

Protests cause closure

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of the way enough so that a pickup truck could pass with the injured workers. One had a foot injury; the other facial injuries, Lavagnino reported.

He also noted that approximately 200 protesters have been camped in the area below the bridge and that there is a single "overtaxed" outhouse. "It's not a healthy environment," he said.

Protesters, saying they are protecting the environment, are despoiling the wild and scenic river, Lavagnino indicated.

"Conflicts at this fire salvage timber sale have resulted in a public safety hazard for timber workers, visitors and protesters; and this road needs to be closed to protect the health and safety of people near the area," said Scott Conroy, forest supervisor.

He said that the agency issues closure orders when activities or behavior become unsafe, violent, disruptive or destructive.

Silver Creek Timber Co., which purchased the sale, has indicated its intent to continue logging; and the forest service, said Conroy, has a contractual obligation to provide access for the purchaser.

The salvage sale, he added, meets all environmental laws.

(Editor's Note: The following is from Medford Mail Tribune.)

Even if federal courts reject lawsuits to stop logging on the Fiddler Timber Salvage Sale in the Biscuit Fire area, protests to silence the saws will continue, according to a leading activist.

"Absolutely," claimed Laurel Sutherlin, spokesman for the Oxygen Collective, a coalition of Southern Oregon environmental activists.

'Don't be fooled ...'

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Environmentalists also claim that harvesting some of the dead trees will devastate fish and wildlife, and choke our rivers with sediment. False.

The Recovery Project was designed by wildlife and fish biologists, ecologists, foresters, hydrologists, botanists and fire-behavior experts. The Environmental Protection Agency, Fish & Wildlife Service, and NOAA-Fisheries all reported that the project is doing the right things, and that it's the right thing to do.

Environmentalists say that the forest service is breaking the law. False.

The Federal District Court of Oregon found that the forest service did an adequate analysis and acted properly. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court's ruling.

After an extensive review and ruling by both courts, they found no cause to further delay these projects at this time. The rulings have addressed questions of legality, and determined that the forest service may move forward.

In their most egregious act, protesters jeopardized forest worker safety. We recognize that harvesting fire-killed trees can be a contentious issue for some.

The forest service respects people's right to voice their beliefs in a legal manner. But on Saturday, protesters abandoned a vehicle crosswise on the road, delaying transport of two injured workers for emergency medical care.

"This campaign has been going on for well over a year now," he said. "The level of solidarity includes old-timer locals to people who have never been involved in anything like this. The morale and momentum are strong."

Sutherlin commented Thursday, March 10 on the eve of an anticipated decision by U.S. District Court Judge Michael Hogan on a temporary restraining order to halt the controversial logging project on Fiddler Mt. off Eight Dollar Road west-erly of Cave Junction.

Hogan's decision is pending.

In addition, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will conduct a hearing Tuesday, March 22, to consider a challenge by several environmental groups which are against logging old-growth timber protected under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan.

Many protesters, who began blockading the road to the sale, using Eight Dollar Road Bridge as their base, have asked that no logging occur on the sale until the two court cases were resolved.

"They are challenging us to be legal, but they aren't willing to be legal themselves," said Lavagnino.

He observed that logging began March 7 after the Court of Appeals injunction blocking the sale was lifted following a 45-day waiting period.

Besides cutting trees, he said, the Fiddler work in the wake of the 2002 Biscuit Fire includes tree planting.

The sale is comprised of approximately 14.5 million board feet on 697 acres in Illinois Valley Ranger District. It was purchased last summer at its advertised price of \$1,060,790 by Silver Creek.

These workers are OK at this time, but what if they had life-threatening injuries? This callous disregard for people's health, safety and the law cannot be tolerated.

The recovery is using an environmentally sustainable approach to provide for economic recovery of dead trees, jobs, and funding to invest in restoration.

We already have foregone much of the value that could've been recovered. Further delay would allow the dead, fire-killed trees to continue to rot, losing even more value.

Don't be fooled by the Conflict Industry's mischaracterization of facts.



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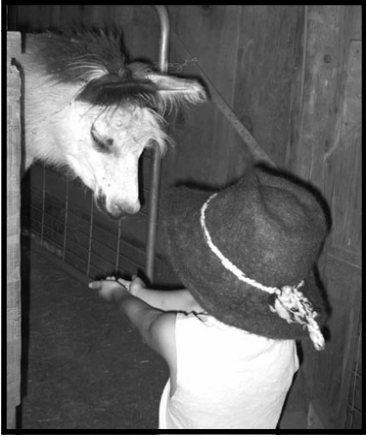
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Carl Jacobson honored for 49 years service to Lions International
Cave Junction resident and Illinois Valley Lions Club member Carl Jacobson, 87 (holding certificate), has been recognized for 'Distinguished Achievements In Leadership and Service' by Clement Kusiak, president of The International Association of Lions Clubs. Jacobson is a past president of the Wilmington Lions Club and a charter board member. Congratulating him are I.V. club members (from left) Lion Tamer Blake Peterson, President Carl Jacobson Jr., Lion Brother Don Sills, and Gary Bell, Sight and Hearing chairman. (Photo by Shane Welsh)

CJ Council votes 4-0 for Pomeroy Place housing

Pomeroy Place Subdivision, a Master Planned Development with 59 lots off Daisy Hill Road, gained 4-0 conditional approval Monday night, March 14 from the Cave Junction City Council.

