

= Cave Junction , Oregon =

Cave Junction , incorporated in 1948 , is a city in Josephine County , Oregon , United States . As of the 2010 census , the city population was 1 @, @ 883 . Its motto is the " Gateway to the Oregon Caves " , and the city got its name by virtue of its location at the junction of Redwood Highway (U.S. Route 199) and Caves Highway (Oregon Route 46) . Cave Junction is located in the Illinois Valley , where , starting in the 1850s , the non @-@ native economy depended on gold mining . After World War II , timber became the main source of income for residents . As timber income has since declined , Cave Junction is attempting to compensate with tourism and as a haven for retirees . Tourists visit the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve , which includes the Oregon Caves Chateau , as well as the Out 'n'About treehouse resort and the Great Cats World Park zoo .

= = History = =

For thousands of years , the Takelma Indians inhabited the Illinois Valley . Their culture was destroyed when gold was discovered in the early 1850s , causing the subsequent Rogue River Wars . After an 1853 treaty , most of the Takelmas lived on the Table Rock Reservation . In 1856 , after the wars ended , they were moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation and the Siletz Reservation .

The first gold in Oregon history was found in the Illinois Valley , as well as the largest gold nugget (17 lb or 7 @. @ 7 kg) . In 1904 , more than 50 years after prospectors had started combing the valley for gold , an 18 @-@ year @-@ old named Ray Briggs discovered what newspapers at the time called " the most wonderful gold discovery ever reported in Oregon history . " While hunting along Sucker Creek , he discovered gold lying on the ground . He staked a claim and called it the " Wounded Buck Mine , " which produced 1 @, @ 777 ounces (50 @. @ 4 kg) of gold . The " mine " was a small vein of gold 12 to 14 inches (30 to 36 cm) wide , 12 feet (3 @. @ 7 m) long and 7 feet (2 @. @ 1 m) deep .

As gold mining in the Illinois Valley became exhausted in the 1860s and 1870s , the residents diversified into ranching , fishing , logging , tourism and agriculture . In 1874 , Elijah Davidson found a cave while on a hunting trip , and is now credited with discovering the Oregon Caves . In 1884 , Walter C. Burch heard about the cave from Davidson , and staked a squatter 's claim at the mouth of the caves . He and his brothers @-@ in @-@ law charged one dollar for a guided tour . According to their advertisement in the Grants Pass Courier , this included camping , plentiful pasture land and " medicinal " cave waters . They attempted to acquire title to the land , but as the land was unsurveyed , they abandoned the idea a few years later .

President William Howard Taft established the 480 @-@ acre (190 ha) Oregon Caves National Monument on July 12 , 1909 , to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service . In 1923 , the Forest Service subcontracted the building of a hotel and guide services to a group of Grants Pass businessmen . By 1926 , the monument had a chalet and seven two @-@ bedroom cabins . Traffic into the caves led to a community developing at the junction of the Redwood Highway and the branch highway to the caves (now known as Oregon Route 46) . Cave Junction , originally known as Cave City , was established in 1926 on land donated by Elwood Hussey . In 1935 , a post office was applied for and was named " Caves City " , however postal authorities disapproved of the name , partly because " City " implied the place was incorporated . Among the other names suggested was " Cave Junction " , which was adopted by the United States Board on Geographic Names in 1936 with the post office being renamed the same year . The locality was incorporated as Cave Junction in 1948 , and is the only incorporated area in the Illinois Valley .

In 1950 Cave Junction had a population of 283 , which decreased to 248 in 1960 and increased to 415 in 1970 . Its growth was fast in the 1960s , increasing at an average of 6 @. @ 8 percent annually . The city population 's primary growth period occurred in the 1970s , with an average annual increase of 9 @. @ 9 percent . Growth slowed in the 1980s when the population increase averaged only 1 @. @ 7 percent annually . The rate fell further between 1990 and 1998 , averaging 1 @. @ 6 percent , which was less than the state and county averages .

== Forest fires ==

A number of wildfires have threatened Cave Junction over the years . The Longwood Fire in 1987 , part of the 150 @, @ 000 @-@ acre (61 @, @ 000 ha) Silver Fire complex , was ignited by lightning strikes following a three @-@ year drought . Numerous residents of Cave Junction evacuated .

