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‘Edge of Wild’ comes to a fitting end

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The three-day holiday weekend offered perfect weather for the I.V. Lions’ Labor Day Festival. The theme for the 44th annual event was “On the Edge of the Wild.”

Many spectators at this year’s Tuff Truck races experienced this theme firsthand, with plenty of flying dirt and two roll-overs Saturday.

Perennial winner John Pope earned the lowest cumulative time over his two runs to claim first prize.

Phillip Salfen posted 16 race videos on YouTube which can be accessed from the Illinois Valley Lions’ Club Facebook page.

The last video features a unique view of the course from inside Gabriella Salas’ truck with a concurrent view of the vehicle from Salfen’s position as Salas drives.

On Monday morning, the annual parade was presided over by Grand Marshal Dennis Strayer.

The IVHS football team won the Sports and Athletic division and the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve garnered the Public Service award.

In the Commercial category, Camp’s Custom Excavating won the prize, and Art Robinson, who is running for U.S. House of Representatives, Oregon District 4, won the Political division.

In the Religious category, “Marching for Jesus” won. This non-denominational Christian group shares their faith through marching in local parades. They also marched in the Boatnik, Magical Merlin and Rooster Crow parades this year.

Bob Muswick’s 1967 Mustang won the Classic Auto category and the Merlin Marauders of Josephine County, a Cowboy Action Shooting Posse, won the Club / Organization prize.

Judges for this year’s parade were Luz Moore from Century 21 Real Estate, Mercedes Shuck from C.J. Coffee, Lisa Sherier from First Community Federal Credit Union, Donna Young from I.V. Builders and local contractors Patrick and Sandy Upton.

A talent show was held each day of the festival. Contestants were judged on talent and stage presence. Monday’s Adult and Professional competition resulted in a first place award going to Donna, second place to Blain and third to Asha.

Results of the Saturday youngster and Sunday teen competitions were not available.

Music was provided at Jubilee Park throughout the festival by “Jammer” David Korrell.

The winner of the yearlong Harley Davidson raffle was Gene Benschoter. A longtime member of the I.V. Lions, Benschoter provided rebuilt motorcycles the first three years of the raffle, before the club started buying the motorcycle prize.

I.V. Lions member John Waltermeyer was pleased with the results of the festival and said, “We had members step up, but we need more help.”

SEE FEST ON A-9

Pope reigns



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

John Pope entertains the crowd during the Tuff Truck competition Sunday, Sept. 4. Pope an everlasting contender bested the field in 2016.

DeYoung wants your vote

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

With just eight weeks left before the November general election, candidate Dan DeYoung is fine tuning his campaign for Position 2 on the Josephine County Board.



Dan DeYoung

DeYoung, a Grants Pass native, has served on the Grants Pass City Council for the past seven years and has been council president for the past three years. His term expires at the end of this year.

“I would like the county and the city work better together,” De Young said. “There’s eight separate demographics in this county and Cave Junction is one of those. Each location, Sun Valley, Murphy, Williams, Wolf Creek, Hugo, Cave Junction, they all have different issues and I completely get that. But we’re all in the same county. The county seat shouldn’t go out to these areas and tell people how to live - but they should listen to the people about what their needs are. There’s a real trust issue that goes on with any government, and it stems from the White House

and goes right on down to the local city halls. With both county and state government, I think we need to do everything we can to earn that trust and it won’t be done over night.”

DeYoung, 67, owned and operated All Seasons Heating and Air Conditioning in Grants Pass for 35 years before he sold the business to a long-term employee, and says his experience as a private sector businessman will be very useful on the county board. “I have found that to be true with my involvement with the city council,” he said. “I know what it’s like to sign the front of the check and not just the back. And with the county’s budget, there’s a lot going on that people aren’t aware of and I want to make things more transparent, so people know-how their money is

being spent.”

