

Inside:

It's in the Valley
Special section
features many
'shopportunities'

Lawmen moving
Phone, computer
lines costly hurdle
Page 4

Holiday events
Music, theater on
tap for weekend
Page 7

Election brouhaha
Suit seeks to end
computer counting
Page 10

County funds
Three options
being studied
Page 10

Photo contest
Holiday snapshots
can win prizes
Page 11

Mining delay
Barlow reworking
site boundaries
Page 14

Rattling lesson
LTA provides
artful education
Page 16

New car four-on-the-floor refers to the passengers

Human-powered vehicle, 'Imagine,' designed by Takilma resident could be built in Bend area

By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN

In the 1960s, NASA was busily involved in designing the elements needed for the moon landing.

Their scientists were working with giant main-frame computers to create software that would allow precise estimates with stress analysis. Although the technology was available to the general public in 1972, it did not become affordable to entrepreneurs until 1995.

Meanwhile Charley Greenwood, of Takilma, was working for FMC, a multibillion dollar corporation. He had developed the design for a vehicle that would use human power as its means of locomotion. In 1975, Greenwood separated from FMC, came to Illinois Valley, and began working on the project on his own.

Greenwood used the software developed by NASA to help design what is now called the Human Car. The current model is featured this month on the Discovery Science Channel. The show, *Invention Nation*, features the car; an interview with Greenwood's son, Chuck; and videos of the car in use. The car also can be seen on YouTube and the Human Car Website.

The current model is entirely human-powered in a manner similar to the old self-propelled railroad handcars. Two people sit facing forward while two more people

sit facing the rear and use a push/pull system to propel the vehicle, which features a four-speed transmission and hydraulic braking.

Steering is controlled by leaning into turns. The seats tilt slightly, and this action is transmitted through the chassis to turn the wheels much as a skateboard is steered. Many people would say at this point that the vehicle is a nice novelty, but that its practical application seems limited.

First you need four friends willing to put out the needed physical effort. Next,

two of these friends will have to be very trusting, as they will be facing backward the whole trip and will be unable to see what's happening to the front.

If you watch the video on the Website you'll understand this trust factor, as it shows Greenwood and friends cruising down Happy Camp Road at speeds of 60 mph.

However, the model in production, the Imagine, is a hybrid vehicle that will use energy created during braking to activate a generator. The generator will charge a bat-

tery storage pack. Greenwood says that simple trips to town from his Takilma residence would be no problem at all. The first Imagine is scheduled to be completed in April and will be demonstrated at a Green Car Exposition in Menlo Park, Calif.

The plans are to offer pre-sales of the vehicle so that full production can begin. A tentative plan is in the works to build production facilities in the Bend, Ore. area. Greenwood said that the business community there has good experience in dealing with the

carbon fiber technology necessary for the vehicle's construction.

Greenwood's stress analysis work also has created a fortunate side-effect. Many in the Illinois Valley community are familiar with the tree houses on Takilma Road. Greenwood obtained building code approvals for the first group of these structures using the same finite element analysis technology used in the engineering of the Human Car. He has also designed much more elaborate

(Continued on page 16)



Oregon State Police cited a Cave Junction resident on charges including driving under the influence of an intoxicant and failure to perform the duties of a driver following an injury accident. The three-vehicle crash occurred on Hwy. 199 near O'Brien. Story on page 9. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg, Illinois Valley Fire District Media Dept.)

Oregonians to receive kicker refund checks

A recent revenue forecast shows that Oregon's economic recovery has delivered a triple bonus for working families, said Gov. Kulongoski.

"Oregon's hard-working tax-paying families will soon benefit from the largest middle-class tax refund in the state's history," he said.

"At the same time," continued the governor, "we're making record investments in education. And for the first time, we're putting nearly \$1 billion in reserves to ensure that we can protect our critical services during the next economic downturn."

"This good news comes after decades of living biennium-to-biennium. Working with the Legislature, we've charted a new direction so that in good times, we're able to invest, reserve and return the revenue dividends from a strong economy."

"With a strong economic forecast, solid reserves and more money in the pockets of working families, Oregonians can feel secure that our state is back on the right path," Kulongoski concluded.

Oregon House Republi-

cans on Aug. 31 reminded Democrats not to take Oregonians' kicker checks after state economists projected \$1.073 billion would be refunded to taxpayers.

The Democrat-controlled state government has already has delayed the delivery of checks from November to December," said Deputy Republican Leader Andy Olson (R-Albany), a member of the House Revenue Committee.

"Democrats need to be honest with Oregonians, and ensure that they'll uphold the will of Oregonians and send kicker checks to taxpayers before Christmas," he said.

Oregon taxpayers are to receive an average kicker check of \$612, or 18.6 percent of their pre-credit tax liability. Democrats failed to pass legislation during 2007 to eliminate kicker checks (HB 3049)," Olson said.

"Oregon's kicker law is under attack," he said. "House Republicans will stand firm to protect the personal kicker. We will make sure that every dime is returned to taxpayers and won't be spent to grow the size of government."

Youth Wrestling Club slates Tournament of Champions

Illinois Valley Youth Wrestling Club will host the Tournament of Champions Saturday, Dec. 1 at Ken Mann Memorial Gym at Illinois Valley High School on E. River Street in Cave Junction.

Weigh-ins will be conducted from 7 to 9 a.m. Wrestling will begin at 10 a.m. Young wrestlers from many areas outside Illinois Valley participate in the annual event.

"Come support our youth wrestlers," said the club.



Cave Junction Cares volunteers served approximately 250 diners on Thanksgiving in Jubilee Park. The food was donated by various businesses. CJ Cares is led by Lynn Boucher-Johnson. (Photos by Illinois Valley News)



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I.V.'s community forum on the Web