

50 cents

Weather

Get used to it

Expect rain all through the weekend and into Monday. Saturday's highs will be in the mid-60s. See Page 2A.



Overnight low 55
Saturday's high 66

What's inside

A rare breed

A new documentary, 'Medal of Honor,' looks at ordinary men thrust into extraordinary circumstances. The program debuts at 9 p.m. Wednesday on PBS.



WEEKSWORTH / Inside



Back in the saddle

Rogue River High's Cole Watson has helped take the Chieftains' boys' cross country program back to the state meet.

SPORTS / Page 1B



Bible clubs

Over 1,000 children are involved with the Good News Clubs of Josephine County, which teach Bible basics thanks to over 100 volunteers.

FAITH / Page 8B

What's online

Local haunt

In honor of Halloween, we take a look at the Oregon Caves Chateau's allegedly haunted history in a new video at ...

thedailycourier.com

A look ahead



Photo winners

Check out the winners of this year's annual Vacation Photo Contest, sponsored by the Daily Courier and Photo Den. In addition to the six winners Saturday, you'll be able to check out 30 finalists at thedailycourier.com.

SATURDAY

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Volume XCIX
No. 38 Issue 29741
4 Sections, 100 Pages



Baghdad's demand could deliver a diplomatic blow to Bush by derailing a proposed security pact. The pact's failure could also force suspension of U.S. military operations next year.

Iraq wants U.S. out in 2012

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq wants to eliminate any chance U.S. forces will stay here after 2011 under a proposed security pact and to expand Iraqi legal jurisdiction over U.S. troops until then, a close ally of the prime minister said Thursday.

Those demands, which were

presented to U.S. officials this week, could derail the deal — delivering a diplomatic blow to Washington in the final weeks of the Bush administration.

Failure to reach an agreement before year's end could force a suspension of American military operations, and U.S. commanders have been warning Iraqi officials that could endanger security improvements.

The current draft, hammered out in months of tortuous negotiations, would have U.S. soldiers leave Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011, unless the two governments agreed to an extension for training and supporting Iraqi security forces.

But Ali al-Adeeb, a member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's inner circle, said the government wants that possibility

excluded by language adding finality to the end of 2011 date.

'The Iraqi side wants to remove any mention of a possible extension of U.S. troops, fearing that the existing clause might be subject to misinterpretation or could bear different interpretation,' he told The Associated Press.

Turn to IRAQ, Page 3A

Oregon Caves Chateau haunted?

Ghosts reported at 74-year-old inn

By Patricia Snyder
of the Daily Courier

As chattering youths in ghostly getups seek Halloween treats in the valley below, the autumn-shrouded Oregon Caves Chateau wears an air of supernatural mystery. The Chateau has inspired entries in books and visits from paranormal investigators.

Stacy Long, the Chateau's assistant general manager, and Annette Starbuck, retail manager, said stories come from employees and guests in 23 rooms across three top floors and in three lower floors that include a lobby, dining area and workspace.

The best-known tale is 'Elizabeth' and what is now a suite in rooms 309 and 310. As it goes, in 1937 the honeymooner discovered her husband kissing an employee and jumped from a top-floor window, plunging six stories to her death. Employees pass down the undocumented story, Starbuck said, and claims are made of crying sounds coming from a linen closet and a ghostly woman in the hallway.

Once, during a 13th birthday party on Friday the 13th, the youths were too frightened to sleep in 'Elizabeth's room,' so Long did.

'I felt a little weird after everybody was quiet, but I didn't feel her or see her or anything,' she said. Neither employee claims to have seen a ghost. Those rumored to have had encounters declined to be interviewed.

Some guests refuse Elizabeth's room. Others request it. The suite isn't the only location of reported happenings:

- Housekeepers have left rooms, then return to find the water running.
Doors inexplicably open and close.
An employee caught a glimpse of someone on stairs and went to greet the person, but no one was there.
An employee heard knocks



KEVIN LAUNIUS/Daily Courier

Room 309 at the Oregon Caves Chateau is said by some to be the domain of a ghost named Elizabeth.

but no one was outside the door.

A worker opened a locked closet. A man came out and turned a corner, but a worker elsewhere didn't see him pass.

Before entering a storage room where she once felt odd, Long knocks an alert. 'As soon as I walked in, I just got this cold chill down my spine,' she said.

The boiler room bothers Starbuck. 'I just get a creepy feeling when I go down there,' she said.

The 74-year-old Chateau's floors creak and it visibly slumps from a 1964 mudslide that knocked it a bit off its foundation. The Port Orford cedar-barked building relies on weight from huge pine beams to keep it at the top of its marble canyon, and it wasn't designed for a sideways blow, said John Roth, national resource specialist for the Oregon Caves. After the mudslide, architect G.A. Lium spent a week shifting it back using jacks.

