, but some months ago reverted to the combined approach.

Selma resident Bob Bleadon, now retired after a 33-year career as an airline pilot, served as the last commission's original chairman.

He stated emphatically that the advisory commission was much more functional than the county

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Berry Fest news online

Vendor applications for the Aug. 11 and 12 Wild Blackberry Festival and the latest news, including how to help support the community event, are available at www.wildblackberry.org.

It's the new Web address of the Illinois Valley Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival. The site has a calendar of events, news, staff bios. Additionally, application forms and photos can be downloaded.

A link to PayPal, an online payment service, is included so that anyone can make a donation if they wish. There are also links to area bands as well as festival sponsors.

"We've been discussing a year-round presence of some kind since we took over the festival two years ago," noted Mark Russo, board president.

Budget constraints have made it impossible to rent office space, so Russo and his wife, Judith, run the daily duties of the organization from a small home office while holding weekly meetings in Cave Junction.

"By going online, we can be available 24/7 to answer questions, provide forms or share ideas with anyone who has access to the Internet," Russo explained. "Plus, we can reach people outside the valley who are planning vacations around summer events."

The Website is a work in progress, with plans to grow and eventually include a registry of area artists, crafters and musicians. For more information, email info@wildblackberry.org or phone 592-6509.

Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.
- John F. Kennedy -

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

A bargain rate for subscriptions to *Illinois Valley News* is offered on page 16. Now is the time to take advantage of this special deal to keep up with news of the valley and Josephine County.

Subscribers get a fresh copy in their mailboxes every week.

This issue also contains ads from a number of Selma businesses seeking to inform the population of their products and services. As well, Shop Smart Food Warehouse and Ray's Food Place have their fliers in this issue.

And many other Illinois Valley businesses also are included, plus some from Grants Pass.

Bluegrass Saturday at Selmac

Weekend in Selma also includes Float Fly with model planes

Plenty of toe-tappin' Bluegrass music -- plus demonstrations of radio-controlled model aircraft from Lake Selmac -- are on the schedule in Selma.

Both events will be held at Lake Selmac.

The fourth annual Siskiyou Bluegrass Festival with

six groups will be held Saturday, July 21. The gate near the Trout Pavilion will open at 9:30 a.m., with music until around dusk. Music is to begin at 10. (See the ad for prices on page 3).

The Bluegrass Festival, with beverages and food available from Wild River

Brewing & Pizza Co., is sponsored by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce as a fund-raiser for its efforts.

Primary sponsors for the festival are Wild River and Home Valley Bank.

Performers will be "Jefferson," the "Joe Ross Band," "The Goldman Family," "Gold River," "Mighty Lonesome," and "Valley Country Band."

The master of ceremonies will be "Kuzin Keith" Fuller from Radio Station KRRM (94.7 FM).

Bluegrass aficionados can bring their own chairs or blankets for grass seating.

The 17th annual Float Fly model aircraft event is free for viewers. It will be held on the south side of the lake; watch for signs. The event is sponsored by the Rogue Valley Flyers.

The club will have an aircraft on hand that visitors 19 and younger can fly with help from an instructor.

The club also will have a raffle for two radio-controlled ready-to-fly World War II model planes.

Firefighters busy in June

A busy June with more than 100 calls, including a large RV taking out part of a Cave Junction café, was outlined by Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik during a meeting of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) directors.

The meeting, held Thursday evening, July 12 at IVFD headquarters, included special presentations to directors Joe Malcolm and Joel Downing, who left the board as of that evening.

Downing did not seek re-election on the May 15 ballot; he was replaced by Edwin "Bob" Butler. Jerry Lamb was elected in place of Malcolm.

Gavlik and Chief Harry Rich gave plaques and certificates of appreciation to the two "retiring" directors. They were cited for their "service, dedication and unselfish volunteerism" as well as for their contributions to the community in advancement of IVFD capabilities.

Malcolm has served as board president twice during his 10 years service. Downing served eight years. Fol-

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Food class set at SCC

On Saturday, Aug. 4, Selma Community Center (SCC) is offering a free (except for a \$5 materials fee) food preservation class in its own commercial kitchen by Oregon State University Extension Service faculty and family food education volunteers.

Instructors from Corvallis, Medford, and Grants Pass will be on hand to help participants learn to safely dry, can and freeze fruit, vegetables and meat.

The class will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phone Pamela Tennity at 597-2110 to register. Early registration is recommended, as the class has a limited number of openings.



THUNDER, LIGHTNING & RAIN, OH NO - Thunderstorms struck Josephine and Jackson counties Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11, causing some small lightning-caused brush fires, three in Illinois Valley Fire District, with others 'up high' on federal land. Parts of Grants Pass were without power for a time Wednesday. Josephine County

Sheriff's Office lost telephone service for a time, although 911 was working, and temporary cell phones were provided by Edge Wireless. Siskiyou County, with some 200 spot fires, was hard hit. Firefighters were called in from many states and agencies. The lightning caused some spectacular night scenes. (Photos by Bruce Jackson)

Expansion, more programs in offing at SFI site

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Since its 1997 founding, Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) has provided a specialized source of sorts for members of the public and scientists researching the diverse biology found in Illinois Valley.

For the first four years of its existence, SFI offered specialized classes during summers, said Executive Director Sue Parrish.

But a rash of continued inquiries prompted the creation of new programs geared toward the general public, as well as partnerships with Southern Oregon University (SOU), Oregon Caves National Monument and Rogue Community College.

Last May, SFI and the SOU Foundation took joint ownership of the former Deer Creek Ranch in Selma. That property is now the site



of the Deer Creek Center for Field Research and Education, and serves as SFI's headquarters.

"We waited a long time to get the property," Parrish said.

The 850-acre property includes nearly a mile of Deer Creek frontage, and includes the headwaters and a majority of Squaw Creek's watershed. It sits on the Deer Creek basin, and has some of the creek's flood

plain, plus those of Squaw Creek and Clear Creek.

One boundary of the property's two parcels goes up to Eight Dollar Mountain, and the surrounding area consists largely of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

As such, Parrish said, SFI's location provides ample research opportunities.

"There's a lot of different geology jumbled up

here," she said. "It offers a lot of comparative study areas."

Parrish said that Eight Dollar Mountain is known for its biodiversity, as there are many plant species that grow only in Illinois Valley. That rarity is due to the presence of serpentine, which is toxic to most plants, she said.

"To be able to understand biodiversity, this is where you want to come," Parrish said. "It's a place where plants have the ability to evolve."

SFI's facilities are also set to evolve during the next few years. There are plans to add an interpretive center, new classrooms, wetlands and natural labs, outdoor pavilion, research cabins and yurts.

"There's a lot of infrastructure we're in the middle

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MUCH GARDEN-VARIETY merchandise is offered Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Selma Farmers Market. It's located at the Selma Center just north of Ray's Food Place. For vendor information phone 597-2522. (Photos by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