In 2002 , the Florence and Sour Biscuit fires converged , creating the Biscuit Fire . This fire threatened Cave Junction , Kerby , Selma and a number of Northern California communities . Ultimately , the Biscuit Fire lasted 120 days , burned 499 @, @ 965 acres (202 @, @ 329 ha) in southern Oregon and northern California , and destroyed four homes and nine outbuildings in the Cave Junction area . In 2003 , a wildfire destroyed a home in Cave Junction . In 2004 , a downed power line caused a fire that briefly threatened over 100 homes and forced 200 people to evacuate . One person died , apparently of stress related to the fire .

== Geography ==

Cave Junction is located on U.S. Route 199 at its junction with Oregon Route 46 . It is about 48 kilometres (30 mi) southwest of Grants Pass , Oregon and 85 kilometres (53 mi) northeast of Crescent City , California . The city lies in the Illinois Valley , on the northwest slope of the Siskiyou Range , at an elevation of about 480 metres (1 @, @ 570 ft) above MSL . According to the United States Census Bureau , the city has a total area of 1 @. @ 82 square miles (4 @. @ 71 km²) , of which , 1 @. @ 81 square miles (4 @. @ 69 km²) is land and 0 @. @ 01 square miles (0 @. @ 03 km²) is water .

== Climate ==

Cave Junction has an average low of 33 ° F (1 ° C) in January and high of 91 ° F (33 ° C) in July . On average , there are 196 sunny days , and 108 days with precipitation . The city receives an average of 61 inches (1 @, @ 500 mm) of rain each year . According to the Köppen climate classification system , Cave Junction has a warm @-@ summer Mediterranean climate (Köppen Csb) .

== Demographics ==

== 2010 census ==

As of the census of 2010 , there were 1 @, @ 883 people , 815 households , and 469 families residing in the city . The population density was 1 @, @ 040 @. @ 3 inhabitants per square mile (401 @. @ 7 / km²) . There were 916 housing units at an average density of 506 @. @ 1 per square mile (195 @. @ 4 / km²) . The racial makeup of the city was 90 @. @ 3 % White , 0 @. @ 4 % African American , 2 @. @ 0 % Native American , 1 @. @ 3 % Asian , 0 @. @ 1 % Pacific Islander , 1 @. @ 9 % from other races , and 3 @. @ 9 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino of any race were 8 @. @ 3 % of the population .

There were 815 households of which 26 @. @ 9 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 38 @. @ 9 % were married couples living together , 13 @. @ 3 % had a female householder with no husband present , 5 @. @ 4 % had a male householder with no wife present , and 42 @. @ 5 % were non @-@ families . 34 @. @ 8 % of all households were made up of individuals and 15 @. @ 8 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 30 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 94 .

The median age in the city was 43 years . 23 @. @ 7 % of residents were under the age of 18 ; 8 @. @ 8 % were between the ages of 18 and 24 ; 19 @. @ 1 % were from 25 to 44 ; 27 @. @ 4 % were from 45 to 64 ; and 21 % were 65 years of age or older . The gender makeup of the city was 46 @. @ 0 % male and 54 @. @ 0 % female .

== 2000 census ==

As of the census of 2000 , there were 1 @, @ 363 people , 603 households , and 356 families residing in the city . The population density was 828 @. @ 8 people per square mile (320 @. @ 9 / km²) . There were 730 housing units at an average density of 443 @. @ 9 per square mile (171 @. @ 9 / km²) . The racial makeup of the city was 92 @. @ 3 % White , 0 @. @ 3 % African American , 2 @. @ 1 % Native American , 0 @. @ 7 % Asian , 0 @. @ 4 % Pacific Islander , 1 @. @ 2 % other races , and 3 @. @ 2 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino of any race were 5 @. @ 6 % of the population .

There were 603 households out of which 28 @. @ 7 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 39 @. @ 8 % were married couples living together , 14 @. @ 3 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 40 @. @ 8 % were non @-@ families . 33 @. @ 7 % of all households were made up of individuals and 20 @. @ 6 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 26 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 87 .

