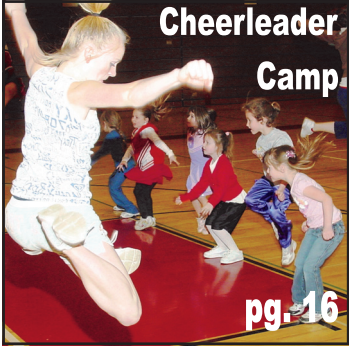




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EIGHT DOLLAR RESCUE – Kerby resident Verl Culver, 67, was checking mining claims out Eight Dollar Road on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 31, when he lost his footing while navigating a rocky hillside past the Josephine Creek area. A hip injury rendered him unable to walk. A friend, Selma resident Jon Gladson, 45, notified 911. Eight Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) responders and two members of the American Medical Response RAT (Reach and Treat) team hiked a quarter mile to reach Culver, and then carried him in a Stokes basket to a waiting ambulance. At last report Culver had been taken to a Portland hospital where he was being treated for a damaged hip. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)



Christian store continues planned move to topless bar site

Plans to acquire what was to be the site of a bar with bare-breasted women dancers in Downtown Cave Junction -- and instead make it a Christian book store with family entertainment -- are proceeding. That's the latest word from Abiding in the Vine

Christian book store. It currently is located in Cave Junction between Carlos Restaurante and Sterling Savings Bank. "Through donations and brick sales we raised approximately \$7,000," said Abiding in the Vine. "We are praising the Lord, and appreciate all who

have donated financially and spiritually." The former Ivy Theater, which now has Bi-Rite Auto Parts in front, is the location that Abiding in the Vine wants to acquire. "The owner (Larry Goynes) is willing to renegotiate," said the Vine, "and as long as the door

remains open we will continue to walk through it." A nonprofit organization has been formed: the "Ivy Community Theater Foundation." "This will give us the ability to receive tax-deductible donations, and apply for grant money if needed," the Vine added. Those projects, includ-

Operations of Child Protective Services questioned

Parents, Oregon legislators indicate situations where agency overstepped boundaries

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer
Like any proud mother, Grants Pass resident Tina Reorowicz has photos of her four children. So many, in fact, that they completely fill a box. But these days, those photos are all that Reorowicz has to remind her of the family she once had -- before a decade-long ordeal with the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Child Protective Services Division changed all that. In 1998, Reorowicz was living in Beaverton with her

husband, Chester, and their two oldest children. Reorowicz was 25 and eight months pregnant with their third child. Chester was working as a machinist. "We were pretty happy," Reorowicz recalled. That serenity was suddenly shattered on March 1, 1999. The family was eating dinner when four Beaverton police officers arrived. The officers informed the couple, according to Reorowicz, that they were there to take their children into protective custody. Apparently someone had com-

plained that some sort of abuse was occurring. But especially baffling to the parents, said Reorowicz, was the fact that they had never been investigated for any wrongdoing, and had no criminal record. "We didn't do anything," Reorowicz said. "They treated us like criminals, but we're not. We weren't using drugs, we weren't drinking, and we weren't fighting." She remembers hearing her children cry and scream as they were being hauled off, and feeling completely

helpless as her whole world began to fall apart. Shortly thereafter, Reorowicz gave birth to their third child, Belinda. But less than 24 hours later, a DHS caseworker arrived at the hospital to take Belinda into state custody. "I couldn't nurse my baby anymore," Reorowicz said. "They took that away." More problems emerged as the couple's case dragged through the system. They began having less confidence in their court-appointed attorneys, who Reorowicz said urged them to not fight the case. Further complicating matters was the fact that the state kept changing the caseworker assigned to the family's case. "Every time something significant happened with my case, they'd change the caseworker," she said. Finally, after a year of legal wrangling, Reorowicz and her husband regained custody of their children. But the family's reunion was short-lived, and Reorowicz soon found herself back in court fighting to retain custody. It was around this time that Chester died, at which point the state filed for termination of parental rights. Reorowicz succeeded in regaining custody after another lengthy series of court battles. But nine weeks later, DHS caseworkers took the



