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•A new helipad was installed at the Selma Fire Station. Chief Hoke said Mercy Flights bankrolled the project and Dave Anderson did the excavation work beforehand. He also said Bill Dodson, Bob Knott, Skip Bernard, Tony Paulson, Larry Hammersmith, Jeff Gavlik, Joe Latva, Tom McCauley, and Kris Sherman all pitched in to get the job done.

•It was no joke when 10 people were arrested within three hours on April Fools' Day. A small army of law enforcement officers from several jurisdictions conducted a saturation patrol in the Illinois Valley Friday night. "We planned this ahead of time and had targets we were looking for, and also, made random contact with persons of interest," said Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel.

•Many involved in Josephine County's cannabis trade were sent into upheaval after the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC)

Year in Review: April

mistakenly added Josephine County to a list of 100 cities, towns and counties prohibiting recreational marijuana activities. OLCC had intended to include the town of Joseph (located in eastern Oregon), but instead listed Josephine County. The list, sent out statewide, went to countless JoCo residents signed up for email updates from OLCC; and from there, the false news spread like wildfire on social media.

•The nine candidates competing for Position 2 on the Josephine County board, including incumbent Keith Heck, participated in a candidate forum sponsored by the *Illinois Valley News* and the I.V. Chamber of Commerce at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction April 21. Almost 100 people were in attendance.

•The Cave Junction City Council met April 11 to discuss, whether or not to renew the contract with the Josephine County Sheriff's

Department to provide patrol services to the city of Cave Junction which stipulates that the sheriff's department provide 40 hours per week of patrol coverage in the Cave Junction area, and one dedicated bed in the county jail, for a yearly fee of \$156,512.00. The contract was to be voted on by June 30. Also, there was the first reading of the proposed city ordinance to raise the business license tax with half of the increased revenue going toward the law enforcement fund.

•There was a preview of the upcoming medical and the recreational cannabis season. Growers were busy starting their gardens with clones or seeds, depending on personal preference. Clones were more popular in recent years; however problems with russet mites and other new diseases led to more seedlings being used.

•The Illinois Valley Community Development

Organization (IVCDO) held its annual awards ceremony and the following received awards: IVCDO chair Roger Brandt, Volunteer of the Year Award; Kerbyville Museum and History Center curator Dennis Strayer, Lifetime Achievement Award and Wild River Brewing and Pizza owner Bertha Miller, Business of the Year Award; and CJ Patrols, Organization of the Year Award.

•Around 40 I.V. residents attended a County Commissioner Forum for Position 3 candidates April 22 at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction. The event was sponsored by the *Illinois Valley News* and the I.V. Chamber of Commerce. When all candidates were asked by event organizer, moderator and *Illinois Valley News* publisher Dan Mancuso whether they supported banning cannabis farms on property zoned for RR5 (5 acre rural residential use), everyone stated "no."

Year in Review: May

•Lily Morgan topped the field of 17 county commissioner candidates running for two seats on the board by a wide margin, earning 45.50 percent of the vote in her race. Had she received 50 percent, the race for Position 3 would be over - but as it stood, there was to be a runoff between Morgan and Bill Hunker.

•The race for Position 2 was set to be a nail bitter, with the top two candidates headed for the November general election essentially tied. Incumbent Keith Heck, came out slightly on top with 19.49 percent of the vote and chasing Heck's heels with 19.21 percent of the vote was Dan DeYoung.

•Beginning June 2, adults 21 and older could purchase cannabis edibles from licensed medical marijuana dispensaries for recreational use. The rules will follow the state Legislature's passing SB 1511 earlier this year, which expanded the state's early retail sales program to include the sale of edibles. Under the early retail sales program, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) licensed dispensaries can sell to recreational consumers until Jan. 1, 2017, when the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) assumes full control of regulation of the state's recreational cannabis industry. By Jan. 1, 2017, all recreational sales will only take

place at OLCC-licensed dispensaries. Legalization of cannabis in Oregon has created at least 2,165 jobs and will add more as the market matures, a new report suggested.

•White School Rd. Some may call it a "tempest in a teapot" but -- forgive the mixed metaphor -- to the residents of this Illinois Valley road, a rose by any other name definitely does not smell as sweet. If you Google map it, you will find it identified as White School House Road. But, according to Josephine County Public Works Director Rob Brandes, the name was formally established as White School Road, no "House," as far back as 1916, and duly recorded as such in the official record. Nevertheless, the road, which intersects twice with Caves Highway, and also with several smaller roads, has carried a mix of signs for many years, some as White School House and others as White School

•The cannabis industry changed the face of the Illinois Valley. Tall fences have sprung up everywhere. However there's a lack of clarity regarding rules governing these fences. There's no uniformity between the two state agencies governing medical and recreational marijuana; and various county and city regulations pertaining to fence height, placement and construction

differ as well. To complicate matters further, the state's rules regulating safety, security and public view of marijuana gardens were changing.