In the city , the age population was spread out with 26 @. @ 8 % under the age of 18 , 7 @. @ 7 % from 18 to 24 , 21 @. @ 9 % from 25 to 44 , 21 @. @ 9 % from 45 to 64 , and 21 @. @ 8 % who were 65 years of age or older . The median age was 40 years . For every 100 females there were 85 @. @ 7 males . For every 100 females age 18 and over , there were 79 @. @ 8 males .

The median income for a household in the city was \$ 17 @, @ 161 , and the median income for a family was \$ 22 @, @ 500 . Males had a median income of \$ 20 @, @ 893 versus \$ 16 @, @ 333 for females . The per capita income for the city was \$ 10 @, @ 556 . About 23 @. @ 6 % of families and 28 @. @ 7 % of the population were below the poverty line , including 35 @. @ 8 % of those under age 18 and 11 @. @ 9 % of those age 65 or over .

== Government and politics ==

Residents range from very liberal , to strongly right @-@ wing to survivalists . As of 2002 , the city has 13 employees , with an average wage of \$ 35 @, @ 799 , the largest categories of employees are Sewerage and Water Supply , with four employees each . In total , Cave Junction 's monthly employee outlay is \$ 35 @, @ 799 , or \$ 465 @, @ 384 a year . As of 2007 , Josephine County Sheriff volunteers man a sub station in Cave Junction , and the Sheriff 's Office has plans to begin a pilot program in the City Hall building , staffed by volunteers , that will include three temporary holding cells and the ability to take incident reports .

== Economy ==

Starting in the early 1850s , gold mining was the main source of income in the Illinois Valley . As gold mining dwindled in the 1860s and 1870s , the economy diversified into ranching , fishing , logging , tourism and agriculture . In the years after World War II , timber became an increasingly large part of the county 's finances . There were 30 lumber mills operating in the valley after the war , but by the late 1980s the number had dwindled to just one .

Because of President Roosevelt 's creation of the Siskiyou National Forest , and the reversion of Oregon and California Railroad lands to federal government control , by 1937 the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management were in charge of 70 % of the land in Josephine county , and a large part of the Illinois Valley . Because this decreased the county 's potential tax base , the government shared money earned from timber sales with the county , and payments in lieu of taxes from the federal government became a large part of its tax base . In 1989 , Josephine County received \$ 16 @, @ 756 @, @ 000 in various federal payments ; by 1999 , the payments had fallen to \$ 9 @. @ 6 million .

Because of these budget cutbacks , Southern Oregon has used tourism as a means of attracting small businesses and retirees . The movement of California retirees in particular has helped the economy grow . Although jobs have been created as a result , they are usually low @-@ paying .

Today the principal industries are tourism , timber and agriculture . Since about 1960 , the community has evolved into a center for wine , retirement , tourism , and small businesses . One timber mill remains in Cave Junction , Rough & Ready Lumber Co . , located six miles (10 km) south of town . In November 2007 , Rough & Ready completed a \$ 6 million biomass plant to replace their existing wood @-@ fired boiler , as market forces have increased demand for dry timber .

The Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) , formed in 1974 , has attracted notice for its work directed at improving the Illinois Valley economy . In 2006 , Cave Junction was awarded the Great Strides Award by the Northwest Area Foundation for the IVCDO 's efforts to reduce long @-@ term poverty . In 2004 , the IVCDO began a partnership with the National Park Service that resulted in the assumption of 40 seasonal and year @-@ around jobs managing the Oregon Caves Chateau . The project uses local produce , food products and wine at the Chateau , and the proceeds are directed back into the local community .

= = Culture = =

Cave Junction has a number of points of interest , including a museum , a zoo , and a resort consisting of treehouses . It also has a number of historic sites , many related to gold mining , as well as an Oregon state park and a national monument and preserve , all located in the greater Cave Junction area . A newspaper and two radio stations also serve this area .

= = = Tourism = = =

Cave Junction 's main point of interest is the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve , which is a 480 @-@ acre (190 ha) area of hiking trails and caverns . Located at the end of a 20 @-@ mile (32 km) " stomach churning " drive along State Route 46 , there are limestone caves discovered in 1874 by a hunter and his dog . At the caves , there is a 23 @-@ room chateau that was built in 1932 .

