

Utility link city issue

By SAM NEWTON

During its Monday evening, Dec. 9 meeting in city hall, the Cave Junction City Council heard from Councilman Dan Fiske, who spoke as a citizen about a website posted on the Internet by valley resident Gary Weans.

The city of Cave Junction has a court judgment against Wean because he refuses to pay for and connect to city sewer.

Fiske was made aware of the website containing his and his wife Sues' names, along with names of city council members and several other merchants and their employees by Sheriff Dave Daniel.

According to Sue Fiske, Wean had printed the website information and made copies of it, sending copies to Daniels and also the county commissioners.

"The website contains information on me, my family, and our business and also the personal address of Fred Brue and Dusty Bouchard's license plate number," according to Fiske.

At the time that Daniel made Fiske aware of the website he also informed Fiske that the FBI was involved and the sheriff's office had rescinded Weans concealed weapons permit.

Wean also sent an email to Bouchard warning her that any vehicle license plate number entering Crossroads Animal Hospital would be logged.

"I contacted our lawyer about this situation," said Sue Fiske. "He told me the first thing I should ask the council is 'Will the city take responsibility if this man does me or my family bodily harm?'" she said.

"I would like to know if it were me living in that house, if I would have been allowed to live there as long as Wean has without the city taking any action," said Sue Fiske.

"Why has this been allowed to go on for so long? Is it because he is elderly and his wife has health problems," she asked.

Councilman Rita Dyer responded, stating that those were the reasons why.

"Our lawyer will be contacted and as soon as we get feedback we will call a special meeting," said Faircloth.

Mayor Ed Faircloth responded, "We will close this door."

In other business, response to questions put forth by valley business owner Sally Palmer regarding the water and sewer hookup budget were answered with a breakdown of the budget.

Palmer requested an ordinance that the city inform landlords when one of their renters is delinquent on their water and sewer bill.

"We cannot give that information out," said councilman Sandi Lunde. "This is private information, any lawyer will tell you that," she said.

Palmer also asked that the sidewalk on Lister Street be leveled to make it easier on people walking and suggested that maybe the city could do something about the large bump on Daisy Hill Road. The council stated that Daisy Hill was not a city street, but since it was close to the city that they would look into it.

The next official city council meeting will be held in January.

(Editor's Note: A special meeting of the council to address the city water and sewer issue was held on Tuesday night, Dec. 17. A report on that meeting will be in next week's issue.)



LIFE LINES, a prison outreach ministry, held open houses on Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14 at the home of Doug and Joy Hoskins, 349 Caves Hwy. Among hostesses on the 14th were Jackie Gandee (left) and Melanie Hoskins (eyes closed in silent prayer). A wide variety of items including jam, holiday cards, and T-shirts were available. Phone 592-3643 for info.

Biscuit Fire recovery plans proceed with public input

By SHARON SILVA

Ideas from the public were encouraged and discussed during two public meetings held Tuesday, Dec. 10 by the Biscuit Fire Recovery Task Force in the county building in Cave Junction.

In the morning session, following an introduction by Pam Bode, the forest service's Illinois Valley District Ranger, those attending the meeting were split into small groups to introduce and discuss ideas for post-fire management, including recovery and restoration needs.

Before breaking into the groups, Bode said, "There are some ground rules. Please respect other people and their feelings." She also requested that only one person at a time speak, and for everyone to respect the time frame.

The groups started with round-table discussions aimed to develop relationships with others. Input from the groups will be used as part of a treat-

ment assessment scheduled to be completed in early February 2003.

The 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire burned forestland in a mosaic pattern, leaving some areas unburned, while other areas ranged in degree from slightly to severely burned, Bode said.

Aerial seeding and mulching are being considered. Water quality and erosion are being monitored.

Other post-fire management projects, which may or may not be applicable to the Biscuit Fire area include revegetation of riparian areas, fuels management, and mitigation of visitor safety hazards. Also trail repair, recovery of timber products, firewood cutting, and fire education and interpretation to name a few.

Bode showed a slide of vegetation starting to regrow from its roots. Mother Nature is starting to repair herself, she indicated.

RVMC projects good image

Rogue Valley Medical Center (RVMC) has installed a revolutionary imaging machine—the first of its kind in Southern Oregon.

It's an 8-slice, Light Speed Ultra Computerized Tomography (CT) scanner. Taking eight pictures at once, instead of one at a time, the new CT scanner allows doctors to scan a patient's entire body—head to toe in less than 30 seconds.

CT scans are often used to evaluate trauma patients and people undergoing treatment for cancer. "Because of its incredible speed, the 8-slice scanner will be a great benefit to those patients who are sick and in pain," said Vicki Minard of RVMC.

Traditional CT scans, also known as CAT scans, require patients to lie very still for

minutes at a time to keep from blurring the image. The new Light Speed Ultra scanner captures images so fast, there's little risk of blurring a picture.

