

CAVE JUNCTION



TIMOTHY BULLARD /Daily Courier

The Chateau at the Oregon Caves, a historic lodge which opened in 1931, is one of Cave Junction's most celebrated attractions. It is located at the site of the Oregon Caves National Monument.

Cave Junction: Rich with history and attractions

By Lisa Whiting
of the Daily Courier

Cave Junction is located in the Illinois Valley, 30 miles southwest of Grants Pass. The town was named after the Oregon Caves, 20 miles away and one of the state's major tourist attractions.

The Oregon Caves were discovered by bear hunter Elijah Davidson in 1874 and were declared a national monument in 1909 by President William Howard Taft. Congress recently expanded the footprint, renaming it the Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve.

The area's other claim to fame is that the Illinois Valley was the site of the state's first gold discovery, in the early 1850s. The gold rush led to the decimation of the Takelma Indians, who had occupied the valley for thousands of years.

After gold mining dwindled, residents turned to ranching, fishing, logging and tourism. The last lumber mill shut down in 2016, but the area is seeing an increase in agritourism, which includes wineries, produce and marijuana farms.

The historic Oregon Caves Chateau,

which opened in 1934, will be closing for renovations after its 2018 summer season. The closure may last through one or two seasons.

For those who have never seen or stayed at the hotel, it warrants a place on a bucket list.

Attractions located in or near the town, the only other incorporated city in Josephine County besides Grants Pass, include:

ILLINOIS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITORS CENTER, 201 Caves Highway, 541-592-3326.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE OFFICE, 26568 Redwood Highway, 541-592-4000.

AUGUSTINO ESTATE & VINEYARD, 400 Brown Road, O'Brien, 541-596-2818.

BRIDGEVIEW VINEYARD & WINERY, 4210 Holland Loop Road, 541-592-4688.

CHATEAU AT THE OREGON CAVES, 20000 Caves Highway, 541-592-3400. Hotel open May 3-Sept. 30.

DEER CREEK VINEYARDS, 2680 Deer Creek Rd, Selma, 541-597-4226.

FORIS VINEYARDS, 654 Kendall Road, 541-592-3752.

GREAT CATS WORLD PARK, 27919 Red-

wood Highway, 541-592-2957.

IT'S A BURL FURNITURE AND CARVING GALLERY, 24025 Redwood Highway, Kerby, 541-592-2141.

KERBYVILLE MUSEUM, 24195 Redwood Highway, 541-592-5252.

ILLINOIS RIVER FORKS STATE PARK, 1/2 mile south of Cave Junction on Redwood Highway.

ILLINOIS VALLEY GOLF CLUB, 25320 Redwood Highway, 541-592-3151.

JUBILEE PARK, 307 S. Junction Ave., 541-592-4529.

LAKE SELMAC COUNTY PARK, 500 Reeves Creek Road, 541-474-5285.

OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT & PRESERVE, 19000 Caves Highway, 541-592-2100. Tours run late March through early November.

OUT'N'ABOUT TREEHOUSE TREESORT, 300 Page Creek Road, 541-592-2208.

SISKIYOU SMOKEJUMPER MUSEUM, 30902 Redwood Highway, open March 15-Nov. 15.

SMOKE ON THE WATER RESORT, 2700 Lakeshore Drive, Selma, 541-597-2277.

TREEHOUSE ZIPLINES, 300 Page Creek Road, 541-592-2208.