Each year Cave Junction features an ArtWalk on the second Friday of each month , except during the winter , with the city 's businesses exhibiting various types of art such as pottery , iron art , music and fire dancing . The ArtWalk adds significantly to the Illinois Valley 's positive image and increases tourism and adds to the local economy . According to surveys conducted in 2006 by the Arts Council of Southern Oregon , the city sees a 30 ? 50 percent increase in sales and visitors during the event . Attendance is approximately 150 ? 200 people , with roughly 15 percent coming from outside the community . Local artists , including students of Lorna Byrne Middle School in 2007 , participate while local businesses , including thrift stores and art galleries , serve as hosts .

Located about 10 miles (16 km) southeast of Cave Junction , in Takilma , Oregon , is the home of the Out 'n'About Treehouse Treesort , a multi @-@ treehouse resort run by Michael Garnier using Garnier limbs . Garnier developed the Garnier limb , which is a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ inch @-@ thick bolt surrounded by a cuff , both made of Grade 5 steel , and is able to support 8 @,@ 000 lb (3 @,@ 600 kg) . As of 2007 , the treesort has nine treehouses , three with bathrooms . Garnier had to fight local government ordinances for almost ten years before gaining the right to house guests in his nine treehouses .

Great Cats World Park is located a few miles south of Cave Junction . As of 2007 , it has 32 cats , of 17 different species , including cougars , leopards , jaguars , lions , Siberian tiger cubs , a fishing cat , and an ocelot . Other attractions include the It 's a Burl handcrafted wood gallery and the Kerbyville Museum , both in Kerby . Cave Junction 's Wild River Brewery serves one of the smallest communities of any Oregon brewery . Founded in 1975 as the Pizza Deli , a microbrewery was added in 1989 . In 1994 , the name Wild River was adopted and a Wild River restaurant and pub was opened in Grants Pass .

= = = Wine = = =

The Illinois Valley is the coolest and wettest of the three valleys in the Rogue Valley American Viticultural Area . In the late 1960s and early 1970s a new group of Oregonians started experimenting with growing grapes and making wine . Initially this group was not very successful , but 40 years later , Oregon is considered a prestigious growing area . Southern Oregon is higher , and its climate is often warmer , than better known wine producing valleys such as Napa Valley to the south and Willamette Valley and Columbia Valley to the north . The Illinois Valley has dry warm summers and cold nights , which make it well suited for pinot noir , in contrast to the hotter and dryer Rogue and Umpqua valleys . Several vineyards and wineries are located near Cave Junction , including Bridgeview Vineyards , Foris Vineyards Winery , and Bear Creek Winery which are all discussed in Fodor 's 2004 book " Oregon Wine Country . "

Cave Junction is the home of Bridgeview Vineyards , one of the largest wineries in Oregon . Bridgeview is noted for its chardonnay , pinot gris and pinot noir . At the 2000 American Wine Awards , Bridgeview 's 1998 Bridgeview Oregon Blue Moon was selected as the best pinot noir under \$ 15 . Its 85 @-@ acre (34 ha) estate in the Illinois Valley is planted in the European style of dense 6 @-@ foot (1 @.@ 8 m) row and 4 @-@ foot (1 @.@ 2 m) vine spacing . Bridgeview also has an 80 @-@ acre (32 ha) vineyard in the Applegate Valley . Foris Vineyards Winery is also located in the Cave Junction area . Established in 1986 , as of 2007 , they produced 48 @,@ 000 cases of wine , making it the 14th largest bonded winery in Oregon .

== = Historic sites == =

Cave Junction has a number of historic sites related to its early gold mining days , including various mines , ditches , and Logan Cut . The historic Osgood Ditch in Takilma provided water for early mining operations in the Illinois Valley . Although mining in the Illinois Valley started in the rivers , gold was soon discovered in gravel beds high up the slopes above the rivers . It had been deposited by ancient rivers that then eroded deep into the earth . To extract this gold , prospectors created ditches to bring the water to these areas . The water was then moved through piping to the desired location . The pressure the water built up as it dropped was used for hydraulic mining . Water cannons fired water over 100 feet (30 m) , and the debris was run through a sluice box . Gold was located within pockets in the gravel , and because the miners could not predict where the pockets were , almost every gravel deposit in the Illinois Valley was mined . The Illinois Valley 's largest gold rush town , Waldo , Oregon , was located on a gravel deposit and was eventually destroyed when its gravel bed was run through a sluice box , along with most of the town . Today nothing of Waldo remains . The Osgood Ditch provided water for mining operations near Waldo . One building of note in the area is the Oregon Caves Chateau , which is a National Historic Landmark .