Regarding the burgeoning cannabis industry, DeYoung said he understands the issues. “We’re going through a lot of growing pains, but I believe within a few years we’ll have it worked out. We have a lot of land use and water use issues that need to be settled. But everyone needs to take ownership of the industry; and growers need to take ownership of some of the complaints.”

He’s committed to working toward balance with natural resource issues as well, and said, “While we need to maximize our natural resources, we also have to realize that people come here to enjoy our natural areas, for the beauty, and we need that business too.”

SEE DAN ON A-9

Commissioner Keith Heck seeks 2nd term

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Josephine County Commissioner Keith Heck, who occupies Position 2 on the county board, says the current board “has gotten a lot accomplished” and he wants to keep doing his job.

Before entering politics, Heck was a clergyman for decades and also worked in radio, and in these capacities developed excellent communication skills. In 1996, Heck, and his wife of 53 years, Carol, moved to Grants Pass to pastor Sovereign Grace Baptist Church. A few years later he became executive director of the Gospel Rescue Mission, serving there until 2010. He then ran successfully for the county board in 2012.

While Heck made a policy last year to not initiate any new public safety levies, he said as the proposal is “citizen-generated,” he’ll get behind any effort to help support the county’s public safety and criminal justice system.

“I don’t believe the average citizen in Josephine County is

pleased to see the minimalist public safety system that we currently have. What’s under consideration is how to solve that problem,” he said. “I don’t think anybody in a sober state seriously questions the state of our justice and public safety system. We don’t have an adequate system out on the road, the sheriff is stretched so thin, and juvenile justice services are basically nonexistent. We have no ability to deal with a juvenile who steals a car and goes out and runs down people - and the word is out among that demographic that there’s simply no consequences to that behavior. Innocent kids are hurt as well. We cannot protect them from domestic violence or provide any safe harbor. And the irony is that we have a first class juvenile facility that is shuttered in JoCo.”

Heck noted that times are changing fast in JoCo.

“On the current board, we’ve worked hard to address the contentious issues surrounding the cannabis industry and we’ve made some real strides,” he said. “This county is split right down the middle about cannabis and we’re working to

create solutions where everyone can feel a sense of satisfaction. We’ve got have a unity of mind, where we’re working together to make this a good and safe county to live and work in and have a future.

“The issue is that cannabis is a legal product in the state - and we’re in beginning stages in Josephine County,” Heck added. “So how can we as a county benefit financially from the industry? We cannot set our own taxes on a product that is controlled by the state, but they will allow us to tax it up to 3 percent, which will paper on this fall’s ballot. But beyond that, consider how the grower’s grow and sell their product, but then, it’s shipped out our county for sale and we lose out on any residual benefits. I’d like to see some of those monies stay here rather than being exported to a larger county up north. This current board has certainly done a lot to facilitate the growth of this industry. We just passed a change in zoning to allow processing and sales on industrial lands. So if someone wants to have an indoor grow, they can create a product and sell it here, whether that

is seeds or other products. We’re trying to keep ahead of the curve.”

Heck and his wife have two children, eight grandchildren and three great- grandchildren. He was born in Wisconsin and then his family moved to California in 1947. He joined the Marine Corps at 17, and completed High School and Junior College while in the service. He served as a machine-gunner and was honorably discharged in 1963. He then attended BIOLA College, and later, graduated from Western Bible College (now merged with Colorado Christian University) with a Bachelor of Arts in biblical education.

“While attending school I pastored Mountain View Baptist Church and worked fulltime as the program director at KWBI-FM,” Heck said. “Then we went to Thailand as Christian missionaries in 1974, serving with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. We returned home to Littleton, Colorado in 1978 and I resumed working at KWBI-FM as well as working in two churches. Then we moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where I pastored Grace

Baptist Church for 10 years before finally moving to Grants Pass.”

In Grants Pass, Heck served 10 years on the Citizen Review Board overseeing cases of children taken into care by Department of Human Services; and for a number of years he also served on the Siskiyou Community Health Center board. He’s also active with the Grants Pass Rotary and is a member at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Keith Heck