

2014 Year in review ... Continued

JULY

• Cyndi Spencer took over as the director of the local Boys and Girls Club, replacing Scott Thornhill. She ha been working for the Boys and Girls Club of the Rogue Valley since 2005. She first started out as a member of the board of directors helping with fund-raising for Rogue Valley Boys and Girls Clubs, which helped promote the Illinois Valley and Grants Pass clubs. In 2010, Spencer was hired on as the resources development director and started out writing grants and expanded her role over the years.

• Cave Junction not only had a brand new post office, but a brand new Postmaster. Julia Deneau, a 16-year U.S. Postal Service veteran, took over the position left vacant when former Postmaster Arlyse DeLoyola retired last December. Deneau served as Gold Beach’s postmaster for a year and prior to that was a postal supervisor for five years in Brookings. Deneau started her career as a rural carrier in Crescent City, California, before being promoted to supervisor in that office.

• It isn’t easy being green. Josephine County’s first medical marijuana dispensary opened in Selma, but owners Echo and Lee Miller already had to pay a hefty price. The state application fee alone was \$4,000. They’ve also had to pay to remodel the building to create a foyer, receptionist’s window and second locking door. In addition, they had to install a state-of-the-art security system and a 900 pound safe embedded in concrete. And of course, they would be paying taxes, just like everyone else. Sacred Flower Medicinals, LLC, a state-licensed OMMP facility, is located on Redwood Highway next to Madd Moose.

• Once again, Cave Junction found itself with a new contract deputy. Deputy Jim Geiger, a 17 year veteran with the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, took over the post. Sheriff Gil Gilbertson explained that positions in his office are based on seniority. Geiger was on temporary leave due to an injury when Deputy Snyder was assigned to Cave Junction; but when Geiger recovered, he was appointed to the position and Snyder was transferred back to the county jail.

• Josephine County’s Chief Financial Officer Rosemary Padgett retired and her position was subsequently eliminated, saving the county about \$50,000.

Padgett’s former duties were then split, with the lion’s share going to former county controller Arthur O’Hare, who now works as the finance director. Padgett’s grant writing and risk assessment tasks wer as-

signed to Human Resources Director JJ Scofield.

“We no longer have a CFO,” said County Commissioner Keith Heck. “Rosemary is very gifted and talented. She absorbed so many different tasks due to the county’s budget cuts, so she kind of became a CFO.”

Heck explained that the finance department does not really need a CFO, and that it’s better for county operations that Padgett’s former tasks be reassigned to the departments responsible for those roles.

• Dr. Joe Hoelzle’s lifelong fascination with animals began at the young age of 12 when he started collecting animal skulls in the high desert where he was born and raised. Since that time, Hoelzle dedicated his life to the furry companions that many of us care so much about. That fascination was passed onto his daughter, Nina, who recently graduated with a doctorate in veterinary medicine and was now working by her father’s side at Dr. Joe’s Pet Hospital. Nina began working in her father’s clinic while she was in the first grade when it was located off of Redwood Highway.

• Oregon State Police (OSP), with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service, California Highway Patrol (CHP) and California’s Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office scoured the woods and roads around the Page Mountain Snow Park July 16 searching for Daniel Joseph Martinson. Martinson, 44, had a felony warrant issued for his arrest for murder in a November 2013 homicide in Cave Junction. In that November 5 incident, Aaron Lee Clouser, 39, was found bleeding in the intersection of Millie Street and Hussey Avenue and later died at the scene, the evening of November 5, 2013.

According to an OSP press release, Martinson was spotted several times the night of July 15 and the following morning. Martinson eluded officers on a motorcycle on several remote paved and dirt roads. Martinson eventually turned himself in without incident.

AUGUST

• Cave Junction’s Saint Matthias Episcopal Church got a new spiritual leader in Father Bryant Bechtold, a longtime Episcopalian priest. Bechtold and his wife Susan were looking for a new place to live. Seeking a location with proximity to the coast, they found a home they liked in Cave Junction’s Cedarbrook gated community.

“We really have a preference for smaller rural towns,” Bechtold said. “After we moved in, we learned that Saint Matthias didn’t have a full-time resident priest. So I notified the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of

Oregon, Michael Hanley, to let him know I had retired in Cave Junction and asked if I could be of some service at Saint Matthias.”

• Two Illinois Valley school principals decided to move on to new challenges this year. Lorna Byrne Middle School Principal Rachael George will be moving with her husband to the Portland area and Illinois Valley High School Principal Casey Alderson accepted a position with Three Rivers School District administration. Jamie Ongman took over as the new principal at Illinois Valley High School and Scott Polen.

• The Illinois Valley Fire District celebrated the 60th anniversary of its formation as a special tax district on Friday, Aug. 22. Over the years, the district has grown to six permanent stations and several million dollars worth of equipment. The department has a total of 25 volunteer firefighters, half the optimal number, according to officials. The Selma, O’Brien and Takilma stations are especially in need of more citizens to step up to help protect their own neighborhoods, as well as other areas of the valley.

• The long awaited grand opening of the Cave Junction Skate Park, the newest feature at Jubilee Park, took place Saturday, Aug. 16. The “free for all” event ran from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and featured locally and regionally renowned bands including Oneironauts, Only Natural, Wilderness, Mista Chief, Catsxan, Ras Deezum, Vega in Lyra, Mr. Shatta, Rosie Wittman and Maca Key.

