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**Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 19**



RURAL SOUL - A large, appreciative crowd attended a bluegrass-country music jam on Sunday, Jan. 11 at Taylor's Sausage Country Store in Cave Junction.



CJ gets sidewalks, trees facelifting

By SHANE WELSH
If you've strolled through Downtown Cave Junction during the past couple of weeks, you have probably noticed crews of men working to finish the city sidewalk restoration project.
Although weather has hindered the estimated project completion of Dec. 31, 2003, project coordinator Gary Biggs stated that his crew should have the job done by the first week in February.
Currently, crews are removing the old walkways and tree roots throughout town. The new

trees will have smaller, less intrusive root systems than the trees they will replace, so as not to damage the sidewalks, said Biggs, director of the city public works department.
There will be three types of trees planted:
*Japanese Cherry Yamigowa: This short tree has long, narrow branches with bright green foliage that can be seen in early spring.
*Golden Desert Ash: This brown bark tree has green leaves in the summer and yellow ones in the fall.
*Prairiefire Flowers Crabapple: This small tree

has pinkish red flowers in late April to May. Its small dark red fruit and reddish green foliage offer a nice contrast to the flowers.
Along with the trees, the Cave Junction Lions Club selected a variety of flowers to be planted in pots throughout the city.
Funding for the \$59,000 project comes from by Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept., U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and local public and private funds.
The contractor is Reed Construction of Eagle Point.



Work is progressing on sidewalk renovation in CJ. (Photo by Shane Welsh)

Sheriff chastises CJ for comments Deputies don't want to serve in city

By MICHELLE BINKER
Taking aim at critical comments regarding patrol coverage in the city, Sheriff Dave Daniel said that the current contract officer wants to get out.
The top Josephine County law enforcement officer spoke before Cave Junction City Council during its regular meeting Monday night, Jan. 12 in city hall.
Daniel addressed the state of the sheriff's office contract for service with Cave Junction, noting that the current contract deputy, John Auburn, has requested to be pulled from the city.
Citing "unfortunate statements which have appeared in the 'Illinois Valley News,'" Daniel said that not one deputy has expressed interest in being located here.
"The mayor has made a number of derogatory remarks about the sheriff's department which have appeared in the 'Illinois Valley News,'" Daniel said. "If the city has difficulties with the sheriff's office, they ought to be addressed to the sheriff's office, or to Lt. Harman."
Lt. Lee Harman is assigned to the CJ Substation as officer-in-charge.
Daniel also spoke about the expenses of maintaining a deputy dedicated to 40 hours per week patrol in Cave Junction.
Besides the \$83,000 paid by the city for wages

and vehicle costs for the contract officer, the sheriff provided an itemized list of expenditures he said are absorbed by the sheriff's office totaling \$31,128. These include the costs of overtime pay, uniforms, dispatching services, supplies (ticket-books, flashlights, film, picture processing, ammo, batteries), legal counsel, liability insurance, and supervision.

Daniel tells council that a number of costs are absorbed without charge.

Furthermore, Daniel noted, the sheriff's office provides "other services to the city," such as performing criminal history checks on liquor license applicants. Unlike other entities, which must pay for this service, the city is serviced at no charge, he said.
Responding to the sheriff's comments later in the meeting, after Daniel left, City Recorder Jim Polk noted that the sheriff "seemed quite upset."
Councilman Rita Dyer recommended quarterly or semi-annual meetings with the sheriff or Harman to better address issues of concern.
"We want to make sure (the sheriff's office) knows where we're coming from," said Mayor Ed Faircloth, "because we certainly got to hear where they're coming from."

Searching for right site for safe house goes on

A decision to find a site, other than one that was sought on Hwy. 199 (Redwood Hwy.) within a 3-mile radius southerly of Cave Junction, was made last week by directors of Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (The Alliance).
Executive Director Chris Mallette said that after making three offers on a parcel, all were rejected because "The seller wants to hold out for the full asking price."
The board met on Monday night, Jan. 12 to develop final criteria and priorities for the planned two phases of the safe house initiative. Such a facility will be used to accommodate victims of domestic abuse.
Criteria already set are that a site consist of 5 to 10 acres and be within 3 miles of the CJ city limits. In addition, the site "must accommodate the supportive services facility and the safe house, and must be either zoned" properly for the facilities, or it must be possible to obtain a conditional-use permit.
"The next step," said Mallette, "will be to ac-

tively pursue improved and unimproved properties that meet the criteria."
Those who know of such a site should contact Tami Feldhaus, chairman of The Alliance Site Committee. Her telephone numbers are (541) 597-2344 and (541) 659-9995. Her e-mail address is jen-tami@earthlink.net.
Meanwhile, The Alliance is continuing its fundraising efforts. "All funds received will be placed in a designated and interest-bearing account until the right property is found," said Mallette. "The organization hopes to secure the funds and property by March. Depending on the particulars," she said, "the organization could be moving into new headquarters by summer's end."
The Alliance currently uses rented space at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition Center on E. River Street in CJ.
For more information about the project or The Alliance -- or to donate -- phone 592-5332, or visit the office in the coalition center.



Andy Brooks

I.V.'s Brooks sole cyclist from Oregon in int'l. event

By SHANE WELSH
Illinois Valley High School student, Andy Brooks, 17, is honored with an invitation to join the U.S. team at the World Cyclo-Cross Championship in Pont Chateau, France.
Brooks will be the only Oregonian on the U.S. team.
The two-day championship race on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, is organized by UCI, the French acronym for International Cycling Union, and represents adolescents and adults.
To receive the invitation, Brooks, an IVHS junior, had to earn a set number of UCI points competing in various events.
During his most recent race, in Portland, Brooks competed while recovering from the flu, but managed to finish in 17th place.
Although Brooks had been in training for several months anticipating the event, he only learned Jan. 7 that he had earned the honor of joining the team.
The entire U.S. team is comprised of 18 cyclists in four age classes, Elite men, Elite women, U23 (under 23), and the Junior class.
The rugged course will be a test of endurance, challenging riders mentally and physically with off-road twists and turns.
This will be Andy's first time out of the country, and he is looking forward to the experience.

Biscuit deadline Tuesday, Jan. 20

Those who wish to comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) regarding the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project have until Tuesday, Jan. 20.
All written, faxed or electronic comments should be sent to Scott Conroy, c/o ACT2 Enterprise Team, P.O. Box 377, Happy Camp CA 96039; faxed to (530) 493-1776.
Or they can be emailed to r6_biscuit@fs.us. The DEIS is posted at www.biscuitfire.com.
For more information about the DEIS, including the recommended alternative for harvesting timber, contact Judy McHugh at (541) 471-6500.