



STEEL YOURSELVES -- At Hwy. 199 and Laurel Road on the north edge of Cave Junction, work to replace the bridge over George Creek is progressing. The project is valued at \$5.5 million, said Oregon Dept. of Transportation. In connection with the bridge replacement, the highway is being widened from approxi-

mately Waldamar Road to Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. in a \$12 million project. Additionally, work is nearly complete on a \$16 million program to replace the Hwy. 199 bridges spanning the East and West Forks of the Illinois River, said ODOT. (Photo by Dale Sandberg for *Illinois Valley News*)

Illinois Valley Fire District board OKs annexations

Annexation of another 36.5 acres into the boundaries of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) was approved 4-0 by directors Thursday evening, Aug. 9.

The board met at IVFD administrative headquarters. Director Jerry Lamb was absent.

At the recommendation of Fire Marshal Jerry Schaeffer, directors approved annexation of 5.01 acres on Crest Drive, off Rockydale Road. The request was by Selma resident Mark Camp.

Directors also OK'd adding 5 acres on Arrowhead Drive. The property is owned by Global America, of Medford. And the board approved annexing three properties on the west side of Hwy. 199, near Pinewood Way, for Cave Junction resident Wayne Rusk.

Rusk's sites there total 26.49 acres, Schaeffer said.

In another matter, IVFD directors were advised by Maintenance Battalion Chief Kris Sherman advised that the air replenishing truck for firefighter breath-

ing apparatus "is not doing well." The unit is used during emergencies where firefighters have to "bottle up."

Sherman said that the vehicle is a 1979 model. He indicated that it might be time to replace it rather than continually repairing it. He told the board that the nearest mutual aid air truck is a Rural/Metro Fire Dept. rig in rural Grants Pass.

Directors took no action on the matter.

Sherman also reported that a 10,000-gallon water tank donated to the district

has been placed at O'Brien Station 3.

IVFD directors also were advised by Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik that a defensive driving course for emergency responses will be held Sept. 24 and 25.

The training, utilizing a simulator, will be paid for by Oregon Special Districts. The simulator is from an organization called Active Response Academy.

The course, said Gavlik, will be comprised of classroom training plus using the vehicle simulator.

Republicans fault governor's veto on 'accountability'

Democrat Gov. Ted Kulongoski used his veto pen last week to kill the only bill passed by the Legislature this session that focuses on government accountability and efficiency, said the Republican delegation.

Senate Bill 1039 was broadly supported by members of both parties and

passed both legislative bodies with one dissenting vote.

"Taxpayers expect the Legislature to be rooting out waste and making sure agencies are being run efficiently, said Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany), one of the chief architects and sponsors of the bill.

"It is unfortunate," said

Morse, "that the governor has chosen to veto a collaborative process that would include the executive branch, members of the Legislature, and members of the private sector who have experience in creating high-performing organizations.

"The bill says that we want to see increased performance wherever a tax dollar goes, not just today, but for decades to come. Oregonians want a government that is accountable and constantly working to be more efficient. The status quo is not good enough."

He said that the bill would have established a standing committee to examine state agencies' use of taxpayer dollars; create initiatives for more efficient agency performance; and serve as an avenue for the public to keep government accountable. The governor said in his veto letter that the executive branch is already responsible for review and analysis of agency effectiveness and performance.

To involve the legislative branch would "blur the lines" between branches of government.

"The governor doesn't want help making government more accountable?" asked Morse. "This is about changing performance, not just measuring it like other governors have done in the past. This bill seeks to bring permanent, government-wide accountability to the state no matter who sits behind the governor's desk.

"The veto of SB 1039 leaves government accountability up to bureaucrats and agency directors rather than a permanent committee that includes members accountable to the people. The governor's veto came ironi-

cally on the same day that the Salem *Statesman Journal* reported that the state government will add 1,777 new positions.

"Oregonians haven't seen this rapid of an increase in government in more than a decade, yet the governor is using his veto authority to prevent an accountability measure designed to watch over our dollars," said Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day).

"I think Oregonians would be disappointed to know our governor doesn't think greater accountability is important."

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Obituaries

(Continued from page 4)

Kenneth E. Garcelon

Former Illinois Valley resident Kenneth Edgar Garcelon, 86, of Fortuna, Calif., died Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007 at Redwood Memorial Hospital.

Visitation will be Thursday, Aug. 16 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cave Junction from 9 to 9:45 a.m. A funeral service will begin at 10 a.m. with Father Harry Hallwell officiating. Interment will follow at Laurel Cemetery in Cave Junction.

Condolences to the family can be sent to www.since1928hull.com. I.V. Funeral Directors is in charge.

Carol A. Compton

Cave Junction resident Carol A. Compton, 66, died Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007 at Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 18 beginning at noon at Selma Baptist Church. Pastor Monty Pope will officiate.

Arrangements are by Southern Oregon Cremation Services Inc.

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