•On May 17, IVHS senior Kynan Nordal pushed past a leg injury to finish ninth overall at the 4A/3A/2A/1A State Golf Championships at Eagle Crest Ridge in Redmond.

•On May 26, Lorna Byrne Middle School eighth-grader Mallorie Menning competed in her final track and field meet for the Vikings at the Middle School State Track and Field Championships in Corvallis. Over 145 middle schools from across the state were represented at Corvallis High School. Menning was a top 20 finisher in the state with a throw of 31 feet 1 inch.

•The 33rd annual Academic Masters competition took place April 28 at Grants Pass High School. The competition featured five students from each of the county's four high schools. Nathan Klais performed a piece on the baritone horn and together with his other scores; he won third place and \$500. The other four competitors were each given 30 minutes to answer a question or solve a problem. The 2016 competition also resulted in a third place award in English for Skyla Patton along with a \$500 prize.

Year in Review: June

• The *Illinois Valley News* staff was thrilled to welcome Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) student Dan Klapheke, who began an eight-week internship with the paper. "I'm looking forward to doing a little bit of everything, including reporting, editing, layout, taking photos and participating in every aspect of a small papers' operation," said Klapheke, who is pursuing a double major in journalism and broadcast and electronic media.

•The Valley will soon have access to drive-in movies thanks to Paul Koci and the Selma Center. The first film was "Casper the Friendly Ghost" June 15 at 9:30 p.m. "We're planning on screening movies twice a month, but if there's overwhelming interest we'll scale up and do it more often," Koci said.

•After 36 years as a school bus driver in Cave Junction, Mary Rolfe was lifting her foot off the pedal. Rolfe started as a bus driver for the Three Rivers School District in 1980, when her first child was in first grade. "I actually see this little tiny lady driving this great big yellow bus, and I thought, 'She can do it, I can do it,'" Rolfe said. "Then a month and a half later I was doing it."

•The 2016 I.V. High School track awards were presented on the evening of May 24. Most inspirational awards were given to Evan Vallot and Taylor Jackson. The Most Valuable Award went to Halona Jackson who came into the season well trained and strong and after fine tuning her sprinting form, took her successful season all the way to the finals at the state meet where she won medals in three

events.

•Kandi Crow was sentenced June 8 to two months in jail. After that, she'll have to spend another four months in jail or serve additional time in home detention to answer for her April 13 conviction on 13 misdemeanor charges of unlawful possession of an animal. Crow has also been ordered to stay away from animals for five years, and to pay more than \$1,600.

•There was a wave of abandoned vehicles on the side of the road over the past year in the Valley. This was a development from the rise in crime due in large to lack of law enforcement in the area. Some were burned and became dangerous to the environment, but many were simply abandoned. These rogue vehicles popped up throughout the Valley, but they would still be sitting empty in the same spot weeks later. Dennis Hoke, Chief of the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and certified paramedic, said whether or not the vehicle gets removed depends on where it is. "If it's a road hazard, if it's potentially gonna impact the environment--like it's leaking oil into a drainage ditch, something like that--then we would have it removed and have it towed away because of the impact," Hoke said. "If it's a hazard to traffic, we need to get it off the road. And so then we tow it." The problem came with wrecks on private property, "If there's no hazard, then I really don't have the authority to do anything with it," Hoke explained.

• Mark Theodore Brockman died June 21. Brockman was a highly-decorated military veteran, and humble

about it. He entered the Marine Corps July 31, 1963, and was honorably discharged in 1968. During that time he served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a Force Recon Marine, and was awarded the United States Navy Cross--the second-highest military honor, only behind the Congressional Medal of Honor. However, Brockman's friends said he seldom let slip what action he was awarded the honor for.

• Millie Box celebrated her 90th birthday June 4 with a party at Wild River Brewing & Pizza. Box reminisced about her life in the Illinois Valley, which has included many different jobs, places and people. As a writer, Box produced a column called the Bridgeview News for the *Illinois Valley News* and the *Grants Pass Daily Courier*.



(File photo, *Illinois Valley News*)

Abandoned car that spent weeks on the side of the road south of Selma.