

CJ skateboarders 'wiped out'

City closing Jubilee Park facility due to numerous concerns

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Potential liability and lack of maintenance is prompting the city of Cave Junction to shut down its skate facility in Jubilee Park.

Mayor Tony Paulson said the park's deteriorating structure was brought to his attention when concerned parents phoned city hall. Paulson subsequently went to investigate, and found the park to be unsafe.

"We've got rotting wood under everything," Paulson said. "There are too many issues here that are too dangerous."

The park has been in

place at Jubilee Park for around a decade. But the project was troubled from the beginning by a lack of proper planning, which has led to the current problems.

Good Intentions Paved Way for Future Failure

Paulson sat in his office Friday, March 23 going through the minutes of city council meetings as far back as 1996. The skate park popped up periodically, with the council taking a largely supportive but hands-off role, Paulson said.

No construction plans or schedule were in place, even well into 1997. Further complicating matters was

the fact that Thom LeGay, one of the original supporters of the skate park, resigned from its committee in February 1998, citing lack of community support.

Paulson said that troubled origins plagued the park from the start, a pattern repeated to this day.

"There was nothing ever put in place to make it organized and make sure it was done right," Paulson said. "It's been 10 years of broken commitments."

Shifting Responsibilities

Maintenance originally was taken on by the former Community Response Team

(Continued on page 4)



Skateboarders appear bummed out at the pending removal of the skate facility in Jubilee Park because of concerns from parents and the city of Cave Junction that the equipment is abused, poorly maintained and hazardous. (Photo by Scott Jorgensen/IVN)

City terminates county cop pact

Refund of \$32,000 will be received, says Sheriff Gil Gilbertson

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A \$32,000 refund from the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) will be received by the city of Cave Junction as the city council voted 4-0 during its Monday night, March 26 meeting to terminate its contract.

Mayor Tony Paulson sent a letter to Sheriff Gil Gilbertson on March 14 notifying him of the city's intentions.

The city's contract with JCSO calls for 40-hour-per-week coverage within city limits. However, Deputy Cory Krauss, long assigned to Illinois Valley, has been unable to fulfill that obligation. As such, Gilbertson has agreed to refund the original \$24,000 requested by the city and an additional \$8,000, based on recent actual hours of coverage.

Gilbertson arrived at city hall 30 minutes before the council meeting to answer questions from citizens

regarding the matter.

"We don't have enough people to fill the bill, so we're not going to charge you," Gilbertson said. "It wouldn't be right for us to not give it back to you."

Gilbertson said that JCSO is making every effort to have a presence in Illinois Valley, but that limited staffing has made it difficult to provide around-the-clock coverage.

"Please bear with us," Gilbertson said. "We're doing the best we can."

During the council meeting, Paulson said that the city could renegotiate the contract if the county's May 15 public safety levy passes. In the meantime, Paulson said, the \$32,000 will go toward repairing equipment at the city's water and sewer plants.

In another matter, the council agreed to authorize a sewer line extension request by resident Gerald Sommer.

Sommer wants a line to

Fir Drive so that he can place a mobile home on his property there, which is located inside the city's Urban Growth Boundary. He said he would pay \$7,000 for the extension, and that the city could use the water line in the future.

As part of his agreement with the city, Sommer will add 250 more square feet to the mobile home to bring it up to city code and allow it to be annexed into the city in three years.

The council also agreed to provide a 90-day extension to James Hughley, owner of property at 126 Caves Hwy., to remove debris and garbage from the premises.

Since August 2000, the city has been sending abatement notices to Hughley, who lives in Alaska. Hughley has been accumulating \$500-a-day fines for each day the property remains out of compliance with the

(Continued on page 3)



BLAZE DESTROYS CABIN - Seventeen Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) personnel with 11 fire units responded to a fully involved, 'abandoned and dilapidated' cabin at the south end of the city of Cave Junction at 8:44 p.m. Sunday, March 25. No injuries were reported, and a 'person of interest' is sought in connection with the alarm, behind the former Blue Marlin restaurant, that kept responders busy until 10:40 p.m. Investigation is continuing to determine whether the blaze was accidental or intentional, said Chief Harry Rich. The small cabin, said being used without permission by transients, is owned by Sheila Haddad, of Grants Pass. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)

Career Connections = work skills

Career Connections, a new program that will link participants with local employment opportunities, is being launched by the 21st Century Program at Illinois Valley High School.

