

Mural focus on Oregon Caves

Giving a mural a whirl is becoming a work of art for Libby Goines.

When she realized how appropriate a mural would be on the side of the building at 121 S. Redwood Hwy. (the site of her Singing Loom studio and of two other artists, as well as the state liquor store and Bagel Junction), she began inquiring as to who was interested and researching how it could be accomplished.

But no proposed design appealed to most of her contacts. That is, until her mother, Wanda Goines, presented a rendition of the Oregon Caves, the only national monument in the state -- and Cave Junction is the gateway to it.

This design has been accepted by the Cave Junction City Council and Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce board.

Wanda Goines first went through the Caves in 1936 as an eighth-grader just arrived in Illinois Valley.

The road to the monument follows the same curving route as 70 years ago. And the formations inside and the beauty outside are the same. But with the increase in visitors and buildings much has changed.

“National Park Service personnel emphasize restoring the Caves from careless early destruction, and keeping the inside and outside as pristine as possible,” said Libby. “Yet many valley residents still are unfamiliar with this amazing display of God’s handiwork in our own backyard.

“Hopefully, an 18-by-60-foot mural will encourage not only visitors, but valley folks to see and enjoy its wonders,” said the younger Goines.

The design shows Elijah Davidson discovering the entrance to these “Marble Halls” (as Joaquin Miller, the “Poet of the Sierras” called them) in 1874.

Davidson is credited with finding it when he went to rescue his dog, who chased a bear into the cavern, according to local lore.

When his matches went out, the tale continues, he survived the total darkness by wading down the icy creek, following it to daylight. The mural also shows four well-known formations. And the design shows modern visitors coming from the exit high above and far to the right of the entrance after their guided tours.

It has been determined after making tests on the wall, said Libby, “that we will not be stripping the wall of all existing paint in order to use the fancy silicate-based mural paints, but will switch to an acrylic-based paint on a clean latex primer, which is much more feasible.

“Not only will this be easier to achieve,” she added, “but also more cost-effective. We are figuring it will cost about \$3,000 per panel with this change in strategy.”

Overall expenses can be reduced with many volunteers, including eager cooperation from I.V. High School, Libby said.

A skilled muralist, J.B. Palasini, who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree, will be an invaluable asset for her expertise in bringing the project to completion, said Libby. Palasini is a refugee from Hurricane “Katrina.” Wanda Goines, said Libby, doesn’t plan scaffold-scaling.

This project, she said, is supported by Matt Dutson,

owner of the building; the owner and patrons of the state liquor store; Oregon Caves National Monument; the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce; Illinois River Valley Arts Council, and the city of Cave Junction.

“Cash donations are needed and welcomed,” said Libby, “and jars are placed at the Visitor Information Center, the liquor store, the Caves, and other locations in town. This is a weather-dependent project; if all goes smoothly it would be exciting to finish it by fall.”

She was injured recently while removing a sign from the wall, but plans

ODF raises industrial hazards

Increased fire danger on forestland protected by the Oregon Dept. of Forestry’s (ODF) Southwest Oregon District has made it necessary to increase the fire prevention measures on industrial operations, such as logging sites.

Industrial Fire Precaution Level II took effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 24, and prohibits the following:

- *The use of fire in any form.
- *The use of power saws, except at loading sites, between 1 and 8 p.m.
- *The use of cable yarders between 1 and 8 p.m.
- *Blasting between 1 and 8 p.m.
- *Welding or cutting of metal between 1 and 8 p.m.

Additionally, commercial operators on forestland are required to have fire suppression equipment on site and provide watchman service. These regulations affect all state, county, private and Bureau of Land Management land in Jackson and Josephine counties.

For more information about ODF’s fire season regulations, telephone 474-3152. Fire precaution level information also is posted at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/SWOfire.shtml>.

to continue the project. Questions or offers of help should be directed to her at 592-6484.

Despite the accident, she’s preparing to get up at least the first panel before the weather prohibits progress this year.

Tools and supplies -- such as safety harnesses and extra bracing and protective railings for the top of the scaffold, and power washers -- are being donated and loaned to the project by community participants,

The mural project needs plastic containers with screw top lids (vitamin and supplement bottles are ideal), a 25-foot garden hose, and cash donations.

Controversial senior housing passed

(Continued from page 1)

scaping, and the facility will be handicapped accessible throughout, Osborn told the council. He added that a monthly fee of some \$1,400 for residents is approximately \$400 below current market prices. Most residents, he believes, will come from out of the area.

With Councilman Dan Fiske absent, the council voted near the end of its marathon session Monday night, July 24 in city hall, OK’ing the application with 13 conditions that must be met. Earlier during its meeting, with the air conditioning working overtime, former mayor Tom Green was seated to replace former Councilman Rita Dyer, who resigned earlier this year. The term will expire at the end of this year.

An unusually large audience of some 30 persons attended, and remained through the proceedings.

A principal opponent to the Primrose Lane project, which will lie between Laurel Road and Hwy. 199, is Dave Toler, of the 7000 block of Rockydale Road. He represents Carolyn Fosmore, whose parents have property adjacent to the planned development.

Others speaking in opposition were John Bowler, a Kerby resident; another

man, who lives in Hugo; and an individual from Merlin, whose written opposition identifies him as “Dr.-Ing. Holger T. Sommer, MS, DIC, VDI.” As the council neared approval of the project, he was heard to utter, “S---!”

Speaking in favor of the facility were Jim Frick, a Grants Pass resident, who is a Cave Junction businessman and Realtor in Illinois Valley; and I.V. residents Jerry Sterling and Don Moore.

Zoning Major Issue

Opponents focused on a number of items and infrastructure minutiae, but with primary emphasis on the major issue of zoning. Toler and Bowler especially zeroed in on that aspect, referring to the EG-LI (employment and industrial) zoning as inappropriate.

“My biggest concern,” said Toler, “is that it’s the wrong zone for the wrong facility. It contradicts your own codes, and if you do it for this one, will you do it for others? Why have zoning?” he asked, contending that granting approval could cause problems for the city.

Compromise Requested

City Attorney Pat Kelly and Councilman Russell Ehrman separately queried Toler in connection with that comment. They specifically asked him if he could

reach a compromise to resolve the protests.

Referring to an appeal to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), Kelly said, “Since, I believe, you filed the last one, how can we get this resolved to avoid another appeal? Is there a possibility of a compromise?” He further noted that the appeal cost the city “a great deal of money.”

Toler responded that he didn’t feel the meeting “is an appropriate venue” for what Kelly sought.

“You need to do it right,” Toler added. “You’re trying to fit a residential use in an industrial zone.”

Responding to Ehrman’s request that he offer ways the stalemate could be resolved, Toler said, “The potential is there,” but indicated that further review and resolutions appear necessary prior to project approval.

“Rather than rules and regulations,” said Ehrman, “can you give us your best solution?” Toler then addressed a number of infrastructure aspects including sidewalks, citing the safety of residents and others.

The 13 conditions, several offered by Osborn to cover issues that seemed to be bones of contention, include a sidewalk network. Among other conditions are those specifying that the

(Continued on page 9)

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