

# Weather Watch

## Cave Junction



**Thursday, Dec 28**  
PM Showers  
High --57 Low --42



**Friday, Dec 29**  
PM Showers  
High --59 Low --42



**Saturday, Dec 30**  
Partly Cloudy  
High --53 Low --41



**Sunday, Dec 31**  
PM Showers  
High --54 Low --43



**Monday, Jan 1**  
Showers  
High --52 Low --40



**Tuesday, Jan 2**  
Partly Cloudy  
High --52 Low --43



**Wednesday, Jan 3**  
Showers  
High --54 Low --41

*Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl Johnson:*

| Dec | High | Low  | Rain |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 15  | 38.0 | 28.8 | 0.01 |
| 16  | 47.5 | 31.8 |      |
| 17  | 44.3 | 29.5 | 0.01 |
| 18  | 40.1 | 27.0 |      |
| 19  | 49.6 | 32.5 | 1.89 |
| 20  | 44.7 | 31.7 | 0.44 |
| 21  | 38.0 | 31.8 |      |

Dec Rain: 3.34" YTD Rain: 23.71"

# Lake Selmac fish die-off resolved

**Jason McMillen**  
*IVN Contributing Writer*

Although the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) investigation into the sudden and mysterious death of an estimated 100 large bass at Lake Selmac is still ongoing, there's reason to believe that a lack of dissolved oxygen in a certain area of the lake was the most likely cause. The fish all appear to have suffocated at the same time, potentially within hours, and the problem appears to have resolved itself.

Josephine County Parks Director Sarah Wright said that former Senior Ranger Steve Schalk contacted her about the incident and reported that he'd seen the phenomena at least four times in his 25 year career, all of which were tied to poor oxygen saturation levels because of stagnant water. The last occurrence, according to his memory, happened in 1999 and similarly affected only the

larger bass. "It makes sense because the largest bass need the most amount of oxygen to survive," Wright said.

ODFW fish biologist Dan Vandyke said that his department's ruled out both chronic and acute disease as well as parasites but is awaiting the completion of viral and bacterial tests. They expect to get the results sometime in the next two weeks but he agrees that oxygen deprivation was the most likely cause.

"The level of vegetation in that lake is pretty tremendous and when we were out there we checked the dissolved oxygen levels and we got some super saturation in the sunnier areas and in the most shaded areas it was actually below saturation," Vandyke said.

In response to the problem, the Josephine County Parks Department is considering the installation of water aerators at critical points in the lake to keep water, and as a consequence dissolved oxygen, circulating. However,

since the department is self-funded with very little spare cash to spend on improvements, Wright said that they're investigating whether or not grant money is available and applicable for such a project.

Wright, on the topic of grant funded projects, said that Lake Selmac is also experiencing an overabundance of lake weeds alongside widespread and potentially deadly seasonal blue-green algae blooms. The parks department warns the public not to swim during such bloom events nearly every year. These problems are believed to be connected in part to the ever decreasing depth of the lake which is now averaging 6 to 7 feet deep.

The lake used to be dredged regularly because the streams feeding the lake with water also deposit vast amounts of silt and other types of sediment over time. According to Wright, the last time the lake was dredged was in 1987.



**David,**

You left me beautiful memories  
Your love is still my guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You're always at my side

Love,

**Susan, Betty, Justin, Bobby  
and all family and friends**



**A festive house in the 17000 block of Redwood Hwy. near Selma grows larger each year.**

The image is a business advertisement for Moser Paving, Inc. At the top, there are two small illustrations of construction equipment: a steamroller on the left and a bulldozer on the right. The company name "MOSE" is written in large, bold, yellow-outlined letters. Below it, "PAVING, INC." is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Underneath the company name, the text "FREE ESTIMATES AND TECHNICAL ADVICE" and "SERVING SOUTHERN OREGON SINCE 1965" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. In the center, the word "CALL" is written in large, black, serif letters, followed by the phone number "541-479-2424" in a very large, bold, black, serif font. Below the phone number, the word "NOW!" is written in large, black, serif letters. To the left of the central text, a list of services is provided: "Excavation", "Cat Rental", "Backhoe Rental", "Dump Trucks", "Road Construction", and "Demolition Work". To the right, another list of services is provided: "Fill Dirt", "Rock Deliveries", "Crushed Shale", "Greenhouse Pads", "Building Sites", and "Utility Work". At the bottom, the text "FOR ALL YOUR AG BUILDINGS AND GROW SITES" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the address "650 Redwood Hwy Grants Pass OR 97527" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the address, the contact information "cj@moserpaving.com" and "www.moserpaving.com" is provided in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is an illustration of a front loader, and at the bottom right, there is an illustration of an excavator.



**Merry Christmas**  
**Illinois Valley News**

**will be closed**  
**Dec 28 through Jan 5**

**There will be no paper**  
**January 3, 2018**

