

I.V. Airport incubator work due

An engineering contract for the planned business incubator building at Illinois Valley Airport was among agenda items for the Josephine County Board of Commissioners during its meeting Wednesday morning, April 13 in Grants Pass.

The \$25,170 cost is to be paid by a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise Grant. The contract would be with T.J. Bossard Consulting Engineers Inc., of Grants Pass.

The business incubator is a project of I.V. Community Development Organization, which has been working on it for some time as part of its efforts to spur the economy. The incubator would provide a central location with various services and shared facilities for new businesses or others wanting to be involved.

In a related matter, a meeting with Bill Watson, of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), will occur during June or early July, said Josephine County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg, who is the county board's liaison person with the I.V. Airport Advisory Board.

The advisory board has suggestions and concerns about planned changes at the former Siskiyou Smokejumper Base.

Raffenburg said it appears that at least one building, thought by many to be historic, will not be relocated. But some trees, along Airport Road at the end of the runway, that pose a sight problem for aircraft will be removed, possibly by the end of April, he noted.

He said he's hopeful that trees in the camping and picnicking area can be saved.

Raffenburg added that FAA possibly has funds available to add certain safety lights at the airport.

Car assault suspect held

A 17-year-old Grants Pass boy suffered severe, multiple injuries after a motor vehicle was intentionally backed over him, said Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS).

Arrested Sunday, April 10 on a charge of first-degree assault and placed in Josephine County Jail was Billy Swearingen, 19, said GPDPS.

According to GPDPS: Officers responded at 2:45 a.m. to the 200 block of S.W. Rogue River Avenue to check a report of a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident.

The unidentified boy, who was bleeding heavily from his legs, was being treated by medics from American Medical Response and the GPDPS Fire/Rescue unit.

Injuries to both legs included a broken right femur; lower, open fractures to his left leg, and abrasions to his body.

He first was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. After evaluation, and based on the severity of his injuries, he was airlifted to Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.



FIRE PLAN OFFICIAL - The Illinois Valley Fire Plan became an official document Wednesday, April 6, as representative principals affix their signatures in a ceremony at Cave Junction City Hall. (From left) Mark Sorensen, Josephine County Planning Dept.; Bob Schumacher, executive director of Illinois Valley Community Development Organization; Chief Harry Rich, of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD); Don Smith, director of Siskiyou Regional Education Project; Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson; IVFD Fire Marshal Jerry Schaeffer; and Don Bellville, of Illinois Valley Ranger District. The plan is a tool for education and standards for fire safety, said De Spellman, IVFD fire prevention coordinator. Copies are available at IVFD headquarters. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)



EMERGENCY RESPONSES by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and American Medical Response included a Volkswagen 'Thing' fully involved in flames Monday, April 11 on Eight Dollar Road; and a rollover accident on Westside Road near Finch Road reported Sunday, April 10. No one was around the crash. Details regarding both incidents were unavailable. (Top photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)



CJ annexes county 'island'

By MICHELLE BINKER
Staff Writer

Cave Junction grew a wee bit during a regular meeting of the Cave Junction City Council Monday night, April 11 in city hall.

With a 4-0 vote, the council approved an application for annexation of a 1.6-acre parcel on Raymond Street, off Hamilton Avenue. Councilman Russell Ehrman arrived too late for the vote.

The council then passed two ordinances, one proclaiming the annexation of the property, and another amending zoning map boundaries to reflect the change.

The former "island" of county land is now zoned Single-Residential.

The status of Raymond

Street itself remains unknown. The tiny dirt road originally was deemed as a public right-of-way. However, neither the city nor the county lay claim to it.

City Recorder Jim Polk said that the street would not be accepted by the city "until it is brought up to city standards" by a future developer or coalition of property owners. Or, he added, if the city "bites the bullet to get it done."

In the meantime, jurisdiction is in doubt.

Also during the meeting, the council approved one request to use a CD player, and another to use a public address system, during use of facilities at Jubilee Park later this year.

Aware Fair set at RCC

Rogue Community College will host the third annual Be Aware Fair on Friday, April 22 in Grants Pass.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the fair is part of the college's continuing efforts to provide information about abuse and healing.

The Be Aware Fair is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Redwood Campus in the Student Center/Cafeteria. The title of this year's event is, "Shedding Light on the Issues of Women in Society." For more information phone 955-7323.

"The goal is to unite campus and community members around the issues that are facing women and girls in our community with a strong emphasis on abuse and healing," said Virginia Cook, an AmeriCorps member, who is coordinating the Riverside Campus event.

Cook said that workshops will address issues of abuse, empowerment, and self-care and will be appropriate for college and high school students, as well as teachers, community agency members, and the public.

There is a registration fee of \$5 to \$20 on a sliding scale, and scholarships are available.

Pay bill listed

The Oregon house voted Monday, April 11 to extend unemployment benefits to Oregon workers whose benefits have expired.

House Bill 3305 now will move to the Senate for approval before going to the governor.

The bill would provide an additional 6 1/2 weeks of emergency unemployment benefits to those who exhausted their regular benefits on or after Dec. 1, 2004.

Bond 'match' proposed

The state would issue bonds to "match" bonds approved by school district voters if a proposed constitutional amendment, HJR 11, heard by the House Revenue Committee, is referred by the Legislature and approved by voters in the May 2006 primary election.

Oregon School Boards Association and Oregon Education Association appeared in support. No further action by the committee is currently scheduled.

Chiefly sponsored by Rep. Dave Hunt (D-Oak Grove) and Sen. Ben Westlund (R-Tumalo), HJR 11 authorizes the state to issue general obligation bonds, with proceeds to be placed in a capital matching fund

for school districts that have received voter approval for general obligation bonds.

State Treasurer Randall Edwards told the committee in written testimony, "Oregon's schools continue to struggle to maintain and modernize existing facilities and to keep up with population growth."

Edwards noted a 2001 secretary of state audit that pointed to \$2.4 billion in deferred maintenance costs, including facility problems, old mechanical and electrical systems, damage from leaking roofs, warped and buckling floors, classrooms with poor ventilation, condemned and crumbling buildings, and the presence of hazardous materials.

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