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Hwy. 199 expansion Developers on defense

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Developers found themselves on the defensive as the Cave Junction City Council considered a resolution to establish a Local Improvement District (LID) during its Monday, Jan. 22 meeting in city hall.

Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) has proposed widening Redwood Hwy. to three lanes from Laurel Road to River Street. Several developers have partnered with ODOT on the \$7 million project.

The resolution would establish a LID for property along the highway and set up boundaries, designate infrastructure improvements, and provide for taxing authority on the project.

John Miller spoke for Willow Development, which is building the 80-lot Laurel Pines Subdivision. He said that the LID would benefit the city and its citizens.

"We all got together in partnership," said John Miller. "We put together a project that we all felt was in the best interest of the city."

Miller said that developers donated parts of their

(Continued on page 9)

View of CJ's future on tap

The city of Cave Junction's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is working on approving the city's Comprehensive Plan and presenting it on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

A prior comprehensive plan was submitted to the state Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) during 2000. However, DLCD remanded the plan to the city because some of its goals were deemed incomplete.

The CAC was formed in October 2006 in order to satisfy public input requirements for the plan.

A preliminary Comprehensive Plan Revisions and Visioning Policies document has been prepared by Craig A. Stone and Associates Ltd., a Medford-based urban planning and development consulting firm. CAC members have until Wednesday, Jan. 24 to review the document and make suggestions and possible changes.

A final draft of the plan will be presented during a special CAC meeting, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at city hall.

-Scott Jorgensen

*Kim Family search document indicates need for improvements, Page 2

* Hope Mountain Radio offers 24-hour programming, Page 5

*Interview with Kati Kim, Page 9

*Would you believe a 46-ton chrome boulder? Page 12

*History Center open for free public use, Page 13



A site on Hay's Hill was checked for human remains. (Photo by Michelle Binker/IVN')

Skeletal remains found in Selma

Deteriorated remains believed to be those of an elderly Selma man were discovered Thursday afternoon, Jan. 19, after his month-long absence alarmed friends.

His mail had begun to pile up, and that, thought Selma Postmaster Sue Johnson, was odd.

A few people had inquired after Guerin at the post office last week. When Johnson phoned Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), she wasn't the first to alert authorities to a possible disappearance.

George Guerin, friends said, was a man who stuck to his routine. Once a month he'd don his hat and coat, and lock up his five dogs and travel to Murphy, where he would replenish his water supply.

He wasn't one to miss picking up his V.A. or Social Security checks.

The 80-odd-year-old man (even with friends it seems he was reluctant to disclose his birthday), lived the life of a cowboy, (some termed it "unbelievable squalor"), alone on the side of a hill in his trailer. He had no electricity or running water. He'd refused offers to move in with various friends who expressed concern for him.

"He was not a person of creature comforts," said

Linda Crawford, co-owner of the property on which Guerin lived. "His family was his dogs, and (until re-

animals.

No official cause of death was issued.

Upon finding a skull, the area was cordoned off, and a search for other skeletal fragments began.

Indications were that the remains had been sent to Roseburg for positive identification.

Beller, of Murphy, said Guerin likely knew himself to be dying, and went to be with his beloved stallion, "Ranger," who

was buried in the corral where Guerin's skull was discovered.

Beller said she helped sheriff's office investigators determine that Guerin's personal effects, without which he never left home, had not been disturbed

"Because I knew him and his habits, I could confirm that he hadn't gone far," she said.

"It's a gut-wrenching situation," Crawford said.

"This happened right there in plain sight," she said. "If any of us who knew him had thought to check on him it may not have happened."

But in an odd way, friends note, George Guerin may have ended up right where he wanted to be.

"He wasn't a man who wanted a lot of pomp and circumstance about him," said Crawford.

-Michelle Binker



(Photo by Dale Sandberg 'IVN')

cently) his horses," she said.

It's known that he returned home from the V.A. Medical Center in Roseburg, where he'd been taken Dec. 18 with an infection.

"They wanted to keep him (at the hospital)," said a friend, Bobbie Ann Beller, "but he wouldn't stay."

He missed a planned Christmas dinner with Beller and her partner at their home in Murphy.

JSCO and county Search And Rescue scoured the Fort Hay Ranch property around Guerin's trailer, situated some 200 yards up a primitive driveway from Redwood Hwy., half a mile from the summit of Hay's Hill.

County animal control officers responded to contain five dogs on the property. The human remains were discovered scattered over a wide area, presumably the work of scavenging

Commissioners to focus on O&C at public meets

A series of town hall meetings to address the loss of federal O&C funding and the potential effects on Josephine County citizens will begin Monday, Jan. 29.

One of the two-hour sessions, with commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg, will be held at Illinois Valley High School on Monday, Feb. 5 starting at 6 p.m.

The Jan. 29 gathering, from 6 to 8 p.m., will be held in Anne Basker Auditorium next to the county courthouse in Grants Pass.

Other sessions:

*Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6 to 8 p.m. at Williams Elementary School with Commissioner Dwight Ellis.

*Wednesday, Jan. 31, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at North Valley High School with Raffenburg.

*Thursday, Feb. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Lincoln Savage Middle School with commission Vice Chairman Dave Toler.

"The public is strongly encouraged to attend these important meetings for current information and idea sharing," the board said.

Artists Guild catalyst for many creative reactions

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

When Pat McCarty moved to Illinois Valley from Northern California two years ago, he had no idea there that were so many artists in the area.

Not that it was particularly important to him then.

"I had never thought of myself as an artist," McCarty explained.

But now, with the help of Illinois Valley-based Southern Oregon Artists Guild, McCarty has managed to discover his creative side. And he's meeting other like-minded individuals.

Funded through a grant, the guild was formed to help local artists become commercially successful. Its headquarters, located at Rogue Community College's Illinois Valley Learning Center in Kerby, offers a variety of services and opportunities to artists in need.

Artists can make use of the facility's assets. They include computers, printers, portable photo studios, high-speed Internet access and professional-quality film and digital processing equipment.

According to guild member Jerry Work, the organization works to develop a "symbiotic relationship between the service provider and artists needing that service."

Resources also are available to teach artists how to create professional portfolios and present them

to agents and gallery owners. Booth and display facilities can be rented for shows, along with equipment, to "anyone who can benefit," Work said.

A small gallery at the Kerby Center is staffed by volunteer guild members, and allows artists to display their work. It has been open since July 2006.

McCarty recently sat at the Kerby Center, sorting through photos of his tile art on one of the guild's computers. McCarty said that he has come a long way since a friend first told him about the guild, and that he appreciates the group's efforts.

"It's an introduction into the local art world and how to make an impact," McCarty said.

He added that the biggest benefits of guild membership are meeting other artists and networking, especially since he's still learning his newfound craft.

"I don't have the background, so I have to play around with stuff," he said.

Work said that the guild's immediate goals are to develop and help promote the service center to a wider area prior to the summer tourist season.

For the long term, Work said that he hopes the guild will enable artists to begin opening more galleries in the area.

"We see multiple galleries in the area as being an enormous draw and

(Continued on page 9)



COUGAR VARSITY GIRLS narrowly missed victory in a 54-50 loss to N. Valley in Ken Mann Memorial Gym Thursday night, Jan. 18. Leilani Tausuga (#3) posted 10 rebounds for Illinois Valley, while Sheena Cole (#11) led all scorers with 33 points. Cole also was good for 8 boards. The Cougars (2-2 in Skyline Conference play) will host Henley Saturday, Jan 27. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg for 'IVN')