The scanner - a \$1 million piece of equipment from GE Medical Systems - is top of the line in imaging technology. Its detailed images can provide new information to doctors treating heart patients by allowing them to see the heart from unique angles.

"This scanner allows us to perform a number of different kinds of procedures that we were previously unable to do," said Stephen Fredricksen, cardiovascular supervisor.

"In addition to cardiac imaging, we can get a better look at the brain and even scan tiny blood vessels," Fredricksen said.

Elder abuse shadow growing larger

By CINDY HANNUM

Although we like to think of growing old as a golden experience, a darker side exists for many Oregonians.

Elder abuse, neglect and exploitation is a growing societal problem, one that until recently remained largely invisible.

Nationally, between 500,000 and 1 million cases of elder abuse occur annually. Not only does abuse have devastating consequences for the victim, including loss of autonomy and even premature death, but millions of families are also harmed.

Elder abuse, neglect and exploitation is one of the greatest family issues facing us today, though it is often unrecognized and unreported.

Most cases occur in community settings like a home. Most disturbing of all, we are seeing the elderly being victimized by relatives, including sons or daughters. Neighbors, friends, paid caregivers and scam artists also prey on the elderly.

Many cases are horrific. During the past 12 months, the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) has seen elderly victims who have been robbed, beaten, raped and forced to lie in bed in their own excrement until their skin is torn away.

For the past three decades, child and partner abuse attracted considerable attention from lawmakers and the media.

A significant federal and state commitment followed. Now, it is the time for policy makers to pay equal attention to abused and neglected seniors.

Currently, not one federal employee works full time solely to protect the elderly from abuse, neglect and exploitation. However, passage of the landmark Elder Justice Act of 2002, recently introduced in the U.S. Senate, would begin to rectify this by providing much needed funding at the federal, state and local levels.

Fortunately, Oregon has been a leader in its work to protect the elderly. The genesis for this work came in 1994 when Oregon's then attorney general established the first statewide task force dedicated to elder and vulnerable adult abuse.

The work of this task force, continued under Attorney General Hardy Myers, has resulted in nationally recognized public-private training programs targeted to the banking, law enforcement and Native American communities. County-based multidisciplinary teams have been set up, significantly helping to investigate and prosecute many elder abuse cases.

DHS, through state offices

and cooperative agreements with local Area Agencies on Aging, provides protective services to elders and persons with physical disabilities. DHS' Abuse Prevention Unit has established nationally recognized training programs for law enforcement, bankers and other professional groups.

Our work has demonstrated that dedicated public officials and better communication and coordination among professional agencies can make a huge difference.

We have no choice. How we treat these important members of our community is a measure of our stature as a society. The human suffering of elder abuse is unnecessarily high: higher numbers of victims, higher health-care costs and a higher need for governmental services.

As the baby boomers age,

more abuse and neglect are expected. It only makes sense for us to continue engaging the public and private sectors as we seek to further reduce service gaps within the law enforcement, medical and legal communities.

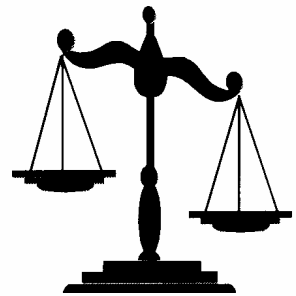
Our goal is to assure that no abused senior is left alone and no perpetrator goes unpunished. To do less would not only expose thousands of Oregon's elderly to unwarranted suffering but also cast a shadow upon our notion of a compassionate society.

(Cindy Hannum is administrator of licensing and long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities in the Oregon Dept. of Human Services.)

To report elder abuse phone toll-free (800) 232-3020. To learn more log on to www.elderabusecenter.org.

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EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CLASSIFYING TAXES

The Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Josephine County, Oregon (the "District") hereby gives notice that on December 12, 2002 the Board of Directors of the District adopted its Resolution No. 02-11 (the "Resolution") which, among other things, classifies the ad valorem taxes to be levied upon all of the taxable property within the District for the purpose of paying principal and interest on the District's \$2,500,000 aggregate principal amount of its General Obligation Bonds, approved by the legal voters of the District at the election held November 5, 2002, as not being subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution. A complete copy of the Resolution may be obtained by contacting Kyle Kirchner, Fire Chief, Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, 681 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, Oregon 97523, telephone (541) 592-2225. A judicial review of the District's classification of such taxes may be sought within 60 days of the date of the Resolution pursuant to ORS 305.583(5).

This notice is published pursuant to ORS 305.583(8) and ORS 310.145.

DISTRICT

ILLINOIS VALLEY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

Kyle Kirchner, Fire Chief

Published: 12-18, 2002

You are invited to a ...

Christmas Celebration

Where: Community Bible Church, 113 S. Junction Ave.
When: Sunday, December 15th @ 6:00 P.M.

*This celebration will be a Christmas
Dessert with musical and drama numbers
presented by members of our community
and local congregations. Please come and
celebrate this wonderful holiday season
with us!*