ROLLOVER NEAR WESTSIDE ROAD -- Illinois Valley emergency personnel responded to a roll-over accident Tuesday night, Jan. 30 at approximately 9:50. Whoever was driving a 1988 Lincoln fled the scene. Alcohol and speeding were possible factors in the crash, said Oregon State Police. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle owner told OSP that the driver phoned her and said she should report the car as stolen. The driver was not located. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/Illinois Valley Fire District Media Dept.)

New home projects in CJ raising population

Demographics of community could change

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer
Small signs on Old Stage Road in the city of Cave Junction point the way to Hanby Lane and finally, to the corner of Burgundy Lane and Merlot Drive.

There, construction equipment rumbles as new houses sit, waiting to be bought. Workers put the finishing touches on a full-framed skeletal structure, as the sun shines brightly.

Developer Larry Osborn is on-site, overseeing his vision for the future of Cave Junction. The 10-acre Hanby Vista Subdivision is nearby, along with the 7-acre Cottage Park commercial site and the future site of the 10-acre Burgundy Lane senior-care campus. "We've got it all laid out, and we're ready to build," said Osborn, of California-based Manor Communities Development Inc. Those projects, includ-



ing infrastructure, all add up to several million dollars worth of investment in the community. But they also represent a crossroads of sorts between the Cave Junction of modern memory

and what may await over the horizon.

City Recorder Jim Polk anticipates that many of those houses are or will be purchased by retired Baby Boomers, relocating from dense urban areas like San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. That kind of migration will change the makeup of the town's citizenry, Polk said. "From my perspective, I think we're going to see more of a younger retirement community," Polk said. "As people are moving in and buying \$250,000 homes, our demographics (Continued on page 5)

City comprehensive plan mulled over some issues

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer
Due to a lack of agreement on some issues, a rough draft of a preliminary comprehensive plan for the city of Cave Junction is left unresolved until at least May.

The Cave Junction Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met at city hall on Wednesday night, Jan. 31 to discuss the plan. Committee member and Realtor Bill Reid, of Oregon Mt. Real Estate, said that the city's limited water storage capacity has the potential to limit future growth. "We have a finite amount of water out there," Reid said. "Basically, we're pushing those limits now, especially during summers." Water wasn't the only issue to dominate the discussion. Committee members cited a lack of law enforcement, traffic flow problems and the need for downtown beautification as top priorities for the city to tackle. Population increases also were addressed, as committee members agreed that the city would require infrastructure improvements once its figure goes past 5,500 residents. The current city population is estimated at 1,600. Reid suggested that the city look at self-imposed growth restrictions until water storage issues can be resolved. Committee member John Bowler, of Kerby, said that the CAC should come up with a list of criteria for the city council to use when

considering whether or not to approve new developments. Bowler said that the idea would be useful, especially since the city lacks a planning commission. One of the main meeting topics was the possible use of incentives to encourage voluntary water conservation among city residents. Planner Jay Harland, of Craig A. Stone & Associates, of Medford, said that such an incentive policy could be inserted into CAC's vision statement. Alec Miller, another planner assigned to the comprehensive plan project, said that downtown businesses may be aided by a comprehensive parking plan. Reid said that the biggest problem is the lack of "easy-on, easy-off" access from Redwood Hwy. to many of Cave Junction's businesses. Consulting planner Raul Woerner suggested the idea of getting business owners together at the grass-roots level to work on a downtown parking management plan. He said that the city can help facilitate such a plan, but shouldn't take the lead in those efforts. Before adjourning, CAC agreed to plan for a maximum population of 5,500 in Cave Junction city limits during the next 20 years, and emphasized that the city should not exceed its water carrying or storage capacity. CAC's next meeting was not scheduled as of press time.

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