

‘Tanks’ for the memories: Construction uncovers previously unknown fuel storage on Redwood Hwy.



COPELAND CONSTRUCTION discovered a previously unknown fuel tank while preparing to install water and sewer lines for the new Siskiyou Community Medical Center. The tank, which still held what is believed to be diesel fuel, was located on the driveway to the commercial center to the south of Western Plaza. Representatives of the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the city of Cave Junction went to inspect the find. Construction was delayed until DEQ regulations regarding removal of the tank and surrounding contaminated dirt were met. (Photos by Dale Sandberg for IVN)

Wildlife Images fund-raiser needs old cell phones

Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center has teamed with Project RE-cell for a cell phone recycling fund-raiser. And 100 percent of the proceeds will go to provide for the care and treatment of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, and to offer environmental education programs about wildlife and conservation to schools and other community organizations throughout Josephine County, said Dave Siddon, Wildlife Images executive director.

Wildlife Images, in rural Grants Pass, receives anywhere from \$3 to \$300 per phone depending on the age and condition.

The collected cell phones of all types, including broken or obsolete devices, are purchased by Project RE-cell, a nonprofit organization based in Boise, Idaho.

Any functional cell phones they receive will benefit charities, churches, and schools. All nonfunctional cell phones are either refurbished or recycled in accordance with EPA regulations.

Used phones can be deposited in collection bins in locations in Josephine, Jackson, and Curry counties.

Evergreen Federal Bank has stepped up to be a focal point for collection boxes. Locations include all Ever-

green offices in Medford, Rogue River, Grants Pass, Cave Junction, Brookings and Bandon. Additional collection boxes are located at D&S Harley Davidson in Phoenix, and Market of Choice in Ashland.

In Grants Pass, used phones can be donated at Edge Wireless, The Sprint Store, Ramcell, Totally Cel-

lular, Club Northwest, and Gooseberries Market. On the coast, drop-off locations are Curry General Hospital and the Brookings Clinic.

Donations also can be made at Wildlife Images at 11845 Lower River Road, 12 miles west of Grants Pass. Or they can be mailed to Wildlife Images, P.O. Box 36, Merlin OR 97532.

Café owners get cold news

Public health officials in the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) are reminding restaurant owners of a new refrigeration requirement that reduces the risk of foodborne illness.

Beginning Jan. 1, restaurants must hold cold foods at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, said Eric Pippert, manager of the foodborne illness prevention program in the DHS Public Health Division.

Oregon adopted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration food safety standards in 2002 that reduced the holding temperature for cold foods from 45

F to 41 F. Restaurants were allowed a five-year phase-in period to allow time to upgrade any refrigeration equipment that could not meet the new standard.

“State and local public health, along with restaurants across the state, are taking this step to protect the public from potential foodborne illness,” said Pippert.

“The change doesn’t automatically mean that restaurant owners need to go out and purchase new refrigerators,” he said. “In many cases, commercially designed equipment that has been properly maintained should meet the requirement.”

Loss of O&C funds

(Continued from page 1)

“This has something, just about, for everyone,” Raffenburg said. “The bad news is, it will take three to five years to implement, if it passes.”

Law Enforcement Levy Possible

While the National Forest and Schools Stabilization Act may present a long-term solution to the county’s funding crisis, it does not address immediate needs.

Raffenburg said that the county likely will pursue a public safety levy in May.

“At this point in time, there is no money for next year,” Raffenburg said. “I don’t think there’s any way, with the loss of money, that we wouldn’t be forced into asking the voters for money.”

A public safety levy would be subject to the state’s double-majority rule, which requires at least a 50 percent voter turnout.

The county will not pursue a general operating levy, Raffenburg said. Instead, the county may have to rely on user fees “to the largest extent possible” to make up for the loss of general fund dollars.

At this time, no amount has been set for the public safety levy. Raffenburg said

that figure will be established after county officials and department heads determine what new revenue streams may be viable and what cuts could be made to existing programs.

“Once we get those two things decided, we’ll start talking about what kind of levy to ask for,” Raffenburg said. “I would like to make it real clear that we haven’t made determinations yet as to what or if or when anything is going to happen. Discussions are happening, but no determination has been made at this point.”

Monday’s meeting was closed to the press and general public, but Raffenburg said that county officials will solicit public input within the next several weeks.

“I strongly believe we need to get public opinion to hear what we’re talking about and voice their opinions on it before making any final decision on what we’re going to do,” Raffenburg said, and added:

“I think we need to have three general public meetings to air it all out.

“If we do have to go into one more closed meeting, I will advocate for adding a meeting in the first week of February for the public to attend.”

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