Turn to GHOSTS, Page 2A

Strange doings at chateau

Oregon Caves Chateau employees keep an informal log of paranormal stories. Excerpts:

While working on the first floor of rooms, one of the housekeepers opened the maid closet and found a man standing in front of her. She described him as ... all in black, beard and mustache, wearing an Amish or Quaker-type hat. Startled, she said, 'Oh, excuse me,' and backed up to let the man out.

The man tipped his hat, took a right out of the closet and another right down the hallway. The housekeeper stood there for a moment, then thought, 'What on earth was this man doing in a locked closet?' She walked to the hall where the man went, and he was nowhere to be found. She asked all who were around, and no one had seen anyone as she described. (From 2004)

Had guests stay in room 208/09. Their little boy, about 8, said he was sitting in the room and a lady walked across the

room dressed in a robe, carrying what looked like a candle. May have been Elizabeth. (From July, year unidentified)

Guests in room 301 came to the front desk, letting us know of their experience the night before. The wife woke up in the middle of the night and was very hot. She tried to find out how to turn off the electric blanket. (We do not have electric blankets anywhere in the Chateau.) She laid back down, and soon she felt like her feet were on fire. She looked down at her feet and saw two balls of fire surrounding her feet. She started shaking her feet and woke her husband up. He saw them, too. Then they just went away. They stated they saw little white balls of light floating around the room and then out the wall. They were quite excited. (From fall 2007)

Guest in rooms 309/310 checked out shortly after arriving. Their daughter was scared to sleep in 310 and wanted to sleep with her parents. When

the mother went into 310, she freaked out and told her husband they could not stay in the Chateau. We offered them another room, but she was adamant they had to leave and doubted they would be back up even for just the cave tour. They didn't care if they still had to pay for the night, they just wanted out. The wife said, 'There is some really wacky stuff going on in that room!' (From June 2008)

Had a couple stay in room 306/7. Said she could hear something walking around her bed, so she shut her eyes, hoping it would go away, but it wouldn't. Then she felt something shaking her bed a little and heard a clawing noise on the side of the bed. The bed was shaking so much she thought for sure her husband would wake up, but he didn't. She was way too scared to open her eyes to look ... Her husband thinks she is crazy ... but she knows something was in that room with her. (From June 2008)

Local woman attended school with Sarah Palin

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

At Alaska's Wasilla High School in the early 1980s, Sarah Palin was already a "know-right-from-wrong girl," according to Marion Craig.

"She wouldn't take off for senior skip day," said Craig, who graduated with Palin in 1982.

When Craig started working at Hair Art Thou salon in Grants Pass this week, owner Jody Perry just about dropped her scissors when she heard Craig went to school with the Republican vice presidential nominee.

"What was she like? ... She was driven. She was always driven," Craig said. "'Barracuda.' That was her. We all teased her."

Palin was Sarah Heath then, and earned the barracuda moniker for her aggressiveness on the basketball court.

"Are you voting for her?" wondered Perry.

"Oh, yeah."

"Me too," said Heidi Lloyd, as Perry worked on her hair.

When John McCain announced Palin as his running mate just before the Republican National Convention, Craig thought, "Wow, my classmate just made history."

"I think she's been wrongly treat-

Todd was the only one Sarah dated. All the girls wanted Todd.

Marion Craig
high school classmate of Sarah Palin

ed, being judged for being too new and how she uses money for clothing," Craig said. "I think they misjudge her. She learned how to be frugal living in Alaska."

Craig still has family members in Wasilla who say Palin's gotten a "bum rap" for being from the remote outpost.

"She knows plenty. She's very qualified for the job," Craig said. "It's controversial that she knows how to use a gun. That's just part of American life."

Craig said she thought Tina Fey's impersonation of Palin on Saturday Night Live was funny.

Craig pulled out her yearbooks which showed a busy Sarah Heath — captain of the state champion basketball team, cross country, honor society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, class treasurer.

Like Palin, Craig married her

high school sweetheart, but later divorced. She moved to Grants Pass in January after many years in Bend.

"Todd was the only one Sarah dated," Craig said of Sarah's husband. "All the girls wanted Todd."

Craig remembers Palin greeting people at the door for Wasilla's 10-year reunion in 1992.

Palin wrote these words on the class reunion program.

"I commercial fish with my husband Todd Palin in the summer. I freelance as a sportswriter for the Frontiersman. That's my only job other than raising my kids. Todd and I are partners with three Palmer High grads in a fishing lodge. We love snowmachining to the lodge. My life revolves around my kids. I basically have no social or intellectual life."

By 2002 Palin was finishing her sixth year as mayor of Wasilla, and running for lieutenant governor, which she lost. Craig said they didn't talk at the 20-year class reunion that year.

Then in 2006 Palin became Alaska's first female governor, and youngest ever governor in Alaska.

Reach reporter Jeff Duewel at 474-3720 or jduewel@thedailycourier.com



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Marion Craig is proud to show off her 1982 Wasilla High School yearbook with a photo of classmate Sarah Palin.