

Council OKs senior care

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is the point that the land, on the east side of Hwy. 199 and south of Laurel Road, is zoned Employment Industrial (EI). Whether the assisted-care project is permitted in it spurred much debate.

DLCD advised the city in April 2004 that, “We do not believe the proposed use is permitted in the zone. We are concerned that this use is not a use compatible with an EI zone.”

Another DLCD concern involves generation of employment. That aspect was addressed by Todd Woollard, CEO of Medford-based Woollard Epsen Management. His firm has been engaged by Osborn for Primrose Lane.

The four-year project will result in some 69 jobs plus ancillary work, he said.

Each duplex of 2,200 square feet of space will be rented, not sold, Osborn said. Each side has two bedrooms and two bath rooms, one for handicapped.

The point of appropriate zoning was made repeatedly by Dave Toler, who lives approximately 7 miles outside the city limits.

Toler suggested that the council find other land for the project or change the zoning. “It’s not your role to stretch the law,” he said.

This referred to the council’s modifying the code interpretation regarding “medical facility” to accommodate Primrose Lane and similar projects.

Councilman Margaret Miller noted that adding “at the discretion of the council” to the modification is sufficient, and indicated that there should be no worries.

It also was noted by real estate broker Jim Frick and city planning secretary Helen Early that there is no demand for LI land by “industry,” but that there is a need and a demand for assisted care.

Approval of the master planned development application by Manor Communities Development Co., subject to six conditions, came after an hour and 50 minutes of discussion and public hearings. Councilman Rita Dyer’s motion to approve was seconded by Mayor Tony Paulson.

Councilman Dan Fiske was absent.



Participants in the Job Council’s Summer Youth Employment and Training Program last week bent their backs in a major clean-up effort along the Illinois River out Illinois River Road. Several other organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service supported the project.

(Photos by James Sargent)

Job Council youth Six Mile clean-up nets compliments; variety of rubbish

By BRYAN HARLEY
Staff Writer

The popular stretch of Illinois River around Six Mile received a much-needed make-over Thursday, Aug. 18 thanks in part to spirited and determined efforts spearheaded by the Job Council’s Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

A team of approximately 15 young people enrolled in the program began at Six Mile and worked down to the Iron Ring day-use site. They teamed with Josephine County Parks summer crew leaders and U.S. Forest Service representatives to clean and remove trash and debris from 4 to 5 miles of river and beach.

“I hauled out about 30 bags of trash -- filled my utility trailer with everything from steel rebar, a dashboard, tin roofing,

lawnmower parts, glass, diapers, knives, and clothing,” said James Sargent, Youth Employment counselor.

One youth found credit cards and turned them in to Sargent. He was able to contact the owner, who came to retrieve the personal property he confirmed as stolen, taken from the wallet he had left inside a parked vehicle.

An Oregon Youth Conservation Corps grant received by the Job Council in conjunction with the State Marine Board made the Adopt-A-River Day project possible.

Also contributing in the partnership were Wildlife Images, Habitat for Humanity, the Bureau of Land Management, and the forest service’s Title II Youth Stewardship Project.

“We received a lot of

compliments from locals at the river for the clean-up efforts,” said Sargent.

The Job Council’s Summer Youth Employment and Training Program assists people aged 14-21 in learning skills they need to find and keep jobs.

“The program focuses on helping them develop good work ethics and work maturity,” said Sargent.

Participants can gain experience working in areas such as forestry, county parks, construction, veterinary assistants, and other training experiences, he said.

‘Weird crime’ trio sought by deputies

Deputies are seeking three men, one of them wanted in connection with warrants, and two in connection with a large-caliber bullet fired through a rural Grants Pass home.

Josephine County Sheriff’s Office is looking for Juan Baca-Bignall, 13; and two unidentified men.

The youth is described as an Hispanic male, 5-4, 130 pounds, with brown eyes and a shaved head. He also has tattoos of the letter “C,” one over each breast.

He is the adopted son of Peckerwood Lane residents James and Doris Bignall, 64 and 67.

He is wanted under warrants charging probation violation, possession of a controlled substance/methamphetamine, and failure to appear on the latter charge.

One of the others wanted, who entered the Bignall’s home through a shattered sliding glass door, is described as a white male in his early 20s with a shaved head. He was wearing jean shorts, and no shirt.

No description was available for the third person, who likely fired the gunshot at the second man. The bullet shattered a sliding glass door, and went through a bedroom and another window, and then across Rogue River Hwy. some 70 feet away, said Det. Sgt. Ken Selig.

The 13-year-old recognized the intruder, calling him “Garrett,” and applied first aid to minor cuts and scrapes. When Mrs. Bignall said she was going to phone for officers, the youth and the man ran from the house.

The shooting suspect, it is believed, was firing at “Garrett.” It’s believed that the shooter was driving a full-size white van.

Information about this case can be phoned to the confidential tip line at 474-5160; or the major crime unit at 474-5123.

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Grayback fish work proposed

Monday, Aug. 29 is the deadline to submit comments on a proposed project to restore aquatic habitat in Grayback Creek, said the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The creek is a tributary to Sucker Creek near Cave Junction. The proposed project would place approximately 100 large wood pieces along several miles of the creek in areas that have high potential for salmon and steelhead production.

For more information contact Ian Reid at 592-4059. Comments can be sent to District Ranger, 26568 Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction OR 97523, or use ireid@fs.fed.us.

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