

City council

(Continued from page 1)

cooperation.

Because of the dual effort, it is likely that Cave Junction eventually will realize both projects, it was indicated.

Eight persons, all in favor of the safe house project, spoke during the public hearing regarding the grant. Two of them said that they were survivors of domestic abuse, and that they see a definite need for such a facility.

Chris Mallette, executive director of IVSHA, as well as others who spoke, noted a critical need for a safe house in Illinois Valley. She explained that the valley has a high percentage of women seeking help for themselves and their children because of domestic abuse.

Mallette received assurance from Mayor Ed Faircloth that when the block grant work on the current Americans with Disabilities Act project is completed, it will again consider sponsorship of IVSHA's proposal. Faircloth expressed certain reservations linked to fiscal concerns, but said he would be willing to work with the group when the time comes.

The mayor stressed that sponsorship will not be an automatic situation.

ADA work remaining includes a handicapped restroom at Jubilee Park, a ramp for the council platform, and other work at the park.

By completing the ADA work, allowing the city to possibly take on another block grant sponsorship, "everyone wins," noted Mallette.

"This allows both organizations to expand services that are vital to health and welfare of the community," she said. "It also assures that even in these tough economic times that the economy of the area will be bolstered with outside funds.

"In the meantime," said Mallette, "IVSHA will continue to pursue the 15 percent matching funds and to continue to build support for the

continuing operating expenses of the advocacy program and future safe house."

In other matters, the council:

*Voted 4-0 to recommend approval of a liquor license for Junction Inn to Oregon Liquor Control Commission, contingent on a "clean report" from Josephine County Sheriff's Office. Ray Jensen, one of the applicants, said that the lounge is being remodeled, and that plans are to offer music and dancing.

*Agreed 4-0 to waive a \$100 license fee for I.V. Family Coalition, which is sponsoring a fund-raising circus on May 15 on a site between I.V. High School and the coalition building.

*Gave the go-ahead 4-0 for Phase II of expanding the skate park in Jubilee Park. Organizer Thom LeGay will need to obtain an OK from the county for the plans, and then have the finished items inspected for safety. Additions are to include a "Snake," a "Starter Ramp," and a "Spine Ramp."

*Authorized I.V. Chamber of Commerce to use the Jubilee Park open-air theater for its fifth annual Concerts in the Park series, as long as they don't interfere with other organizations that already have reserved the dates. The series is to begin on June 28.

*Heard of a possible housing development on 11 acres between Hanby Lane and Shadowbrook Drive. Plans have not been submitted, but Gene Robertson and PJW Properties are considering a two-phase effort with 24, and 12 to 14 lots, respectively.

*Heard from City Recorder Jim Polk that "bulb-outs" for pedestrian safety will be installed sometime this year on the west side of Redwood Hwy at Lister and Watkins streets, and possibly Palmer Street, depending on funding. There eventually will be no parking on the east side of the highway, as part of downtown revitalization.

County jobless rate declines

Josephine County's unemployment rate fell slightly in December to 7 percent from an upwardly revised 7.2 percent in November, said Oregon Employment Department.

The county's rate stands at more than two percentage points lower than the rate posted in December of 2002, when it was 9.2 percent.

Total non-farm payroll employment fell by 120 in December, with losses in services and construction employment accounting for the decline.

During the past year, Josephine County has added 260 payroll jobs. A large part of the gain was in the food stores component of retail trade.

Manufacturing employment fell by 30 over the month, with losses of 20 in lumber and wood products and 10 in other durable goods.

With less reliance on high-tech manufacturing than areas in the northern part of the state, Josephine County's manufacturing employment has not been affected by the recession to the degree that other areas of the state have experienced. Non-durable

goods employment increased slightly over the year, adding 20 jobs.

Construction employment fell by 60 during the month, but employment in this sector stands at 50 jobs above the year ago figure. Retail trade added 10 jobs over the month, with a gain of 30 in eating and drinking places offset by a decrease of 20 in other retail trade.

Over the year, trade employment has grown by 220 jobs in Josephine County. In addition to the large increase in food store employment, there were also slight gains noted in wholesale trade and food service establishments. Service employment fell by 30 over the month, with losses in hotels and lodging places along with private educational and social services.

Over the past year, services employment increased by 60, with gains posted in health services (+40) and in "other" services (+20).

Government employment fell by 10 over the month and was little changed over the past year, it was reported by OED.



TURKEY LURKEY - This tom turkey, (fondly referred to as 'Godzilla') along with his harem, returns every year about this time to the same area in the valley. He has the homeowners totally intimidated, along with their dog.

Civil War buff brings life to historical event; plans CJ visit Friday, March 28

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Historian Clay Feeter doesn't just tell stories about the Civil War: He helps bring them to life.

The heroism. The victories and defeats. The soldiers who survived and those who died in combat.

Using an extensive computer database of Civil War archives -- which was recently made available -- Feeter is able to locate some basic facts about a soldier including his rank, whether he was wounded or captured, and the state he lived in at the time he enlisted. Occasionally, even a soldier's wife's name is found.

