

Junction City amends its feline control

The Associated Press

JUNCTION CITY, Ore. — The City Council has taken the claws out of its campaign against stray cats, replacing a year-old ban on feeding feral felines with a more humane program of spaying and neutering.

The September 1997 ordinance outlawed the feeding of "stray or uncontrolled cats" on public property or private property owned by others. It also gave police authority to "dispose of trapped or captured cats."

On Tuesday, council members lifted the ban and authorized a group of cat lovers to trap the animals and have them inoculated, spayed or neutered, and then released. Under the new program, the cats will be fed regularly.

Infrastructure

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lines need to be put underground, because in the event of a fire they block firefighters from evacuating residents who live on the upper floors of apartment complexes.

Although the report is two years old and the crime rate in West University fell by more than 16 percent last year, Lee said the information in the report is relevant because crime is still a problem and infrastructure was the focus of the report.

The report recommended several steps the city could take to improve West University. Some steps have already been instituted, such as increasing police patrols, and banning dogs and skateboards in areas of the neighborhood.

Other steps have not been put into practice, such as finding ways to increase home ownership and increase the number of different types of residences available in the area.

"Part of the plan is to create a district to pay for the infrastruc-

ture," Lee said. "Essentially, it is trying to get the property owners to pay for the infrastructure changes. Property owners should step forward and accept some responsibility."

Lee also said he wants buildings in the West University area to be brought up to code. New building codes will also be considered by the City Council, Lee said.

Kent Jennings, President of Jennings and Company, a business that owns several residences in the West University Neighborhood, said businesses should not have to pay for infrastructure changes.

"People say we need new [property code] laws and this, that and whatever because that's what they perceive is responsible for substandard housing," Jennings said. "A very small percentage of the West University Neighborhood is substandard. In order to bring that small percentage up to code, I question the need to bring the new codes in order to have better enforcement."

Jennings said he's worried about Lee's plans to urge property owners to make changes to their properties.

"The definition of campus has changed," Jennings said. "U of O enrollment is declining."

Jennings said the creation of Duck Village and other apartment complexes north of the Willamette River weakened the economy of the West University Neighborhood.

"The money just isn't there," Jennings said.

Jennings said Lee's plans were another example of the city's failing to meet its infrastructure responsibilities because of budget cuts.

"One example of it is police protection," Jennings said. "Downtown, the business owners are taxing themselves because the city isn't providing the services for police."

Lee said the city would be justified in asking property owners to pay for some infrastructure projects.

"We're asking property owners

to take ownership of their neighborhood," he said. "Property owners don't take ownership of the neighborhood."

Lee needs to push through a West University revitalization plan in order to be true to his 1997 city council campaign platform. But Lee and his plans for revitalizing West University were put on hold by Sizemore's Measure 47 that cut property taxes and city revenues and passed in 1996. After that, the City Council went through the months-long ordeal of firing City Manager Vicki Elmer.

"Dealing with budgetary problems was a priority," Lee said. "West University got put on a back burner."

After the city regained its financial footing, a busy City Council schedule and the elections of new city councilors placed West University on the back burner once again.

David Ryan covers the Eugene City Council, community groups and politics for the Emerald.

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Student Travel Experts

Childweek

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Today is Student Volunteer Day, where students will have the opportunity to show their support by reading books with children at child care development centers. Later in the afternoon, some kids will be visiting with the University's women's volleyball and rugby teams.

Friday's feature will be Kids on Campus Day, giving student parents the opportunity to raise

awareness by bringing their children to school.

"What we are doing is trying to publicize the need for student parents to have access to quality, affordable child care," said Khela Singer-Adams, ASUO non-traditional student advocate. "Too many parents drop out of school because they cannot afford it."

Wednesday's performance of "Where the Wild Things Are" and the "Consideration Game" at the EMU Amphitheater featured Uni-

versity theater students performing, with child participation. Child Care Campaign advocates were on hand to provide students with information.

"Eventually we would like to set up a trust fund in the ASUO for child care," Carlson said. "It's an idea that has been successful at other universities."

Under the model, student funding already allocated to student child care would be matched by the administration's fund-raising

campaigns. This would allow for a permanent increase in funds and would provide assistance for many parents who are unable to receive aid under the current system.

"Even with three kids I am able to go to school pretty regularly without missing too many classes," Spencer said. "One close call was when my daughter, Shelby, was sick and I had to bring her to class. Luckily my teacher was all right with it."

Business

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of people ranging from Lara Buffalo Boy, a Lakota elder, to state Rep. Floyd Prozanski.

Bringing various types of environmental and business representatives such as Earth First! and Nike was an important element to a well-rounded symposium, said Smith.

"This is not a green-washing event," he said. "It is a very genuine, solution-oriented, long-term planning event."

Last year's symposium prompted the creation of the Willamette Valley Business Alliance, a group of businesses that work together for a sustainable future, according to Smith. He also noted that the level of consciousness over issues of sustainability was raised after last year's symposium. He said he hoped for additional tangible results from this year's gathering.

Smith estimated that more than 1,000 people from all over the na-

tion will attend. More than 150 volunteers from many departments at the University worked together to put on the \$123,000 program. Funding came from various corporations, local businesses, the community and University organizations.

Smith estimated that students will account for only 25 percent of total attendance this year. Udovic would like to see a higher student attendance this year, and said he

Sustainable Business Symposium

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 13, through Sunday, Nov. 15
 WHERE: University locations
 COST: Free
 Call 346-3359 for schedule and location information.

felt the information is pertinent to students' futures as leaders.

Parents nervous after baby sitter's disappearance

The Associated Press

RIDDLE, Ore. — The unexplained disappearance of a 14-year-old baby sitter has parents in this small southern Oregon town guarding their own children closely.

"I wouldn't say we're at the stage of public hysteria," said Douglas County sheriff's Detective Joe Perkins, the lead investigator on the case. "But it's my understanding that parents are watching out more carefully."

Stephanie Condon, a freshman at Riddle High School, left home the night of Oct. 30 to baby-sit her cousin's twin daughters.

The last thing either parent

imagined was being awakened at 1:45 a.m. by their niece, who said Stephanie was nowhere to be found in the house.

Stephanie's father, Martin Condon, 39, then drove to the trailer house.

He said he immediately saw there were no signs of disturbance at the front door. The blanket and pillow Stephanie used when she planned to spend the night were casually tossed aside on the couch, indicating that she'd been resting there at one point. Stephanie's homework was tucked into her backpack with her clothes and shoes. The twins were asleep in their beds.

Stephanie apparently was wearing Winnie-the-Pooh pajama bottoms and a white T-shirt. Those were the only items missing, according to authorities.

"That's when you about lose your heart," said Martin Condon. "You watch those helicopters fly along the river, and you think you don't really want them to find her there."

The family, including their 10-year-old son, Martin, moved to Riddle about 18 months ago after living in several cities, most recently in San Diego, according to Martin Condon. Retired from the U.S. Navy where he was a Gulf War veteran, Condon stays home with the children while Christine

Condon works at a Roseburg office supply store.

"We've been married for 17 years, and one of us has been with these kids every day of their lives," said Condon, who grew up in Tri City.

"We thought we'd done everything right," he said. "This is a girl who's never stayed up past 9 p.m. on a school night. She was where she was supposed to be that night. Everything we did to keep her safe, it wasn't enough."

Perkins said that the Douglas County sheriff's office "has not reached a dead end. We do have information we're investigating."

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