One of the well known mining communities AltHouse established the AltHouse Church in 1893 about a 1 / 4 mile down on Dick George Road . This church is one of the oldest building in the valley still standing and still in use . Between 1895 ? 99 the church was moved down to its present site on Holland Loop Road where it has served the community till this day . It is currently known as Bridgeview Community Church (since the 1920s) . A newer building was built in 1986 where services are now being held every Sunday . The original church is currently under restoration and will continue to be as the builders back then said ; " A place for us or children and grandchildren to worship " . Updated status and pictures can be seen at the church 's website at www.kbcc.us

== = Sports and recreation == =

Cave Junction has a golf course and a state park . The Illinois Valley Golf Course has 9 holes , and as of 2007 there are plans for an expansion to 18 holes . The Illinois River Forks State Park is located at the confluence of the east and west forks of the Illinois River . The park includes restrooms , picnic tables , and a variety of rare plants . In 2014 a new disc golf course was built at the Illinois River Forks State Park . There is also a skate park at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction , which was built largely by volunteers and money raised through fundraisers and community involvement .

== Media ==

Cave Junction has one newspaper and two radio stations . The local paper , the Illinois Valley News , was established in 1937 when Cave Junction was known as Cave City , and as of 2010 has a circulation of 2 @, @ 448 . It is published by Daniel J. Mancuso and edited by Kevan Moore . The first issue was four pages long , and included ads for businesses ranging from Cave City to Medford , Oregon , with the ads priced at one or two dollars . The city 's only licensed radio station is KCNA @-@ FM (FM 102 @. @ 7 The Drive) , a Classic Hits station , however KBCC @-@ LP (FM 107 @. @ 9) , a Christian station , was operating until May 2011 .

The Cave Junction area had a pirate radio station , Hope Mountain Radio . It broadcast out of Takilma until repeated interference from government agents caused them to shut down . The station then began broadcasting legally on the internet at TakilmaFM.com , although this caused their costs to go up and necessitated fundraising activities . As of January 2007 , Hope Mountain Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day with an all volunteer staff .

== Education ==

Cave Junction has three schools : Illinois Valley High School , Lorna Byrne Middle School , and Evergreen Elementary School . These schools are part of the Three Rivers School District , which also encompasses schools from Grants Pass and Applegate , Oregon .

Two individuals linked to Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) have been inducted into regional halls of fame . In 2004 , Sam Hutchins became a member of the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame for creating the non @-@ profit Oregon Stewardship Program . Begun in 1992 to teach Illinois Valley High School students about wild steelhead in the Illinois River , by 2004 the program had been expanded to 25 schools and 1 @, @ 500 students . In 2007 , IVHS wrestling coach Ural Jay Miller was inducted into the Oregon Chapter of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum .

== Transportation ==

The Illinois Valley Airport , also known as the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base , was built by the U.S. Forest Service . It operated from 1943 to 1981 as a smokejumper base , during which time the smokejumpers parachuted on 1445 fires for 5390 fire jumps . As of 2007 , the airport had a fixed @-@ base operator , aircraft rentals and instruction , hangar rentals , and a restaurant .

== Notable people ==

Cave Junction has a number of notable residents and past residents . Actor John Wayne was a visitor to a ranch in Selma , Oregon , about 10 miles (16 km) north of town . He grew fond of the area after filming Rooster Cogburn along the Rogue River . This ranch has since become the Deer Creek Center which houses the Siskiyou Field Institute . Kristy Lee Cook , who was a contestant on American Idol 7 , was also raised in Selma , where she used to live before joining the competition . Arthur B. Robinson is the head of the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine , which is about 7 miles (11 km) from Cave Junction .