For descendants of Civil War soldiers such morsels help connect past and present.

"People are literally filling in the missing pieces in their own home movies," said Feeter, who lives in Pistol River and quit his job as fairgrounds manager two years ago to pursue researching full-time.

He encouraged Illinois Valley residents hungry for information about their ancestors to visit him at the Book Exchange on Friday, March 28 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"It's quite a neat event," Feeter said, describing an "Antique Roadshow" sort of feel.

While the computer search provides the factual foundation for Feeter's work, it his background knowledge and understanding that helps put the archival information into historical -- and human -- context.

"I've always been into history," he said, noting a particular passion for the Civil War -- a passion not lost on his patrons.

Feeter said he often finds himself surrounded by those listening to the tales of strangers.

Libraries seek art entries from young people

Area young artists can help the Josephine County libraries celebrate National Library Week, April 6-12, by designing a book cover for an actual or imaginary book.

Children in preschool through eighth-grade and teen-agers 13-18 can enter.

Entry forms are available at the Cave Junction Library.

Participants may submit more than one entry, but all must be on the official form. Book covers will be displayed at the library they are submitted to. Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 11.

I.V. Airport progress cited with support group help

By SAM NEWTON
Staff Writer

Representatives from the Oregon Dept. of Aviation inspected Illinois Valley Airport recently and said that they were "extremely impressed" with progress there.

Airport Manager Alex Grossi advised the I.V. Airport Advisory Board of that view during its meeting on Thursday, March 20 in the "Lions Den" building at the airport.

Grossi welcomed valley resident June Robinson, who attended on behalf of Dr. Clyde Calvin of Portland, Ore., who has used facilities at the airport in the past to house botany students from Portland State University (PSU).

Calvin, his wife, and the students tour different areas throughout the valley to study the diverse botany of the area.

Robinson said that there seemed to be a problem in that Calvin had contacted Illinois Valley Lions Club and requested the use of its building, the "Lions Den," and been told that the group couldn't use it.

Grossi asked when Calvin and the students would want to use the facility. Robinson gave Grossi two different weekend dates. Grossi stated that they would look into letting them use the restaurant building at the airport.

Sharon Westcott of Friends of the I.V. Airport informed Robinson that if the buildings at the airport were not available she would make her hangar available.

Westcott also stated that the I.V. Airport group had completed installation of the roof on an information kiosk for the airport and industrial park.

"The directory itself isn't up yet; it is in the process of being laminated," said Westcott. "The kiosk is a work in progress, but it should be done soon," she said.

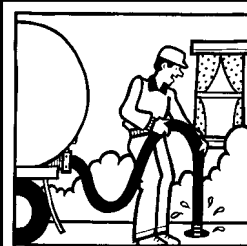
During the manager's report, Grossi said that the Illinois Valley Community Response Team had requested a status report on the work being conducted at the airport, funded by the visitor and tourist enhancement grant money

(Continued on page 6)

Meidinger Concrete Construction Serving the Valley since 1974 Licensed - Bonded - Insured



Specializing in all types of Concrete and Masonry
New - Foundations - Walks - Drives - Patios
Mobile Home Runners and Foundations
Bridges and Abutments - Slabs - Large or Small
Exposed Aggregate - Retaining Walls and Basements
Stamped & Colored Concrete
Phone 592-4485 Mike Meidinger License #93173



ELMER'S SEPTIC SERVICE

Septic Tank Pumping & Cleaning
Family Owned & Operated
*Free Phone Estimates
*Residential & Commercial
*Licensed *Bonded *Insured
Serving Josephine County
7 days a week

592-6307

Shawn Elmer - owner/operator
P.O. Box 2122, Cave Junction, OR. 97523

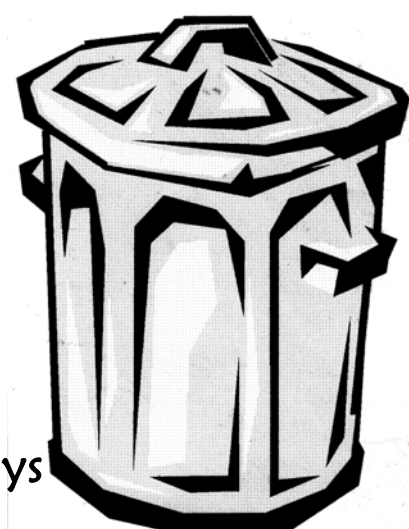
The Kerby Transfer Station is open

Saturdays:

9:30 a.m.
to
2:30 p.m.

Hours: Mondays - Saturdays
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information phone (800) 922-1025



Southern Oregon Sanitation

5 Star Mobile PC Service
Free Pickup & Delivery!* No Fix/No Charge!
Senior & New Customer Discounts!
Member of Grants Pass/Josephine County Chamber of Commerce
541-956-9688 Grants Pass, OR
*in Josephine County

Photo Paper
eStore
592-4121