Councilman Rita Dyer was absent, but excused, for the second consecutive meeting. She sent a letter about the proposal, saying that she is concerned about emergency access.

That issue was covered during the meeting, as well as the amount of traffic that could be generated by residents in the new housing.

Developer Elton Frank has been before the council several times seeking approval of his plan. He has addressed a number of concerns from the council and neighboring property owners about possible traffic problems, public access to Illinois River, and the development's codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs).

Councilman Russell Ehrman, who lives nearby the planned development, declared his residency, and noted his appreciation to Frank for providing the CC&Rs for the council.

The council spent 60 minutes of its 90-minute meeting Monday addressing the proposal with a public hearing and discussion.

A number of issues were addressed by Dick Converse, from Rogue Valley Council of Governments, serving as a staff adviser to the city. He noted that the council has more flexibility regarding concerns because the proposal has been changed from a Planned Unit Development

to a Master Planned Development.

Converse indicated his feeling that the council might not want to approve the plan because of various concerns he has regarding some lot sizes. That matter was among others seemingly ameliorated Monday.

Frank did not speak to the council this time, but was represented by Duane Schultz, a Grants Pass attorney; and Rick Riker, a consultant from Planning and Research Service, also in Grants Pass.

After considerable discussion, Councilman Margaret Miller moved to conditionally approve the 39-acre Pomeroy Park Subdivision, including a 13-acre open space area along the river. Her motion was seconded by Councilman Dan Fiske.

It appeared that a turning point for approval stemmed from Schultz pointing out that a sewage lift and pump station will serve as a catalyst for at least two other developments in the area.

Miller also mentioned that point as a prelude to her motion.

Schultz said that without the pump station, all three developments are being delayed.

Requests from some residents for Frank to erect fences between their properties and Pomeroy Park were not part of the council's approval. It was stated that those who buy into the new gated community should be responsible for that.

Planners OK Selma project

A planned 10-lot subdivision in Selma has been approved 4-2 by the Josephine County Rural Planning Commission.

Hidden Creek Estates, proposed by John West, consists of 56 acres. They front on Hwy. 199, with Hidden Creek Road as an easement access. West is to build a road for ingress and egress to the dwellings.

'Community' at Wiseman

"...of the Community," a mixed media of artwork by seven local women artists, is at the Rogue Community College Wiseman Gallery in Grants Pass until April 2 in celebration of Women's History Month.

Showing recent work are Virginia Andrade, Julie Bickle, Samar Dawisha, and Joann Loudermilk. Andrea Mastrangelo, Vera Rogers, and Anita Stafford also are featured artists.

Also exhibited is "Shields of Power," a collection of plaster-cast shields created by women to represent their individual journeys into personal strength.

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A good resolution is like an old horse, which is often saddled but rarely ridden.

- Mexican proverb -

Tax News

APRIL 1 COULD BE AN IMPORTANT DEADLINE FOR YOU

Retirement accounts grow tax-deferred until you need the funds. However, in most cases your money cannot remain in these accounts forever. The IRS has rules that dictate when and how much you must withdraw from your retirement accounts. The amount you must withdraw each year is called your required minimum distribution (RMD).

You can withdraw more than the required minimum distribution from your retirement accounts, but if you fail to take at least the required minimum on time, you face a severe 50% penalty.

These rules apply to traditional IRAs and qualified retirement plans, such as Keoghs, 401(k)s, SEPs, and SIMPLE plans. They also apply to 403(b)s, 457 plans, and qualified annuity plans. The rules do not apply to Roth IRAs during the owner's lifetime.

In most cases, you must begin withdrawing money from your retirement accounts as follows:

- Your first withdrawal can either be taken in the year you turn age 70½, or it can be postponed until April 1 of the following year.
- Your second withdrawal must be taken by December 31 of the year after you turn 70½.
- In each subsequent year, you must withdraw at least the required minimum amount by December 31.

If you're still working at age 70½ and you own less than 5% of the company you work for, you can wait until you retire to begin taking distributions from qualified plans, such as 401(k)s. This exception does not apply to traditional IRAs.

Your retirement fund trustee must tell the IRS whether you are required to take a minimum distribution, so you need to be aware of the rules and the penalty for not complying. If you turned 70½ last year and still have not taken your first required distribution, do so by April 1 of this year. If you have questions or need assistance, give us a call.

Federal, Oregon, California, and other state tax returns.

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I live in Cave Junction, so arrangements can be made to save you a trip to Grants Pass.