Representatives from IVHS and Illinois Valley Community Development Organization have been working with owners and managers of several local businesses to create the program. This collaborative effort will provide participants with more than 30 hours of job skills training, preparing them to secure work at local businesses beginning this summer, spokesmen noted.

Oregon Caves Chateau, Rough & Ready Lumber Co., Taylor's Sausage, and Rogue Truck Body have committed to giving participants, who successfully complete the six-week Career Connections program, priority for open positions.

Program coordinators still are actively seeking other employers who would like to provide work opportunities for Career Connections graduates.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, April 17 and take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m.

The program is open to IVHS students and parents of children at any of Three River School District's Illinois Valley schools.

Classes offered the first three weeks will address

general work ethics and other skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. They include resume and interviewing skills, customer service training, and creative problem-solving.

During the



second part of the program, participants will explore career paths and gain "important employment skills" by taking classes in a choice of fields.

Depending on the jobs for which they are interested participants will be able to choose from a number of classes in hospitality/food service (including receiving a food handler's card), welding, construction, forestry, and computer skills.

Participants who successfully complete the Career Connections program will receive a certificate of completion, and a letter to prospective employers outlining their participation in the program and the skills they gained.

At the end of the program, IVHS will host a job fair where local employers will present information

about their business and what types of jobs or internships they have available. Students who successfully complete the program will have early access to the job fair to meet with prospective employers.

On Wednesday, April 4, IVHS will kick off the Career Connections program with a schoolwide assembly on "Basic Adapting and Connecting" led by Rob and Mary Hambleton. This one-hour workshop will focus on learning to assess and understand different personality types in order to facilitate better communication and interpersonal relationships, "which is an important aspect of being successful in the workplace."

On Wednesday, April 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Hambletons will present a workshop at IVHS on "Conflict Resolution." Workshop attendees will learn how different personality types tend to manage conflict. Five different conflict styles and strategies will be presented and explored using interactive group activities.

This program is open to the community and "is an excellent opportunity to learn about how to successfully handle conflict in any area of life, including the workplace and at home."

For more information about the Career Connections program contact Jen Marsden at 226-6368, or Deb Murphy at 592-2866

2007 Little League season on deck

Opening day scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at Jubilee Park

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Saturday morning, March 31, Illinois Valley Little League will be ready to play ball.

Opening day ceremonies are scheduled to "batter up" at 8 at Jubilee Park and run to 3 p.m. Carnival games, a bake sale and an exhibition game will be featured.

I.V. Little League Board President Janet Ewing said that the body has worked hard during the past few months to ensure fun-filled festivities to start the season.

"We want everybody to come out and see what it is we're doing and how we've expanded," Ewing said. "I think people will be very surprised on opening day to see what we've accomplished this year."

This year, Little League has more than a dozen teams and 175 players. Teams are divided according to age groups, and comprise T-ball, coach pitch, minors, majors

and juniors divisions, plus two girls' softball teams.

Ewing said that participation has been so strong, the league had to form three T-ball and coach pitch teams to meet the demand.

as help to upgrade the field.

Craig Sweeney, who handles the league's grounds maintenance, said he's willing to volunteer to build a better backstop, but needs donated material.

"For a thousand dollars, the backstop could look really nice," Sweeney said.

Evergreen Elementary School Principal Dave Valenzuela will serve as emcee for the opening day ceremonies. Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson is scheduled to throw the first ball at approximately 10:15 a.m.. The league's two major teams are to play an exhibition game at noon.

Ewing said that weather conditions will not prevent the festivities.

"Rain, shine or snow, it goes on," Ewing said. "It's going to be a lot of fun. That's what it's all about, is having fun for the kids."

For more information, phone Ewing at 592-4389 or Trisha Arias at 592-5112, or visit seavla.net.



Little League coach and Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson gets into the swing. (Photo by Scott Jorgensen/IVN)