• Illinois Valley resident Lex Alan Johnson, 26, was killed in a Sunday, Aug. 24, single-vehicle collision. According to an Oregon State Police report, Johnson was driving a 1999 Ford F-250. The OSP believes Johnson lost control of the vehicle and flipped after leaving the road in the 6000 block of Deer Creek Road at about 3 a.m. Sunday. Johnson was found underneath the pickup and pronounced deceased at the scene. The state patrol said he had not been using safety restraints.

The OSP report also states that four other occupants were in the vehicle with Johnson. Lucas Harris, 21, was riding in the pickup’s bed and was also ejected. Harris was transported by a private party to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass with non-life threatening injuries. Three other occupants in the pickup were reportedly not injured. Their names were not released.

Johnson was a well know personality in the Valley and his loss shook up many residents. One of the them is Delane Young.

“He was always talking about his family,” Young said. “His sister

was just here for a visit and he was excited to have spent time with her and her kids.”

Geoff Parker, a lifelong friend of Johnson’s had just been in town the weekend prior. Parker explained in an email to the Illinois Valley News how fortunate he was to spend the day with his old friend.

“Lex touched everyone’s life in such a positive way and I think we can all learn something from that,” Parker wrote. “I never have seen the guy mad. He was very gracious, outgoing and treated everyone like family. I think we could all learn a lot from him. He lived his life in a very positive way and I don’t think he had any regrets.”

SEPTEMBER

• The 42nd Annual I.V. Lions Labor Day Festival enjoyed perfect weather and was well attended, offering both familiar and new activities. The standout crowd-pleasers included the Monday parade with an estimated attendance of more than 1,000 people and the two-day Tuff Truck races.

Cave Junction’s sweetheart and super-volunteer Lloyddeen Davis served as Grand Marshall of the parade.

“Being the Grand Marshall is an opportunity to show people that everyone can get out there and do things to help others,” Davis said. “Though I hesitate to call it a reward. The biggest reward comes from God. But this honor highlights how someone in wheelchair, who folks might think cannot do things for others, really still can. It’s all in the attitude.”

Once again, John Pope posted the lowest cumulative time for the Tuff Truck races at 60.394 seconds total for the two runs. Second- and third-place awards were claimed by Travis Colby (65.395) and Josh Baker (67.251), respectively. Marcus Tilley was fourth with a cumulative time of 72.068; C.J. Oyler finished fourth at 73.902 seconds; and Brent Wonsyld was sixth at 76.666 seconds.

“Everybody had a good time,” said event coordinator Jerry Sommers. “It was a great success with only one rollover.”

This year’s winner of a 2014 Harley Davidson Super Glide custom motorcycle was Sean Jewett. Dennis Revieva won the 50/50 drawing. Labor Day parade winners included the American Legion Color Guard for Marching and the American Legion Honor Guard for Military. Among vehicle entries, O’Brien Tractor Restoration won for Tractor, and a 1936 De Soto and a 1937 Chrysler won for Auto. Old Guard Riders won for Motorcycle. The I.V. Senior Center won the Club/Adult award and Healthy U shared the Public Service entry

award with the Illinois River Valley Arts Council.

Alternative transportation winning entries included the Holland Loop Cowboys and Cowgirls for Horse and Rider and “Peddling with Pirates” group won the Humorous category. Oregon Little Big Band Duo won their category for Music and the I.V. Working Dogs won for Canine. School entries included the Adventist Elementary School, which won the Religious category, and the 918 Race Team won for Sports.

New this year, an impressive display of 320 American flags was installed at the southwest corner of Jubilee Park. A nearby tent housed a collection of uniforms, photos and memorabilia from World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In recognition of this year’s festival theme, the flags in the park totaled nearly 450, including those installed along the tennis court fence and elsewhere. The display, titled Salute to Your Heroes, Healing Field of Flags was organized by Francis Rowan, Commander, and members of American Legion Glenn Morrison Post 70.

• It was standing-room only in the expanded waiting room of the Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC) for an Aug. 27 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Clinic staff and community members rubbed elbows with interested visitors from Grants Pass and beyond. The event opened the new additions at the Cave Junction clinic located at 25647 Redwood Highway. Tony Morreale, head of maintenance for the entire SCHC system, was given the honor of cutting the ceremonial red ribbon with giant scissors. CEO Kurt Higuera was the master of ceremonies and COO Rich Booth was also in attendance.

Higuera also presented physicians’ assistant (PA) Sue Terran with a special plaque honoring her 40-plus years of service, beginning with the opening of the Takilma Peoples’ Clinic in February 1973.

• William R. Hunker, the chief petitioner for the recall of Josephine County Commissioner Cherryl Walker, delivered 6,587 signatures of county residents to Josephine County Clerk Art Harvey on Monday, Sept. 15. By the end of the month, though, the effort to oust her was dead in the water.

“A state-required statistical sampling of about 6,500 signatures turned in by the Cherryl Walker Recall Committee indicated that too few were valid,” said Josephine County Clerk Art Harvey. “The biggest culprit on this petition was the number of signers who weren’t registered voters. And we double-checked the sampling.”

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1. DON'T ADVERTISE... Just pretend everyone knows what you have to offer.
2. DON'T ADVERTISE... Tell yourself you just don't have time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
3. DON'T ADVERTISE... Just assume everyone knows what you sell.
4. DON'T ADVERTISE... Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were invited to do so.
5. DON'T ADVERTISE... Convince yourself that you've been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
6. DON'T ADVERTISE... Forget that you have competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
7. DON'T ADVERTISE... Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise, and that you don't get enough out of it.
8. DON'T ADVERTISE... Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling - not an expense.
9. DON'T ADVERTISE... Be sure not to provide an adequate advertising budget for your business.
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